

"We geologists were at fault during the stagnation period," continued Lanev. "We hastened to find rich deposits and pumped oceans of petroleum. If there had been no Tyumen', for example, the economic structure would have forced us all to work much earlier. But today everybody is focusing on the total reserves of minerals. Yes, our country is rich. But where are these riches - in Chukotka, in Eastern Siberia, on the continental shelf? Try and reach them. And what are the active reserves that everybody is keeping quiet about? By the end of the decade it may be possible to close the bulk of the refineries ..."

The Kola ultra-deep borehole program has served to create and execute a whole series of investigations of the Earth's interior. A combine was formed for the comprehensive investigation of the latter. Throughout the country there are 9 more boreholes: the Ural, the Tyumen', the Krivoy Rog, the Timano-Pechora, the Marantau and other boreholes. A number of countries have embarked on analogous programs via legislation and on a governmental level. For example, 510 million DM have been appointed in the FRG for scientific continental drilling. The USA has appropriated 20 million dollars for the current year.

Guberman told us about the International Geological Congress, convened in Moscow in 1984. The leading scientists of the world set this condition: "We will come if you let us see the Kola ultra-deep borehole." They assumed that the Russians would "promise them the world, but not deliver," given the enormous depths and the backward technologies. When the directors of the geological services of the developed capitalist countries saw the core samples from 0 to 12,000 meters they were speechless. This is priceless for a geologist.