

Go north, but go slow says Soviet

FAIRBANKS—"The development of the northern regions of our planet has become a worldwide trend," states the Soviet author of a recent article in the "Alaska Review of Social and Economic Conditions," entitled "Development of the Soviet North."

Written by Professor G.A. Agranat of the Academy of Geography, USSR Academy of Sciences, the article discusses the special social, economic, as well as ecological problems involved in the development of the Soviet North—problems similar to those faced by comparatively undeveloped Alaska and Northern Canada.

In approaching development of the North, the author suggests that the arctic regions present a special case, that one cannot apply the same economic yardstick there as is applied in the more temperate zones. In the north, developers must often accept "...slower, more prolonged returns on capital and, at early stages, even smaller dividends. They (developers) believe, justly it seems, that in the future they will make up for it with a vengeance."

While Agranat talks at length on the special problems of development—investment, infrastructure, proper hous-

ing for workers, and transportation networks—he is also concerned about ecological aspects of development and about the role of the northern outskirts of the planet as a supplier of oxygen and as an agent that purifies the circulating streams of polluted air in the atmosphere.

Professor Agranat's article resulted from a cooperative exchange agreement between the Institute of Social and Economic Research and the Institute of Geography, USSR Academy of Sciences, ISER sent a socio-economic profile paper on Alaska to be published in the Soviet Union in 1976. This cooperative exchange of articles arose from the U.S.-USSR intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technical cooperation signed in 1972.

Also in this issue of the "Review" is an article by Dr. Daniel A. Seiver, "Alaska Economic Forecast-1978" which was originally presented at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, January 20, 1978.

Those interested may obtain copies of the "Review" by contacting the Fairbanks office of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, eighth floor, Gruening Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, telephone 479-7434.