

"And you feel that the principal point of this program is the revival of the Polar Aviation Administration?"

"Air service for the North and the Arctic needs a single master which will look after all of the issues - both ground and air, both current operations and plans for the future. When everything is concentrated in the hands of a single master, there is greater order and more substantive results. This has been demonstrated by the entire history of polar aviation, which was unjustly abolished in 1971.

"When the Minister of Civil Aviation A.N. Volkov was confirmed in his post by the USSR Supreme Soviet, he said that there were plans in the sector to establish competing aviation companies and associations of civil aviation. So why shouldn't a specialized polar aviation company be set up?"

"Resurrecting polar aviation may also aid in resolving the acute socio-economic problems of northern native peoples. For many people, your speech to the Congress of People's Deputies was a bolt from the blue. Destruction of the environment as a result of the colonial policy of ministries and government departments, and, the resulting decline in traditional economic pursuits and activities; loss of language, culture and national identity... Wretched living conditions... Assimilation... The 'Happy Fate of Ethnic Minorities of the North' has almost brought them to the brink of extinction. Life expectancy among the native population of the Soviet Union is 16 to 18 years less than the national average. Infant mortality exceeds the All-Union level by a factor of 2 to 3. The incidence of tuberculosis is 5 to 8 times greater..."