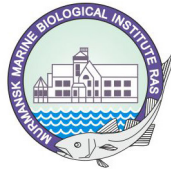




MURMANSK REGIONAL BRANCH



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ПРИ ПОДДЕРЖКЕ
ФОНДА
ПРЕЗИДЕНТСКИХ
ГРАНТОВ

SECURITY OF ARCTIC FRONTIERS: ECOLOGY, HISTORY, IMAGES OF THE FUTURE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE III INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE

(Murmansk, October 27–28, 2022)

Apatity
2023

**Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society
Murmansk State Technical University
Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Production Center «Northern Character»**

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The publication is a collection of reports of the III International Scientific and Practical Conference «Security of Arctic frontiers: ecology, history, images of the future» held on October 27–28, 2022. The conference proceedings address topical issues related to science and environmental protection in the Arctic, issues of peace, stability and sustainable international development in the Arctic, the history of the discovery and development of Arctic territories, as well as issues of preserving the historical memory of the victory over fascism during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945.

The publication will be useful to researchers, teachers, students, postgraduates and anyone interested in the problems of environment, history and prospects of the development of the Arctic zone.

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WELCOME SPEECH TO THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Mikhail Malakhov

*Chairman of the Ryazan Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society,
Honorary Doctor of the Murmansk State Technical University, Hero of Russia*

I am glad to join the conference participants and organizers at least online. Murmansk is very significant for me, because my polar expedition and the expedition to the North Pole, for which I became an honorary polar explorer and a Hero of Russia, began with this city.

48 years ago, a very long time ago, my first expedition to the Kola Peninsula started. I was tremendously impressed by the nature of the Arctic, and since then my love has not weakened, but only intensified. It is probably no coincidence that I was lucky enough to become an honorary doctor of the Murmansk State Technical University. I am pleased to say that we are continuing our joint work – Konstantin Alloyarov, a representative of the University, has just been part of our historical and geographical expedition to Kamchatka. The university students had joined our previous expeditions too. This is a real confirmation of not just friendship, but also cooperation and mutual support.

Among the organizers of the conference are colleagues from the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society. We have both creative and good personal contacts with them. In this regard, I can only thank them once again for not forgetting their colleagues from Ryazan. I hope that our joint expedition – and there are serious plans to study the history of the Arctic – is still ahead.

It is gratifying that among the participants of the conference there are also the organizers of the Northern Character International Film Festival, in which we have repeatedly participated. Our works have been awarded prizes at this prestigious international film festival. My colleagues from the Northern Character will be pleased to hear that we have completed three films over the past year. One of them is a short feature film dedicated to the 130th anniversary of Konstantin Paustovsky, a prominent writer. We still have meetings ahead of us, I hope, not only in online format, but also in real life. I am looking forward to such cooperation.

Despite such a difficult situation in the world, the conference is international. I pay my respects to the civil stance of all its foreign participants, and I absolutely agree with the rector of the university that there are no borders and geopolitical barriers for science. Moreover, the Arctic unites countries and people.

My personal contribution to the conference is a demonstration of a feature film created based on the results of our difficult expedition to Spitsbergen to study the legacy of the first ever joint Arctic expedition organized by the Russian and Swedish Academies of Sciences at the turn of the XIX–XX centuries. It completed a difficult three-hundred-year history of studying the real size and shape of the globe. It's nice that we managed to find living evidence of that historical expedition, and not just to find, but also to make this story the property of millions of our fellow citizens, since the feature film *Archipelago*, created jointly with our colleagues from the St. Petersburg Documentary Film Studio «Lendok», was in theaters of our country. And I still get requests to organize screenings. It was also shown on the Culture channel on June 12, 2022 on Russia Day, which confirms the contribution of our compatriots and Russian scientists to world science.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the conference, contribute to the continuation of research in the Arctic and tell about the scientists who are engaged in such important work – the study and development of the Arctic. I hope that our cooperation, no matter what, will continue.

