

TRANSPORT LAND

A Motor Vehicle...A Highway...Fifty Below Zero

The Northern Testing Station of the Vehicle Proving Ground, Central Scientific Research Institute of Motor Vehicles and Vehicle Engines, is located in the city of Susuman, Magadan Oblast. This is where testing is conducted on automotive technology that is designed to operate at low temperatures, up to 60 below zero.

...About 90 models of automotive equipment modified for use in the North have been tested here over a six-year period: vehicles from the Kremenchug, Urals, Minsk, Gorkii, and Kama automobile plants and busses from the Kurgan and Pavlovsk plants. Industrial standards and the technical requirements for automotive equipment designed to operate under Northern conditions have been formulated here.

Nevertheless, the development of special equipment for the North has been moving slowly. Of all the automobile plants named, only the Kurgan Automobile Plant has been turning out vehicles modified for the North on the basis of test results. The models of the other plants, alas, have yet to reach the assembly lines.

The situation is especially bad in connection with the production of urban and inter-urban busses for the inhabitants of the North. The testing stations came forward long ago with specific requirements for altering models from the Likino and Lvov motor vehicle plants--but the manufacturers have not even started with the modifications. They can only look with envy to the efficient performance of their counterparts at the IVECO-Magirus company (Federal Republic of Germany). Problems associated with their vehicles, which are only