

jurisdiction of the "Primorsklesprom" Association. The Executive Committee also plans to commence construction of a logging road linking Sukpay, Agzu and Samarga in 1990. More than 700,000 cubic metres of timber would be extracted annually along this route. This is being done in order to "protect the way of life of the local population - the Udegeys, whose main occupations consist of hunting, fishing and gathering medicinal plants."

When was the Executive Committee acting in good conscience - when it wrote to the Supreme Soviet and the State Planning Committee that felling the taiga forests would change the region's ecology and worsen living conditions for the Udegeys or when it decided to fell the forests itself with the aim of "preserving the way of life" of the Udegeys?

The Samarga Udegeys subsequently replied: "We categorically object to the proposed logging operations...We do not want to end up in the same position as the Udegeys living in Krasnyy Yar in the Primorskiy Kray and Glavsyugi in the Khabarovsk Kray: they can no longer hunt or fish because of the commercial exploitation and subsequent destruction of the forests."

It is strange that the people attending the 29 December 1988 meeting of the Executive Meeting were restricted to representatives from various logging associations, the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry, the USSR State Planning Committee, the "Primorsklesprom" Association, the State Institute for the Planning of Logging, Rafting and Woodworking Enterprises and Lumber Transportation (Giprolestrans), as well as territorial forestry production associations.