

ENVIRONMENT

Ecology Knows No Boundaries

The Prime Minister of Norway, Jan Syuse, in an address at the conference of the Conservative Party Kheire, proposed giving assistance to the Soviet Union to achieve a sharp reduction in harmful emissions from enterprises on the Kola Peninsula. The aid would consist of supplying western pollution control technology worth no less than 300,000,000 kroner.

"Is it not paradoxical", mused the Prime Minister, "that Norway is planning steps to preserve the environment in a neighbouring country which is spending huge sums on armaments in a nearby region? Yes, it is. But we are taking this step in order to resolve Soviet problems. We will work on problems of Norway, and especially on those which concern the fate of its province of Finnmark."

As the readers know, this province borders directly on the Murmansk Oblast. The people here are particularly worried by the presence, a few dozen kilometres from the border, of a Soviet nuclear submarine base and by the everyday poisoning of their environment.

But Mr. Syuse has shown himself to be more than a hard-headed rationalist. As the "Aftenposten" writes, he has declared that Soviet-Norwegian efforts to protect the environment may become a trampoline for broader cooperation in Northern Europe in the spheres of economics, business and culture.

The post-war division of Europe is still causing difficulties in trans-border cooperation. But today, he emphasizes, we must take a new look at the opportunities opening up.