

business alone, out of 500 workers, one-third are on a waiting list for living quarters. The only hospital in the settlement belongs to Murmansk Naval Shipping and for some time now the hospital has not responded to contemporary requirements: it serves the entire settlement and is financed only by sailors.

The question of questions is leisure time. There are simply no leisure facilities in Dikson. The Old House of Culture was used to its limit, and there are no plans for a new one in the immediate future. And it will again be the sailors who build it. Does the rest of the population not require leisure time? Two sports halls have long since ceased to meet the needs of the settlement. There are no swimming pools, no sports complexes, no regular hockey rink, etc.

Recently we hear the invitation to "come face the Arctic." Here we now have nuclear-powered ice-breakers, satellite channel connections, powerful naval vessels ... and yet, in relation to the inhabitants of high latitudes progress had been halted. I remember how, a few years ago, the captain of the ship "Monchegorsk," A. Mayatskiy, showed me his album containing photos of the northern settlements of Norway, Finland and Canada. They looked like Christmas cards! It was as if their -40°C is much warmer than ours.

But maybe the matter is in the warmth of relationships. This is why northerners are waiting, not for a change in the weather, but for a rise in temperature in the social climate on the peninsula.

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