

The Kola Peninsula is a gigantic construction site. Major combines, factories and plants, homes, schools and hospitals, power plants, roads and agricultural sites, stores, cinemas, Palaces of Culture, etc., have been built. But the development of the social sector has so far been unable to satisfy us. We live in difficult climatic and geographic conditions, remote from the center and we have to do everything we can to see that the residents of the region are able to develop their creative potential so that they do not feel like transients in the North.

There are other problems too in the development of our Oblast. The pace and efficiency of production in many sectors must be improved. We must eliminate the disproportion between the expansion of the production of primary raw resources and the development of a processing industry. There are many problems connected with the ecology.

All of this was pointed out by the General Secretary of the CC of the CPSU, M.S. Gorbachev during a visit to our Oblast, when he awarded Murmansk the Order of Lenin and the "Gold Star" Medal. These high awards are a tribute to the exceptional courage of the soldiers who fought on the Murmansk front and also the toilers who made up the heroic rear.

In response to the concerns of the party and government about the economic and social development of Murmansk Oblast, the toilers of the Soviet Trans-Polar region, by the year 2000, will increase industrial output by at least 1.7-1.8 fold and agricultural output by at least 1.7 fold. The volume of production of consumer goods and services will nearly triple.

Particular attention is being paid to improving the level of integrated utilization of the natural