

### Hopes and Fears

Judging by the first day of work and the discussions in the corridors at the congress, its delegates mean business. The North has already loudly decried its woes and misfortunes, and now is the time to take concrete decisions. Because, as Doctor of Historical Sciences Ch.M. Taksami, chairman of the congress organizing committee, noted in his address, the question today is: Will the northern peoples vanish from the face of the earth forever? Unfortunately, this is not hyperbole but bitter reality.

"What do you expect from the congress? What do you think should be discussed?" I put these questions to congress delegates and guests. Here is what they said.

Galina Egorova, district internist from Khanty-Mansiisk, a Khanty by nationality:

"As a doctor what concerns me most of all are health problems since the survival of any people depends on this. For northern aboriginal peoples today survival is the number one problem. But perhaps one cannot even raise the issue without posing a solution to economic, social and cultural matters. In general, the greatest hope is that our government will work on public health in deed and not just in words."

Anton Kutkhyrgin, editor of the Magadan Oblast Radio:

"I'm chairman of a city association of ethnic minorities of the North. The congress is a breakthrough for the future, but it was too late in coming. A lot of harsh changes have occurred. Now the process of rethinking them is underway. I am convinced that only the people of