

approach. We heard many convincing affirmations of this in Nadym. We cannot presume to speak for all the conference participants, but one of the four sections, which discussed scientific and methodological questions affecting the ecology of the oil and gas complex, resolved to petition Party and government leaders to delay industrial development of the Yamal Peninsula. Nearly 80 scientists and experts signed the text of the petition at the closing plenary session. Here are some of the statements they made:

Dr. E. Melnikov, mineralogist, Director of the Laboratory of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology under the USSR Ministry of Geology: "Development of the Yamal gas-fields has begun without comprehensive scientific and technological preparation. There are still none of the necessary nature conservation maps for the Bovanenkovo field, where the industrial development of the Yamal region is planned to begin, for communications corridors or for areas where advance bases will be located. Neither lake depths nor the water balance of the land is known. Thus, neither individual parts of the environment, nor these parts as a whole and their interaction, nor their possible reaction to man's intrusion onto the Yamal Peninsula have been studied."

V. Lukichev, Candidate of Sciences, Senior Researcher at the Academy of Sciences' Institute for Northern Development Problems: "Apparently, some people prefer to say that science has stubbornly refused to deal with the Yamal's problems, and so now the industrial sector has to handle them alone. In fact, our group is now undertaking research in earnest for the third time on the peninsula. Research begun twice before, in the mid-seventies and