

## OIL AND GAS

### Norilsk After the Blast

The consequences of the gas pipeline emergency that occurred on the night of November 15, 300 kilometers from Norilsk, are being directly felt by both the residents and the enterprises of the city.

The Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine has reduced its output to a minimum. Reserve fuel is being used to heat homes, and still apartments are colder than usual. In a number of places the temperature does not rise above 12 degrees. As a result, classes have been cancelled in a number of schools. On the whole, the public has responded with understanding to what has happened, despite the fact that the cold weather in the North now stands at a crackling 40 degrees below zero.

As V. Borovkov, a spokesman for the "Norilskgazprom" Production Corporation, explained to your "Izvestiya" correspondent, the explosion occurred on a section directly linked to a compressor station, near a primary gas processing installation. The powerful explosion put out of service more than 40 kilometers of pipeline that feeds gas to heat and electric power stations of the Norilsk Industrial Region. What has made the situation more difficult, first of all, is that the explosion occurred at a gas pipeline junction, and this immediately put all three branches of the pipeline out of service. Secondly, at the moment of the explosion and afterwards, weather conditions at the scene of the emergency left much to be desired: the temperature stood at -41 degrees, with a wind speed of approximately 30 meters per second.