

sovkhos "Zolotinka" is also located here. Representatives of the Neryungri city branch of the Association of Northern Peoples of Yakutiya, calculated the damage caused to agricultural production on account of the destruction of reindeer grazing land occasioned by the building of the railroad line "Yakutskii junction - Berkakit station" and the nearby service road (7,063,056 rubles); construction of the village of Serebryanyi Bor (5,222,240 rubles) and, the city of Neryungri (8,268,704 rubles). During the construction and development of the Yuzhno-Yakutskii territorial industrial complex 21,168 hectares of reindeer grazing land were confiscated from the "Zolotinks" Soukhoz. In the raion as a whole, the total damage over the last 15 years amounts to more than 26 million rubles. And this gives rise to a legal question: does the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry intend to compensate the Evenks of Neryungri for the losses to their traditional way of life?

I would like to pose the same question to the Ministry of Metallurgy and "Soyuzalmazoloto" (All-Union Diamond and Gold Mining Administration), whose powerful subdivision "Yakutalmaz", located in the cities of Mirnyi and Udachnyi, forced the Evenks of Syuldyukar off their native lands and condemned them to an aimless poverty.

...We are on the threshold of a market. What will be the fate of the northern ethnic minorities? Who will give them a helping hand? One would like to believe that the Union ministries and agencies, which transformed the ancient habitat of these peoples into their own private fiefdom and for long periods of time have been pumping out fabulous profits from the harvesting of the extremely rich natural resources, will finally come to their senses, turn round and face the people, and repay them for the damage that's been done. This will require sincerity and a sense of fairness.