

That is, there are already construction plans now for the retirees. But in the aftermath of the hurricane people had to closely reexamine this program so as to accelerate the destruction of damaged and dilapidated housing (inhabited almost exclusively by retired workers).

The solution was a typical Vorkuta response. Next year construction is to begin on a plant for large-panel prefabricated housing. And although the residents had serious doubts about whether it should be built, the number of new housing units in Vorkuta should practically double as time goes on. The doubts are based on the following calculation: the population of this 200,000 - strong city is more than is needed for its production activities and could be reduced by at least one fourth without any negative impact. At one meeting a speaker cited the following figures: of the more than 30,000 people on the city's waiting list for apartments, approximately 20,000 are veterany.

"It is hard for us to make other plans," I was told by V. Yakimenko, deputy head of the Vorkuta sector of the railroad. "Thanks to the hurricane, for the first time in many years we have obtained twenty apartments in the central zone: fifteen were allocated to us by railway workers of Solvychevodsk and five by those in Vologda. We can't find enough words to express how grateful we are for this help because we know what an extreme sacrifice this was for them! We know that they too are having difficulties with housing for their railway workers. For years we haven't been able to make any headway with construction "in the south" as they say. And today there are still no prospects...

Of course, the second housing construction combine within "Pechorshakhtstroi" (Pechora Mining Construction Trust) of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry will soon go into action and begin solving the city's problems. But