

SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES

Why is it Cold in Dikson?

Recently it has become acceptable to write about Dikson in exceptionally rosy terms. To talk about the romance, about the people with interesting professions, and of course about the polar bears. And one involuntarily forgets the fact that four thousand such citizens live here, people like you and me. People whose needs and wants differ little from those residing in the usual cities of the mainland. But is it enough to worry about them? Is a tolerable climate created here for human existence, a climate that makes life easier for people in the Arctic climate?

Today in the Arctic one can frequently hear regrets about the fact that at some point the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route was dissolved - the only authority over not just Dikson but over the entire Soviet north. "Sevmorput" brought lodgings, polar aviation, research stations on islands, hospitals, building organizations, ships, trade enterprises, and more.

Now this vast region feels the full force of bureaucratic disconnection. Here the interests of a few dozen Ministers and bureaucrats collide. Administratively, Dikson belongs to Krasnoyarsk territory, but most of its businesses belong to Murmansk, Leningrad and Moscow. It follows that there are numerous problems and difficulties.

For example, the cold of the past years again brought home to the residents the fact that they live on the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Often in the settlement an emergency situation arises with the