

Environment and Development (which proposes to examine ecological problems not in isolation, but in terms of their relationship to problems of war and peace, disarmament and development) is the Prime-Minister of Norway, Gor Harlem Brundtland.

Perestroika has forced us here in the Soviet Union not only to face the problems of environmental protection, but to become a leader in the field. The ecological ignorance and thoughtless attitudes towards nature that have prevailed in our country in previous years have forced us into a difficult situation. To stop the process of environmental destruction and restore what has not yet been lost, enormous resources and international cooperation are needed, since contamination knows no boundaries. The Soviet Union holds the view that ecological problems are just as important as the problems of war and peace, since the fate of humanity depends on whether or not they are solved.

It is still too early to speak about concrete results from collaboration on environmental protection among countries in the arctic region. The fact that a legal basis for such interaction is being actively created is cause for hope. An example of this is the signing of an agreement with Sweden and Norway during the visit of N.I. Ryzhkov to those countries in January of this year, and plans for the creation of an International Arctic Sciences Committee to coordinate scientific and ecological collaboration among the countries that have interests in the region. The idea of expanding bilateral and multilateral contacts in the arctic gained support at the USA-USSR summit in Moscow.

The importance of these steps lies in the fact that northern countries are no longer blaming each other for contaminating the environment, but