

Guberman told me the following story. Grigoriy Ivanovich Gorbunov, the former President of the Kola Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and a Corresponding Member, called one day from Apatity.

"Drop in and see us," he said, "we have received some samples of lunar soil."

We fly there and enter through an iron-clad door into a clean room. We put on foot covers and white attire. We admire the "moon" under the microscope: 28 tiny particles of dust. It turned out that this was exactly like our material from a depth of 3-4 kilometers. Since then geologists have postulated that the Moon was torn from the Kola peninsula. But where this site is located they have not yet determined.

It was here that I decided on the main question:

"Why is all this being done? What will the super-deep borehole give to man?"

Whereupon the people I was speaking with looked at each other and smiled. They wondered why I would ask them this question without first learning something about the super-deep borehole. But I was patient.

"The point is," began Guberman, "that our work on the Kola Peninsula has practically disproved the contemporary hypotheses concerning the origin and placement of minerals. Today we have detected iron ore and gold mineralization at a depth of 10 kilometers. Do you know how much? Up to seven grams per ton. But man does not go down so deep. We have found a prospecting show, suggesting that we may find copper, cobalt and gold above. Thanks to