MSTU'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS: A RETROSPECTIVE OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE NORTH

Natalia Anikeeva

Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Murmansk State Technical University

It would be careless to look into the future without knowing the past, so I would like to make an overview of international activities in the Barents region with the participation of the Murmansk State Technical University.

First of all, it should be noted that the development of international cooperation is second in importance among the indicators of international activity of any university. Of course, throughout the existence of the university, we have been engaged in it. I will tell you about the last decade (I have been heading the International Cooperation Department since 2010), so all the results were achieved with my participation.

Of course, the university, as a representative of the academic community, was primarily focused on the development of scientific and educational potential. International cooperation has played an important role in this development. Great deal of attention was paid to the development of academic mobility. It was more popular among students, because young people are easy-going and are not bound by obligations to conduct lectures, unlike their teachers. We have also always found opportunities to receive foreign delegations, as well as to organize visits and speeches at conferences abroad. With all this activity, we have contributed to the positioning of the university as one of the leaders, especially in the engineering and technical direction, among universities in the North. Over the past 10 years, more than 30 projects have been implemented – from large-scale (lasted 3 years or more) up to small projects implemented within the framework of international schools for students.

The Kolarctic Cross Border Cooperation program helped us a lot, and the financing of the Barents Secretariat was also very important for us. Our international schools, as well as study trips of Norwegian and Russian exchange students were able to happen mainly thanks to them. Educational projects were mainly funded by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU), many research projects were implemented with the support of the Research Council of Norway and our RFBR Foundation.

I cannot fail to mention the number of project applications, as this work also contributed to the development of the university, to the development of project competencies among the teaching staff, to the formation of scientific collaborations and scientific project groups. About 18 project applications that were received by Kolarctic did not reach the final or were rejected, but we cannot ignore this work, because it is very important.

Among the international projects, 12 were on economic and humanitarian topics, 10 – on engineering, 8 – on natural science and 4 more were related to other topics. Until 2017, we had the Institute of Management, Economics and Law, and it was thanks to its active employees that we were able to successfully develop business competencies among our students, attract small and medium-sized businesses to cooperation. Then we focused on engineering and natural science. The share of financing of the university's international projects ranged from 30 to 40 % in different years, and this is actually a large share.

As for the projects that were suspended at the height of their activity in March 2022, I would like to note, for example, the green building project, cross-border innovations, as well as the active stage of preparation for the implementation of the International School of Eco-Volunteers. It was a new format for us, we interacted with volunteer organizations. As for the first mentioned project,

we were able to achieve almost all the planned results and are rightfully proud of it. In record time we erected a wooden house and inaugurated it in early 2021. After this ceremony, it became the project of the month according to the managing body of the Kolarctic program, and with this project we reached the final of the All-Russian competition for professional project management «Project Olympus». We managed to hold a number of events and record our scientific results in a number of articles.

As for the project dedicated to cross-border innovations in the field of aquaculture, we have only managed to modernize our laboratory, the installation of a closed water supply, which now allows us to grow fry of different types of fish (heat-loving and cold-loving). We also carried out all the necessary measures to register the university in systems that are related to the control of biological resources. The updated complex was presented to the Government of the Murmansk Region in February 2021. All the events were covered on a separate page. We tried to popularize such an eco-friendly and economical way of growing fish among small and medium-sized enterprises in the region and beyond.

At the end of last year, work also began on the development of competence in wooden house construction. This project was inspired by the results of green construction in the Arctic and received support from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Within the framework of the educational project «Clean Ocean/Maritime Responsibility», two seminars were held with Norwegian students (on the Lofoten Islands and online). Even the pandemic could not stop us, and the students were happy to try out new forms of interaction. Of course, we are proud to have initiated four topics within the framework of the work of the University of the Arctic (an organization uniting more than 200 members whose activities are more or less related to the Arctic). These are security and protection, logistics and transport, urban planning and design, closed-loop economy in the Arctic. And, of course, we were perplexed when we found out that cooperation with us was unilaterally terminated (at least put on hold). Thus, in some way they tried to shake the thesis that science is beyond borders and political influences. But I really hope that in the end this thesis will prove to be stronger.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE KOLA SCIENTIFIC CENTER

Vladimir Masloboev

Advisor to the Director General of the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences

For 15 years I had been the director of the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems, and now I remain a research supervisor. Therefore, I was, let's say, at the origin of the work on creating a cooperation network with Scandinavian countries, especially with Norway.

