

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Arctic To Be Under International Protection

The problems of protecting the Arctic ecosystems and the strategic policy of the arctic states in this regard were at the center of attention at a meeting of specialists from the USA, Canada, USSR, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden and Finland, which concluded yesterday in Murmansk.

As is well known, a proposal concerning international cooperation in the Arctic was advanced by M.S. Gorbachev during his sojourn in the autumn of 1987 in this largest city of the trans-polar region. And the first steps towards the realization of this important proposal were made soon afterwards. Upon the initiative of scientists from the USA and Canada a working group on international Arctic relations was created, with representatives of six other interested states, including the Soviet Union, included in it. Several meetings of the group have already been held. At the first there was a discussion of the global problems of the contemporary development of the Arctic, and at two others the scientists and specialists of the eight countries exchanged their experience in working for the prevention of further pollution of the arctic basin with industrial wastes and improvements in the living conditions of the indigenous population of the arctic regions, particularly, the Saami (Laplanders) who inhabit the territory of the USSR and Finland.

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