

but finally the people had the warrants in their hands. Let's make one thing clear at the start: none of those legally entitled by the information presented in the lists figured among the new inhabitants. The new tenants were people moved from dilapidated homes and run down huts in the tundra, and workers of the Ministry of Railroads.

Without going into details about the ingenuity the people of Vorkuta displayed in selecting the most unfortunate of their unfortunates or how they allotted these 50 or so apartments, I would nonetheless like to draw attention to one fact. They also managed to "squeeze" two elderly ladies from the shanty town of Mulda into the building.

A lonely old age is terrible enough in itself, but old age in a rotted "billet" with a smoking stove, when there is no one to fetch water or gather coal as the Arctic night stretches on for months... Within the Vorkuta rail district alone live approximately 300 retired workers' families, and this does not include those living in Mulda or the railroad towns of Eletsкая, Sivaya Maska and many others. But then why are they here in these god-forsaken places?

By a rough estimate, a single resident living in Vorkuta costs the State an amount of money many times greater than what it costs in the central zone. Thus, leaving pensioners in the North when they are no longer working is not only cruel but also uneconomical in the extreme.

Meanwhile, the "Housing-2000" program developed for the Vorkuta sector of the Northern Railroad calls not only for expanding construction to satisfy the requirements for new arrivals in the North but also for the demolition of dilapidated housing and the relocation of older residents into well-built apartments.