For 4.5 years (1995–1999) I worked as the first secretary of the Russian Embassy in Norway, I was responsible for cooperation in the Barents region. Thus, a small piece of my life was devoted to my diplomatic career, and I want to say the following: we are still exchanging letters with our partners, even though the state bodies of Scandinavian countries have put our cooperation on hold. None of them are satisfied with the current state of cooperation and integration of scientific research in the Arctic and Northern Europe.

Let's talk about one very sensitive topic for the Arctic. The regional government of the Murmansk Region and many other Arctic regions have focused on the development of tourism. This is important for Russia, because now the borders are not very transparent, and the development of Arctic tourism is an important social issue. Thanks to that, it becomes possible to create jobs for

residents of the Arctic regions. However, an important question arises – can we still preserve the fragile nature of the Arctic from destruction while intensively developing tourism?

If we open the website of one of the travel companies that operates in Khibiny, we will see that one of its activities is the so – called geological tourism. In the reviews you can find the reviews from tourists who have visited the Khibiny. Some of them took away up to 200 kg of samples of minerals and rocks. If the development of tourism continues at the same pace, then sooner or later tourists can carry away all the Khibiny.

Recently I talked to Ivan Mizin, a representative of the Russian Arctic National Park. They have about the same problems – how to simultaneously preserve nature and develop tourism in the Arctic? To do this, we have to study the ecological capacity of our territories – how many people can visit these or other areas per year. Teriberka is especially worth mentioning. When I think about this village, I get scared. On the one hand, it is good that the village is developing as a tourist center. On the other hand, there are fears that after some time there will be nothing but bare land.

We had very good joint work with Norwegians and Finns on the topic of the ecological capacity of specially protected natural areas. We also visited the Urho Kekkonen National Park, and specially protected natural areas in Nordland. This is a burning problem for all the northern territories, and I hope we will return to these issues in the future.

Summing up, it should be noted that, on the one hand, we are glad to have guests in the Arctic, but on the other hand, we ask you to be responsible. Do not shovel minerals, for a start, leave them where they belong. This applies not only to minerals, it also applies to red book animals and plants, and many other objects of tourism. For example, let's consider fishing tourism, because ichthyologists are sounding the alarm. How much salmon can we catch? How many fish survive when it is caught, and then released after having experienced tremendous stress.

In conclusion, I would like to note that our third conference is very relevant, and it is great that people from different countries participate in it. I believe that we have to explore new ways to intensify international cooperation.

DRIFTING POLAR STATION «NORTH POLE-41»

Yuri Ugryumov

Deputy Director for expeditionary work of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute

In 2022, the staff of AARI, along with other participants of polar expeditions, polar research and everyone who is interested in this field celebrated an anniversary – 85 years of the «North Pole» drifting station. On May 21, 1937, an ANT-6 aircraft brought four polar explorers to the ice floe thus opening the first drifting station in the Central Arctic.

Contribution of Ivan Papanin, Pyotr Shirshov, Ernst Krenkel and Yevgeny Fedorov to the study of the Arctic is huge, it consists not only in the fact that they have found new information about the state of the Arctic environment, but also in proving the very possibility of using drifting ice as a platform for conducting long-term observations and research in the Arctic. The planning and organization of the expedition deserves the highest praise (headed by Otto Schmidt), as well as the use of modern technologies for the delivery of people and goods by air transport at that time.

The Papanin expedition opened a historical series of drifting stations North Pole, which the Soviet Union and later Russia organized in the Arctic for the next more than 70 years. All these stations were prepared and conducted with the direct participation of AARI specialists.



The North Pole-1 camp, late May 1937 (photo by M.A. Troyanovsky)

Alongside with the NP stations in the Arctic, High-latitude air expeditions North also worked. They provided the logistics of drifting stations: the selection of ice floes, the supply of expeditions, the disembarkation and evacuation of employees, as well as scientific tasks.

