

But... the year-round crossing has existed for ten years, and the Taymyr Okrug incurs nothing but losses from this. A part of the goods remains for the Okrug, but you know this is less even than the proverbial drop in the ocean. But then the channel, several tens of meters wide, cut along the bed of the powerful river, seemingly divided in half the life style developed here over the ages.

Solely on account of the necessary air dropping of goods and materials onto the tundra, rather than delivering them by land, as previously, the Okrug is losing up to a million rubles annually. The hunters are short another 500 thousand due to the change in the traditional migration routes of the reindeer. The Yenisey fishermen are also suffering a significant loss.

However neither the Noril'sk combine nor the Murmansk Steamship Line is in any hurry to make up the losses: the departments in our Okrug do not like to share the profits they have made. Therefore, as soon as it became known that a nuclear-powered vessel would be making its appearance in the waters of the Yenisey, the general public on the peninsula sounded the alarm.

The sailors assure us that there is no danger whatever. Today the nuclear-powered "Taymyr" has the ecologically cleanest reactor in the world and its radioactive wastes are collected by a special ship far from inhabited sites. Also, the designers have stipulated something else: the strength of the icebreaker's hull is such that it can withstand a head-on collision at full speed with a ship displacing 26 thousand tons. And in the event of running aground, special shielding protects the reactor against rupture.

"The two diesel icebreakers now operating in the river, poison it much more than a nuclear-powered vessel does," say the specialists of the steamship line.