

jointly striving to find ways out of the dead end into which the arctic has all but been pushed by economic and military development within the last twenty years. In the arctic Ocean alone, according to the American weekly "Newsweek," the leakage of harmful wastes from 4,000 oil wells and 9,000 km of pipeline has reached 30,000 tonnes a year.

It is an interesting fact, and one that is characteristic of the times, that at the end of June Norway's minister of the environment, Sissel Roenbeck, visited the city of Nikel' (Murmansk Region). The minister discussed with Soviet specialists, regional leaders and representatives of Goskompriroda (the vice-chairman of Goskompriroda, V. Kostin, took part in the discussion) ways in which the dumping of harmful industrial wastes in the arctic could be reduced. According to the Norwegian press, the Soviet Union promised to reduce dumping on the Kola Peninsula by 47 percent by 1993. This would significantly exceed the requirements of the international convention, which call for 30 percent reductions.

So that such steps are not isolated and yield tangible results, a collaboration mechanism is needed that is capable of uniting the efforts of the various states, a mechanism based on a well-constructed concept of international ecological security. Such a proposal was put forth by the member nations of the Warsaw Pact at the last meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in July of this year. The Soviet Union is preparing to introduce concrete proposals for protecting the environment at the next session of the UN General Assembly.