

What caused the accident? The answer to this question will come from a State commission headed by L. Rafikov, deputy general director of the "Gazprom" Concern. But according to preliminary assessments by specialists, the probable cause may have been a sharp drop in temperature - from 4 to 41 degrees below zero. The specialists suggest that this caused cracks to appear in the line.

Work to restore the gas pipeline has not halted for a moment. The pipeline is now expected to be repaired as early as November 21, but a good deal of time will be required before the damaged facilities are fully restored.

Izvestiya

18 November 1989

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New Approaches to the Riches of Tyumen

It has been more than a year and a half since the USSR Council of Ministers issued its decree concerning development of the petrochemical industry in Western Siberia, and still the debate continues in the newspapers and journals over whether or not petrochemical complexes should be built here. These complexes are supposed to utilize casing-head gas, which has been burned off in giant flares for a quarter of a century, to produce goods in great demand in virtually every sector of the national economy, and especially consumer goods.

Over this entire period the opinions of the two sides have remained diametrically opposed. Some insist that it would be better to collect this