

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE AMGUEHMA RIVER?

"I read the socio-economic development plan for Chukotka to the year 2000 in the paper," said captain and instructor Viktor F. Ol'khovik, and was astonished. It turns out that quite without consulting the people, they have decided to build a hydroelectric station on the Amguehma river. You see they are going to flood the reindeers' pasture grounds, and nobody knows how this is going to affect the climate in Chukotka. The reindeer breeding state farm will have to be closed down in the affected areas. Yet people have lived there for centuries. I have no doubt that they could manage perfectly well without this hydroelectric station if they were to build, for example, a wind-powered electric station, since never a day goes by here without wind. It wouldn't harm anyone, and the benefits are obvious.

Mr. Ol'khovik cannot be indifferent to the problems here, since he has lived here for more than twenty years, and considers this to be his home. This is why.

SERIOUS NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING PROBLEMS

Chukotka's social and economic growth relies primarily on sea freight, which includes quite a large number of river vessels. The freight arriving from the mainland provides the basic living necessities for the people in this autonomous district. It is handled in the sea ports and then delivered to remote settlements by river.

One would think that a lot of time must be spent on the transportation problem here. However, this is far from the truth. The forces of inertia