

SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES

Association of Peoples of the North Founded

The association was established on March 31 at the Congress of Minority Peoples of the North, held for two days in the Kremlin, and is designed to protect the interests of the indigenous peoples who inhabit vast areas of the country.

Representatives of all of the delegations attending the forum spoke about the complex tangle of problems in which the minority peoples find themselves. There are many of them, but the troubles are theirs alone. This includes the administrative expansion of ministries and government departments on the lands of the native inhabitants, distortions in the nationality policy, lack of social development, and a sharp deterioration in the environmental situation.

The Association of Minority Peoples of the North, according to its program, will contribute actively to realizing the political, social and economic rights of northern minorities and to preserving their cultural distinctiveness, which is inseparably linked with a rebirth in the traditional way of life and in the use of natural resources. The association will also exercise some control over the protection of natural resources on the northern peoples' ancient homelands. To do this, the association will represent their interests before State, administrative, judicial and other organs and institutions.