

enclosed skating rinks in the near future. Good medical services have been set up. Much more could be said, but I fear to be incorrectly understood.

V.L.: In listening to you, one really does get the impression that there are no problems in the miners' settlements...

N.G.: There are of course problems, but they are, if you like, of a different nature. There is a shortage of efficient mechanical equipment along the technological chain from stope to coal dump; there is no technology for the recycling of industrial and domestic waste; we need special all-terrain vehicles, as the arctic tundra environment is easily damaged. However these and other problems cannot be resolved solely with the resources of our trust.

I am sure that the long experience of human activity in our settlements on Spitsbergen will be food for thought for scientists on the topics of man's adaptation under such difficult conditions, the effect on man of prolonged absence of sunlight, etc. In my view, it would be advisable to form a permanently active expedition from the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences.

V.L.: In the search for new raw-materials resources, we are more actively beginning to develop almost inaccessible regions, including the Arctic, where base settlements for shift teams are being built. How useful, Nikolai Aleksandrovich, has the experience of your trust been in the formation of their infrastructure?

N.G.: Almost one year ago, I read an interesting article in one of the central newspapers. I liked it for its keen portrayal of