

of all of mankind. Thus, protecting the ecology of the "White Continent" from global and local pollution is a matter of international concern. Soviet polarmen are also making their contribution. The deputy director of the Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute, Evgenii Sergeevich Korotkevich, Doctor of Geographical Sciences, talks to a "Novosti Press" correspondent about this problem:

"It's been more than thirty years now since Soviet researchers first set foot on the coast of Antarctica. They called it the "Pravda" coast. There they built "Mirnyi" observatory, the first Soviet Antarctic station. That was how they began to settle the continent. Today approximately forty scientific stations operate there on a year-round basis and of these stations, eight are Soviet. Moreover, seasonal bases manned by polarmen from various countries also operate in Antarctica. On the whole coast of the continent and to a lesser extent inland, there is more and more pressure from the strain caused by the presence of man. Apart from the everyday waste arising from the activities of several thousand men, the purity of the water and land environment is also being affected by the ships which deliver an ever-increasing amount of freight for the polarmen, the snowmobile convoys which lay down routes deep into the continent, the electric power stations, the scientific experiments and so on.

"It goes without saying that this build-up of negative ecological factors is gradually exacerbating the situation. Things are particularly disturbing along the coast. For only a narrow section of the continent in the Antarctic is free of snow and ice. Also along the coast there has been an intensive construction of stations. There is a danger that soon there won't be any area at all which