

million tons of oil and enormous gas reserves. However, we cannot obtain the gas, which we need greatly, until we extract all the oil. The gas cap acts as a sort of plug, pressing down on the oil seam and significantly increasing its output. This indicates that the field should be exploited as quickly as possible. Sobinskoe field, a large field mainly containing gas deposits, has been discovered in the upper reaches of this same river. Beneath Preobrazhensky elevation in Irkutsk oblast there are deposits of several billion tons of oil, according to our estimates. I could mention dozens of smaller gas and oil deposits. An additional advantage of this new gas and oil region is its geographical location. Remember that the oil and gas deposits are located with a wealth of other mineral resources in an area which has always been acutely in need of products obtained from the processing of raw hydrocarbons.

That is why the idea of quickly creating centres in Eastern Siberia to extract and refine oil and gas products is only natural. Only then will we be able to avoid the yearly winter 'mini-energy crises' in this region, especially in Yakutia. It is not right that this area, which possesses gas and oil deposits, should have to transport fuel by helicopter. A litre of solar oil costs upwards of one rouble in the winter. The creation of such bases would ensure supplies of gas and oil and their products to satisfy Eastern Siberia's growing need for them. Moreover, the geographical location of the gas and oil deposits is valuable in that it makes it possible to solve a strategic problem - moving the location for oil drilling and refining almost two thousand kilometres eastward. It is important in every sense to create one more independent region with adequate energy sources, which oil and natural gas are at present. Taking this into consideration,