

"Have we not learnt enough lessons from [lakes] Baikal and Ladoga? And Yamal is, from a scientific standpoint, of no less importance. It is a real crime to manage the resources of this unique region from positions of departmentalism and present advantage. What is needed is urgent humanization and ecologization of the industrial development of Yamal..."

Vladimir Petrovich certainly expressed many more correct and important ideas vis-a-vis the state of affairs on the Arctic peninsula. But what concrete steps have already been taken by the institute to correct the situation? This question forced an embarrassing pause in our conversation.

"Our plans do not include specific recommendations with respect to Yamal. I think it would be advisable to set this task before the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences."

We heard the following in "Glavtyumengazprom": "We do not think that it is necessary to enhance scientific support for the Yamal Program. This would result in unnecessary expenditures and, more importantly, another delay in resolving urgent problems. The potential of Tyumen science is not wanting. Someone must simply display initiative and take on a co-ordinator's role. And this must obviously be accomplished by the district and area bodies of power."

And so what happens as a result? Everyone would seem to be concerned with the fate of the Yamal Peninsula and its native population. Yet everyone tries to shift the burden of responsibility onto