Scientific detachments, sometimes called «jumping» among polar explorers, were delivered to the ice by planes or helicopters. Equipment and tents were being installed. Scientists carried out scientific observations, took samples for several hours to several days, then transferred to another point. This approach made it possible to cover significant water areas with quasi-synchronous survey.

Thanks to the North drifting stations and expeditions, serious scientific discoveries were made in the Central Arctic, including the main features of the dynamics of the waters and ice of the Arctic Ocean, a dynamic map of the transarctic current and the anticyclonal cycle was compiled, the underwater ridges of Lomonosov, Mendeleev and Gakkel were discovered, which are now being studied at school in geography lessons, the trajectory of the penetration of cyclones into the Central Arctic was established and much more.

However, over the past decades, processes related to, as it is now commonly called, global warming have developed in the natural environment. They manifest themselves in the Arctic to a greater extent than anywhere else in the world. Sea ice has also undergone significant changes. The ice cover of the Central Arctic and Arctic seas has significantly decreased, the average thickness of ice has decreased, and the proportion of long-term ice has decreased.

These circumstances naturally affected the working conditions of the drifting expeditions. The ice became less reliable, there were problems when selecting a suitable ice floe for the NP. For example, now picking up an ice floe with a thickness of 2 m seems to be an almost impossible task, and 40–50 years ago it was quite normal. In 2013, due to the breaking of the base ice floe, the expedition participants had to be evacuated ahead of schedule at the last drifting station «North Pole-40». By the way, not all the participants of this expedition immediately returned to St. Petersburg, some of them were landed on Severnaya Zemlya, on Bolshevik Island in the area of the mothballed AARI coastal research station «Cape Baranov». And since 2013, this station has resumed its work and began to extract valuable information about the state of the Arctic environment.



Panorama of NP-18, 1969 (photo by N.M. Shestakov)

Thus, in the early 2000s, the scientists of AARI faced the question of the possibility of continuing the NP program, taking into account the need to ensure the safety of people. The concept of building a new type of vessel was born within the walls of the Institute, which will be able to replace the classic drifting stations in the Arctic, become a permanent platform that allows conducting research in high latitudes, ensuring the necessary safety of expedition participants, providing them with all the technical capabilities of the current century.

Such a vessel – an ice-resistant self-propelled platform North Pole – was designed in the Nizhny Novgorod Design Bureau «Vimpel», tests of the vessel model were carried out in the ice experimental pool of AARI.

The vessel is relatively small (83.1 m in length with a width of 22.5 m, a draft of 8.6 m, a displacement of about 10,400 tons). The shape at first glance is very unusual – there is practically no bow, which we are used to seeing on ordinary ships. The platform is equipped with a screw steering column, the ice class is Arc 5. But the sides and bottom are reinforced in such a way that they meet the requirements for the Arc 8. So the vessel will withstand the onslaught of any Arctic ice while drifting. It has large fuel tanks, which provides impressive autonomy, it can drift in the Arctic without replenishing fuel reserves for up to 2 years!

In addition, the designers were faced with the task of placing the maximum possible number of laboratories to ensure a wide range of ongoing research. The laboratory complex is very impressive. The ship has 17 laboratories for various purposes, which can be transformed and re-equipped depending on the tasks. The vessel has a helipad, which can receive Mi-8 helicopters, and a hangar for storing transport equipment. The crew of the vessel is only 14 people, the scientific staff is 34 people.

In fact, the vessel is at the same time a modern laboratory complex, a safe platform for research and a comfortable home for scientists. This is a place where it is convenient to work. The ship has 44 single cabins, a conference room, a good sauna, a gym. All conditions have been created for a good rest and fruitful work.



The main characteristics of the North Pole ice-resistant self-propelled platform (AARI archive)

In April 2018, a contract for the construction of a vessel was signed between Roshydromet and Admiralty Shipyards (the oldest shipbuilding company in St. Petersburg). On April 10, 2019, the ship was laid down at the Admiralty Shipyards, launched on December 17, 2020, and on May 21, 2022 (on the Polar Explorer's Day) it was launched for sea trials.

