

MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING

The 'Norilskii Nikel' Concern: First Steps

"Izvestiya" has received a telex from Norilsk. A constituent assembly has taken place here involving representatives of the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine, the combines "Severonikel" and "Pechenganikel", the Krasnoyarsk Non-Ferrous Metals Plant, and the Olenegorsk Mechanical Plant. A board of directors has been elected for the 'Norilskii nikel' state concern, which is to produce non-ferrous metals. Hero of Socialist Labour A. Filatov, general director of the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine, has been named Chairman of the Board.

In its issue no. 258, "Izvestiya" reported on the conflict between the northern metallurgical workers and their government department, and on the obstacles the ministry had put in the way of creating an independent state concern. And now, the decision has been reached and the administrative organs of the concern have been formed. According to the telex, the constituent gathering took place in a businesslike and extremely frank atmosphere. The draft of the charter was sent back for further work. A program has been outlined for implementing new and highly effective forms of production and social development for the collectives, and for setting up a social infrastructure to serve the interests of the native population of the North in areas where the enterprises of the concern will be located.

I had a telephone conversation with A. Filatov, the combine director and now Chairman of the Board of the concern. This was at the time when the fate of the concern was still in question, and when he himself was being accused of attempting to profit from the confusion surrounding perestroika in an effort to "take a slice of