

upsets their nervous systems. It has been calculated that the majority of conflict situations arise during this period. And hence come mistakes and wrongly made decisions, which sometimes lead to accidents and incidents on the job.

"People living in the Far North are more frequently subject to all kinds of illnesses," continued Suslov. "But even so, tens of thousands of people regularly come here from various parts of the Soviet Union. Just our industrial association "Severgazprom", which is responsible for transporting and producing gas, alone employs workers from seventy five towns and villages throughout the USSR. They work as drill-riggers, gasfield workers, chauffeurs and construction workers, engineers and rig-builders. Of course, under such harsh conditions they have a difficult time of it. Their productivity drops sharply, their thinking and working capabilities decline and indeed, many of them just can't take, what I would call, so much ecological overload. Many, who are not able to settle in properly, leave the northern regions. And this presents us with yet another problem, this time an economic one."

"What do you mean exactly?"

"The fact is that a so-called man-year in the Far North costs roughly between twenty and forty thousand rubles. That's what it costs for seasonal "transients", drill-rig workers or fitters, for example. This figure includes wages, the cost of providing housing and food... In a word, all the life necessities. However, this outlay isn't justified. The reason for that arises from the factors which I have already mentioned. This is why it was decided to create the Central Scientific