

their housing conditions even today. Moreover, that all-too familiar 'housing sore' - family dormitories - soon appeared in Chulman. Why? After all, the officers had only come to speed up construction of the airstrip.

However, with all personnel, planes, and helicopters left behind in Aldan, the commander, together with his deputies, staff, and administrators, were now far removed from their subordinates. So a joint flying detachment was created in Neryungri, even though there was no additional flying to be done in the area. Why then did this joint Aldan division exist? It was given an original name: an aviation division with the administration of a joint division and with the rights of an auxiliary division - that is, it was stripped of any independence.

The Neryungri division grew quickly. Squadrons of Yak-40s and Mi-8 helicopters and sections of An-2 planes were formed. Work was needed for them, and so work was taken away from Aldan. Housing was needed and so housing construction was halted in Aldan. The number of workers engaged in housing repairs was cut by one-third. As a result, no new housing was made available to those waiting for it and old housing deteriorated without repairs. One month ago the pre-school care centre was closed due to the hazardous condition of its roof. At the same time a new pre-school centre opened in Neryungri. "That should have been our project", sadly remarked the head of the centre in Aldan which was closed.

A sense of futility and frustration dominated a meeting with the workers from the Aldan aviation division. The last three years of