Further events developed rapidly. On July 29, 2022 the platform was transferred to the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute for operational management, and already on September 1 it made its maiden voyage from St. Petersburg to Murmansk.

On September 17, after the ceremonial send-off, the ship left Murmansk for the expected area of the beginning of the drift, north of the Novosibirsk Islands. Here the members of the expedition conducted aerial reconnaissance using a helicopter, repeatedly landed on the ice to select a suitable ice field for fixing the platform in it and organizing a drifting station. Their efforts were successful, and on October 2, 2022, the drifting station North Pole-41 on the basis of the platform began work, the first weather report went to the Hydrometeorological Center of Russia.

Thus, the series of Russian drifting research stations continued after almost a ten-year break and the North Pole-41 began its work for the benefit of polar science!

The scientific program of the expedition is complex. The research covers the atmosphere, sea ice, ocean, ecosystems, lithosphere. The subject of study is objects located from the ionosphere to marine bottom sediments. Oceanographic, meteorological studies, aerological sounding of the atmosphere, biological (plankton, benthos, cryofauna) studies, a wide range of geological studies are carried out, water, snow, ice samples are taken for environmental monitoring. A serious geophysical complex has been created.

Scientific research and observations are carried out on board the ship and in the scientific ice camp next to the platform. In addition, an automatic seismometric system and a network of automatic hydrometeorological buoys are installed within a radius of up to 10 km from the vessel.



Ice-resistant self-propelled platform North Pole in drifting ice, September 2022 (AARI archive)



Opening of NP-41 on October 2, 2022 (AARI archive)

The vessel has already managed to pass more than 500 km, the general drift, as the organizers of the expedition expected, is directed to the northwest, towards the polar region. It is difficult to predict how long the drift will continue. Nevertheless, rotations of personnel and supplies of the expedition are provided. In 2023, it is planned to perform two rotations – with the help of aircraft and the scientific expedition vessel Akademik Treshnikov. In addition to this, fresh food, necessary scientific equipment and consumables will be delivered to NP-41.

The ice-resistant self-propelled platform North Pole is the largest research project in the Arctic. The vessel will serve for decades, will regularly go to high latitudes, go into free drift and serve as a platform for new drifting stations.

Depending on the choice of the starting point, the drift of the stations may pass through the polar region into the Fram Strait, or along a different trajectory. Thus, the location of the research area may change in accordance with the objectives of the expedition.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC INTEGRATION AS THE KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KOLA SCIENTIFIC CENTER

Evgeniy Borovichev

Deputy General Manager for Scientific Work at the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences

A few words about the Kola Scientific Center. This is the oldest scientific organization beyond the Arctic Circle, which is located in the Arctic and deals with the Arctic. It originates from the Khibiny Mountain Station, and now it is a large federal research center.

This year, another organization, the Polar–Alpine Botanical Garden-Institute, joined the family of the KSC RAS. We have 3 branches, 8 separate divisions, and over 1300 employees.

International cooperation has been one of the main priorities for the last 30 years.

The main partners of the KSC RAS under the Kolarctic program:

- Arctic University of Norway (Tromsø, Norway);
- University of Lapland (Rovaniemi, Finland);
- University of Oulu (Oulu, Finland);
- Luleå University of Technology (Luleå, Sweden);
- Norwegian Research Centre (NORCE).

The main partners of the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems under the Kolarctic program:

- Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA);
- Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research;
- Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA);
- Fridtjof Nansen Institute;
- Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).

Until recently, the Kolarctic program remained the main source of expanding international activities and obtaining important information.

Institutionalization of cooperation:

1. **Politic:** RF–EU Agreement, RF Law on co-financing of the Program;
2. **Policy:** priorities, areas of cooperation and tasks to be solved are defined;
3. **Administrative** (an administrative support system has been formed):
 - joint monitoring committee;
 - regional evaluation committees;
 - national governing bodies;

- governing body (GB);
- branches of the GB (training seminars, consultations of contestants and participants of the program).

