

here looking for easy money. Having found it, they sent joyful letters home praising the delights of life here. And so, in the farthest north-eastern corner of the country, in an area of permafrost, Ukranian, Russian and Moldavian settlements, villages and towns sprang up. They tried to bring their relatives here as well. And that is how the state farm's administration, to give an example, became made up of, not only one nationality, but one extended family.

The new arrivals also worked as fishermen and in hunting and trapping work teams, i.e., in the jobs with the best wages, thus squeezing out the local people.

Is this not why the Chukchi have ended up in the lowest paid and dirtiest jobs? For example, the overwhelming majority of stokers in the settlements are members of the native populations.

Who is to blame for this? Many people here are asking this question. And it constantly appears on the agenda at meetings of the informal association of Chukotka intelligentsia, the "Zov". It is a difficult question and the answer is not easy. It seems to me that it is first and foremost the fruits of the administrative-command methods, when all decisions were taken centrally with no regard for the particular requirements of the district. After all, regardless of nationality, people live amicably side by side in Chukotka, always ready to help each other, to share their crust of bread.

But distortions in economic and social development have led to a situation in which a local person is ready to reproach his long standing neighbour who came here from the mainland. And this can only be a cause for anxiety.