

Incidentally, the central government is now considering a new resolution concerning the Pechora Basin. The miners "embodied" in the resolution a list of those oblasts in which they would like to have homes, as determined from a survey of the workers. At the risk of being mistaken, my data indicates that railway workers once again are not included in the anticipated action by the Council of Ministers.

Without a doubt, things are not so simple under current regulations. For example, the USSR Council of Ministers' decree no. 765 "On Cooperation in Residential Construction" of 19 August, 1982, requires local soviets to take northern residents into account in residential construction cooperation throughout the country. But no penalty was provided for failure to comply with the decree. It wouldn't be a bad idea to formulate some benefits for executive committees which decide to concern themselves with northern residents. Builders too should be given some sort of priorities, if only in the supply of materials, if they get involved in building for northerners.

It would be helpful to have some specific examples on hand, for use in the discussions with the oblast committees. Here is one such ...

In a locomotive depot in Vorkuta, I met a "veteran" who was unusual by normal standards. V. Barsukov (he asked me to change his last name: he's waiting for an apartment which he intends to exchange straight away) in his forty years has earned all of the privileges and today wouldn't mind at all moving back to his native Orenburg. He has no intention of filing for retirement. He wants to continue working in his field. With some effort and the help of the Party oblast committee, he was able to get into a cooperative in his home town. On the waiting list he's number 2800. When will he get his apartment? And how many others like him are there in Vorkuta?

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