

With the startup of the new pipeline the rate of gasification will pick up. Plans call for laying approximately 1500 kilometers of gas lines in rural areas and to bring the fuel to 250 populated centres.

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Page 4 (full text)

### SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES

#### Trade Union Conference on Socioeconomic Conditions in the North Beginning to Bear Fruit

The RSFSR Council of Ministers, in carrying out the decisions of the Murmansk Regional Trade Union Conference on Social and Economic Problems of the North, has adopted the decree: "On the Regulations for Compensating Citizens Living in the North."

In commenting on this event, V.I. Romanov, chairman of the commission which is monitoring implementation of the decisions of the Murmansk conference, deputy chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia and People's Deputy of the USSR, stated: "This is one of the first concrete results of the constructive dialogue between the trade union centre and the government of Russia."

But this doesn't mean that the decree will solve all of the problems of the North. Work on these problems is continuing. For example, under the leadership of Yu. Skokov, First Deputy Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, the commission has virtually completed the work of preparing a draft of the RSFSR Council of Ministers' resolution: "On Measures to Regulate Economic and Social Relations in Northern Regions of the RSFSR during the period of the transition to a market." Among those active