

permitting the Cubans to log in the Sukpay river basin. The Sukpay Timber Industry Complex was set up after this agreement and was allotted, among other logging tracts, the taiga area around the Samarga basin.

The Samarga Udegeys appealed to the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee and to the USSR Supreme Soviet to stop these encroachments on their territory. "We are very concerned about these developments", they wrote, "and fear that the forests, rivers and fish will disappear as a result of the felling. This has already occurred in the southern Primorskiy region (in the Iman and Biki Udegey lands) and among the Udegeys of the Khabarovsk Kray."

The Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee upheld the Udegeys' request, recommending to the RSFSR Council of Ministers and the USSR State Planning Committee in March of 1988, that the Samarga River basin not be given over to the Sukpay Timber Industry Complex for exploitation. The Committee noted that native hunters and fisherman live in the Samarga basin and that large-scale felling would "result in a change in the river's hydrological regime, the depletion of fish reserves, the depreciation of the hunting grounds and would, as a result, have a detrimental effect on the Udegeys' national culture and traditions."

Right after the Supreme Soviet sent a positive response, however, the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee, together with a number of logging interests, issued a proposition on "the establishment of a comprehensive enterprise for the production and utilization of forest resources in the Samarga basin." This enterprise would come under the