

indicators. But how can you order the construction of these facilities if there isn't even enough money for infrastructure? Not to mention future facilities! Only 60% of the financing has been provided for construction of new wells and roads, especially those leading to oil fields. Are we really going to return to the practices of the early 1970's when wells and entire plants were built in the middle of swamps, thereby ruining expensive equipment? Is there really no other solution than to hold up the construction of pumping stations? But this means that within a year and a half to two years the gas production levels required simply won't be there. The delivery of valuable fuel and chemical raw materials for the national economy is at risk. And this situation has an impact not only on Urengoi but on the whole of Western Siberia. We have to face the truth: unless sufficient attention is focused on the natural gas sector and in time, it could suffer the kind of crash that occurred in the oil sector in the early 1980's."

"Was this concern raised during the recent meeting between the heads of the largest natural gas and petroleum associations and N.I. Ryzhkov?"

"Yes, and we were promised help. But what concerns us even more is that only a fifth of the meager capital investments that have been allocated are backed up with construction resources. In the final analysis, money is only figures on an association's ledger. It also takes cement, rolled metal, lumber, piping and ferroconcrete. But at the end of the year USSR Gosstab (State Committee on Material and Technical Supply) refused to provide virtually all of this. How are we supposed to conclude contracts with builders?"

"The shortage of resources, which results this time from supply complications, is also beginning to undermine the construction of housing and social amenities, which in the last few years has gone well. How are we going to attract people to the North? Good wages alone are no