The main directions of scientific cooperation:

- development and implementation of a joint environmental monitoring and assessment system in the border areas of Norway, Finland and Russia;
- development and implementation of an environmental management system in the Barents region;
- development of environmentally friendly technologies.

Of course, all three areas have developed quite widely and have made quite a big contribution to regional stability and social stability.

One of the most important projects of the last SUMILCERE program is sustainable mining, local communities and environmental regulation. This project was very important because one of the goals was to preserve nature and at the same time ensure economic development. Within the framework of this project, we have reached an understanding that special attention should be paid to the interaction of mining companies with the indigenous peoples of the North. One of the results of the project was the formation of special programs of interaction with the indigenous population within the framework of its own corporate social responsibility policy.

Of course, the scientists of the Kola Scientific Center have developed various technologies, including nature-like, friendly to the environment, methodological manuals have been prepared in several languages.

The mining complex of the Murmansk region is one of the most developed in the Arctic. No wonder our region is called a storehouse of mineral resources. Of course, a huge number of environmental problems are connected with this. The continuation of the SUMILCERE project was the SEESIMA project, which supports the environmental, economic and social impacts of mining activities.

Project objectives:

- development of technologies for the recovery of valuable components from waste with the associated production of construction and technical materials;
- development of methods for the protection of natural reservoirs and wastewater treatment from contamination with heavy metals, sulfates, fluorine, petroleum products, suspended solids.

In addition to specific technologies, a series of methodological manuals in English on minimizing environmental impact was prepared.

A continuation of these works can be considered a mini-grant «The use of drones in the mining industry» (Kolarctic). One of the results of the project was an understanding of how these devices can be used in the mining industry – for example, in monitoring the temperature and dynamics of the dusting area.

Of course, we also work on the topic of restoration of disturbed ecosystems, we conduct long-term research on the reclamation of anthropogenic disturbed territories using different approaches.

One of the important technologies that were supported by these projects for the bioremediation of the Arctic coast were biotechnologies for the restoration of oil-contaminated coastal areas in the Arctic.

A smaller, but no less significant project «SALMUS» (salmon fish and pearl oyster – river ecosystem services and biodiversity of the green belt of Fennoscandia).

Of course, all the knowledge that we accumulate within the framework of various projects is important, but it is also important for us to popularize this knowledge, show people what is being done, what methods are being developed, how they can be useful. For this purpose, within the framework of the Phenomena of Arctic Nature project, a Khibinarium was created in Apatity, an exhibition complex dedicated to the Khibiny (little-known facts of the history of the development of

the Khibiny, biological diversity, toponymy, the development of protected areas). In addition, a large number of different booklets and guidebooks have been released as part of various projects. The recently published book *Khibiny: Nature and Man* is an example of how to talk about the territory in a comprehensive and interesting way.

Unfortunately, many Kolarctic projects are now frozen or suspended, and some of them have not been completed. But we have never been limited to one program, the Kola Research Center is a powerful expert community that helps to implement various projects. One of them was supported by the EU – it is «Women's initiatives in the field of tourism and environmental protection», it is being implemented for the second year in a row.

Another project I would like to mention is the project «Traditional knowledge as a platform for the adaptation of indigenous youth to the effects of climate change». Within the framework of the project, training seminars were held, a popular science book was prepared. The indigenous population of the Murmansk region uses the results of this publication, it is involved in various forms in other projects.

I would like to conclude my report by saying that nature knows no borders, our region is located in a strategically important border region. Now the borders are being closed, some projects are being frozen, but we understand that by closing the border, no one cancels the air transfer, long-distance transfer.

In order to understand what is happening, we have to see the complete picture. For this purpose, an interactive map of environmental problems of the Barents region was created (<https://barentsmap.com>). It has a large number of objects that affect the environment both negatively and positively. This is one of the examples of civic science, when we attract active, caring citizens to solve problems.

