

time that the Ministry of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy, to which the combine was directly subordinate, was abolished, and the structure of the newly created Ministry of Metallurgy was still under development. One could hardly find, it seems, a more convenient moment for achieving independence from the authority of the ministry.

With what did the people of Norilsk come to the capital? Well, first of all, they came with a passionate conviction that the "Norilskii nikel" concern - as it has been named - has every right to exist in the context of radical economic reform. The collectives of four other enterprises of this sector - the combines "Severonikel" and "Pechenganikel", the Olenegorsk Mechanical Plant and the Krasnoyarsk Non-Ferrous Metals Plant - have expressed their desire to join the concern. In one way or another, each of these enterprises is linked with Norilsk as part of a "technological chain". All of these enterprises are profitable. In the opinion of those who initiated the concern, this profitability can be managed if one knows precisely what portion of revenues will remain in the concern and what portion will be transferred to the State. And the earned revenues can be distributed according to the contribution of each, taking account, of course, of funds for development of the production and social infrastructure. In other words, a course has been set for full economic independence and a departure from ministerial dictates. As one of their arguments for the concern, the people of Norilsk have mentioned the fact that the Krasnoyarsk Non-Ferrous Metals Plant makes an annual profit of approximately 450 million rubles, of which 360 million rubles are handed over to the ministry. How can this be fair?