

The last and possibly most serious source is the Northern Fleet. What are they doing with their radioactive wastes, the spent fuel from the submarines? The public would like to get an official answer to all these questions. Unfortunately, the military are keeping silent, and if they do say something it's along the lines of 'everything's just fine'. In point of fact, this is hardly the case. Near the village of Tetrino we discovered part of a missile not claimed by anybody, which was lying directly on the shore, not far from a dead seal. I think you'll agree that this gives rise to some rather sad reflections regarding 'the blessings of the military'."

Q. "Could the people test the background radiation if something happened? Do they have dosimeters?"

A. "No. At least not the people we had occasion to meet."

Q. "What's the health situation like for residents of the peninsula?"

A. "According to the statistics we consulted at a number of medical establishments, the situation would appear to be rather good. But is it really? When you consider there's only a handful of local residents there... These same 'temporaries', who come there for the money, only live under these harsh conditions for ten years or less, and then they leave for more temperate regions. But it has already been shown that, after this, they don't survive for very long. The authorities keep quiet about this. Just as they keep quiet about the fact that the poisoning of the air with heavy metals, which is occurring in practically all regions, is very dangerous for the human organism, especially for women and children. It damages the human genetic code. A kind of mutagenic process occurs."

Q. "Is there any hope that the environmental situation on the Kola Peninsula will change for the better in the near future?"