

## MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING

### Above the Arctic Circle - a New Metallurgical Concern

The USSR Council of Ministers has supported a proposal from the workers' collectives of the Norilsk "Zavenyagin" Mining and Metallurgical Combine, the Lenin "Severonikel" and "Pechenganikel" combines, the Krasnoyarsk Plant of Non-Ferrous Metals, and the Olenegorsk Mechanical Plant regarding the establishment, on the basis of these enterprises, of a state concern to be known as "Norilskii nikel" - for the production of non-ferrous metals. Our correspondent reports on the battle over its establishment.

Ideas, as the ancients noted long ago, hover in the air. But in our complex and fast-paced times, it seems that ideas find it crowded even there. I remember a conversation of several years ago with the then general director of the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine B. Kolesnikov. We discussed a topic which, in those pre-perestroika days, seemed simply revolutionary. My interlocutor, an influential and respected person, had begun to talk about establishing a loose organization of firms (a concern) that would be based on the combine.

A year ago, following M.S. Gorbachev's visit to the Krasnoyarsk Krai, I heard from O. Shenin, First Secretary of the Krasnoyarsk Krai Party Committee, about a program to develop the Far North by way of a concern.

This past summer the present general director of the combine, A. Filatov, made an urgent flight to Moscow with a large group of specialists. I remind the readers that it was precisely at this