

occupations. Over 1,000 people - 1 in 20 of the local population in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District - are presently unemployed. Deer-breeding may be cut by half in the future.

The Ministry for the Gas Industry and the Ministry for Construction for the Gas and Oil Industry have given the native population a difficult choice: either you support the development of the Yamal, in which case we shall built good housing, child day-care centres, schools, and hospitals for the native population, or else you take care of your own problems. Are the deer-grazing and hunting grounds which have already been turned into gas-fields at Urengoi and Yamburg not enough for the ministries? Do they have to add the Yamal Peninsula, too? The attack on the local population continued even at the ecological conference.

The discussions between the executives who had organized the conference and the scientists who were participating in it took an even stranger turn later in the conference: "We need recommendations toady, not sometime in the future," - the executives said to the scientists. "Remember that the extent of the damage to nature on the peninsula depends on you."

This was obviously an attempt to shift the blame to the innocent party.

Nonetheless, we must give the Ministry for Construction for the Gas and Oil Industry its due for organizing the conference. We do not know how the Ministry may assess the conference, but in our opinion, its chief lesson is that science, including applied science in this industry, is increasingly unwilling to meekly carry out the client's will. "What result do you want?" is no longer an acceptable