

MISCELLANEOUS

Improving Foreign Economic Ties With The Kola Peninsula

The visits of M.S. Gorbachev to Murmansk in October 1987 and N.I. Ryzhkov to Norway and Sweden in January 1988 gave a new impetus to the search in the USSR and the Scandinavian countries for ways of implementing the project for the comprehensive processing of the natural resources of the Kola Peninsula.

Yurii Zosimovich Balakshin, Chairman of the [Murmansk] Provincial Soviet of People's Deputies, spoke with our correspondent, V. Shlome, on related and other foreign economic concerns of enterprises in Murmansk Province.

"Our province has a good combination of skilled workers and a unique mineral base, a developed infrastructure and considerable scientific potential, in addition to being dependably supplied with energy resources. This creates good opportunities for broad co-operation between our enterprises and partners not only on an all-union, but also international level. Recent agreements in Scandinavia give new scope to the development of initiative and enterprise on behalf of the province's economic managers and work collectives.

Enterprises of the Kola Peninsula annually export hundreds of millions of rubles worth of produce. Tens of thousands of northerners through their labour enhance the international prestige of such large provincially-based exporters as the "Sevryba" All-Union Fish-Industry Association, the "Nikel'", "Apatit" and "Murmanles" Production Associations, the Kovdor and Olenegorsk Mining and Metallurgical Combines of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, and the "Kovdorslyuda" Combine.