

In Memory of the "Noril'lag" Prisoners

Following the wishes of the majority of the residents of Noril'sk, the Executive Committee of the City Soviet has opened a special account (#70202) in the local branch of Promostroybank (Industrial Development Bank) for donations towards the construction of a monument to the victims of Stalinist repressions--those who went through the nightmares of the "Noril'lag" barracks.

The scores of thousands of people who were driven here from every quarter of the country became the unwilling builders of a gigantic metallurgical combine and a city in the snowy desert. Many perished soon after arriving as a result of the back-breaking labour, dystrophy, scurvy and diseases brought on by the cold. Many were shot. But there are also many who managed to survive the convict prisons, and they will be able to tell others of their fate, and the fate of their dead friends.

A public committee has been set up in the city to perpetuate the memory of the victims of these repressions. Its members search for, and rehabilitate the names of the first exile-residents of Noril'sk. The city's newspaper, the "Zapolyarnaya Pravda," and the local radio and TV stations publish and broadcast materials that tell the story of the former prisoners of Taymyr, those that died and those that are still alive.

The list of names of those who are well-known -- names now pronounced with pride and respect--alone would fill several pages. Among them: one of the discoverers of Noril'sk's copper and nickel ore deposits, geologist N. Urvantsev; one of the first general secretaries of the Central