

in preparing this draft resolution were representatives of ministries and government agencies of Russia, members of the commission monitoring fulfillment of decisions of the Murmansk conference, trade union and Soviet workers, and specialists from Northern regions and the East. The draft is slated to be reviewed during the first days of November.

In addition, to continue work on solving problems of the North a decision has been taken to hold the second stage of an inter-regional trade union conference on social and economic problems of the North on November 21-22 in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii.

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TRANSPORT-RAIL

Some Details of the Abandoned Salekhard - Igarka Railroad Construction Project

When you look at it from a helicopter, it all seems real and up to date - rails, semaphores, stations, trackwalkers' houses. But once you have landed and come up close you see the devastation and ruin, you understand that there is no longer anything there. It's all in the past - a sinister past. For decades the Salekhard - Igarka Railroad lived a dual existence. It's as if it was there, but at the same time everybody tried to avoid mentioning it, speaking only of "construction site 501".

The idea of a northern trans-Siberian railroad was born in the minds of merchants and industrialists at the beginning of the century. But common sense told people that this grandiose scheme was still too big a bite for the incipient Russian bourgeoisie. But Stalin's government knew nothing of the doubts about the plan's feasibility from the standpoint of shortages of resources, builders and materials. The decision was made, and in 1947 political prisoners were deported to the arctic taiga and tundra.