

SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES

Sixty Years Later

The first constituent congress of the Association of Ethnic Minorities of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug has commenced in Naryan-Mar.

More than 250 delegates are representing the interests of the tundra's native inhabitants. The delegates are scheduled to formulate a program and a charter for the association, to discuss issues relating to the social and economic development of the Okrug, and to elect delegates to the All-Union Congress of Ethnic Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

The tundra Nenets have accumulated many topics for concerned discussion and heated debate. The last time they gathered at a forum with this level of representation was nearly 60 years ago. As a preliminary survey indicated, the issues of greatest concern to these northern residents are the status of the Okrug's autonomy, regional cost accountability, and the state of ethnic culture and the environment.

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