

was to prepare additional recommendations to be included in a draft version of government resolutions concerning the Yamal Peninsula.

As we flew in a comfortable helicopter to Yar-Sele settlement, one of the members of the commission, a senior representative of the Ministry for the Gas Industry, made the following observation concerning the life of the tundra-dwellers, which he regarded as unenviable and deprived: "It's savagery!" Within a few hours the passengers on this 'executive flight' would be meeting Party and local council representatives from the Yamal region. The outburst by the ministerial representative made one wonder sadly whether the guests from Moscow and Tyumen' understood that for the tundra-dwellers, home was not just a house with four walls and a roof, even though this might be a very comfortable house, but the tundra itself, its streams and lakes. Did they understand that nature was more than just an environment to these people?

V. Kuramin formulated the topic for discussion in the following way to the Party and local council representatives: "Government guidelines are being drawn up concerning the Yamal Peninsula. We must clarify how we are to organize the work so as to minimize damage to nature. As a form of compensation, we must also solve the region's problems in social and living conditions."

After this statement, S. Pashev, the chief animal husbandry specialist at the Yarsalinsky State Farm remarked bitterly: "How many years have passed since we came to this area before such a meeting is taking place!" For the native inhabitants of this area, the 'benefits of civilization' have so far meant the loss of their ancestral lands and