I thank everyone for their attention and I want to say that despite the fact that the borders are being closed, we will continue to apply the accumulated experience, including for the development of various projects that will contribute to the socio-economic development of the Murmansk region.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE MURMANSK ARCTIC STATE UNIVERSITY IN NEW GEOPOLITICAL CONDITIONS

Mikhail Uksusov

Employee of the International Cooperation Department of the Murmansk Arctic State University

Of course, the special military operation, or rather the reaction of our traditional partner countries, has somewhat changed the vector of our activities and shifted the priorities of the areas of our interaction. For many years, our main partners have been universities from Scandinavia. We have implemented a large number of projects together, primarily in the field of humanities and natural sciences.

It would be unfair to say that the suspension of cooperation has paralyzed our work. On the contrary, we found new areas of interaction and new growth points for ourselves, and also continued to work through the already familiar channels.

For example, scientists from the MASU continue to write scientific papers at the P2P level. In 2022, articles of our employees written in collaboration with colleagues from Poland, China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, as well as Finland and Norway were indexed in the international databases of scientific citation WOS and Scopus. Among other things, the dialogue continues on the topic of the preservation of indigenous languages, and on Arctic logistics.

Speaking about the termination of the Kolarctic cross-border cooperation program, I want to note that it only caused problems for one of our projects. But we were already at the stage when it we had to work with our own financing, so there were no issues with further implementation – the project simply stopped, although our relations with the project partners stayed warm.

Among the new growth points, I would like to mention the developing cooperation with Belarus from tourism and urban studies to mining and climatology, with India in the field of arts and humanities, with Turkey in the field of tourism, with the largest university in Bangladesh, as well as with China.

In addition to project activities, which is now on the decline, we redirected our efforts to work with the foreign students and their adaptation, which corresponds to the recently adopted Concept of the Humanitarian Policy of the Russian Federation Abroad. MASU is noticeably experiencing an increase in the number of students from far abroad (India, Egypt, Palestine), as well as from CIS countries. To this end, we have submitted two project applications for funding from the Russian World Foundation, won and implemented a small grant from the Project Office for Arctic Development, and at the moment we are working on a large application to the Presidential Grants Fund in cooperation with the MSTU. This work is somewhat different from what we have been used to for many years, but it is very intense, interesting, and enriches the university community at the level of students, teachers, and management staff.

In general, it is worth noting that, despite the isolation of the Russian Federation within the framework of the Arctic Council, in which Russia holds its second chairmanship until May, international interest in the Russian Arctic has only increased and this is partly due to the efforts of the state itself to support Arctic issues. We, in turn, both as a country and as a university are open to any proposals for cooperation on mutually beneficial terms.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE POLAR REGIONS

Alexey Gaidashov

Deputy Chief of the Republican Centre for Polar Research of Belarus

The Republic of Belarus takes an active part in the study of the polar regions of the Earth. A lot geographical objects in the Arctic are named after Belarusian explorers, who laid down their lives both literally and figuratively to explore this region. In 2006, when our Republican Centre for Polar Research was created, its name was no accident, it was chosen with the prospect of developing scientific research in the Southern and Northern Polar regions of the Earth.

Over the past 15 years, we have been getting on our feet, so now our interest, thanks in many ways to our Russian colleagues, with whom we worked very closely back in Soviet times, is beginning to unfold, including in the northern vector. This is natural for the simple reason that the North, as well as the Northern and Southern Polar regions, should first of all be considered as zones of peace, cooperation and science.

In this regard, the Antarctic Treaty is a great example, its main postulates are friendship, cooperation and neutrality. I think that these concepts should also apply to the North Polar region, despite the fact that economic, political and geographical interests of not only Arctic countries are concentrated here. The situation in the last six months suggests that, unfortunately, international relations in the polar regions are being seriously tested. The major international meetings on the Antarctic Treaty, unfortunately, confirmed the politicization of this process. This is unacceptable, it contradicts common sense, logic, and all the postulates of peaceful existence on Earth.

Even at the height of the Cold War we managed to find a common language in the polar regions – both in the Arctic and in Antarctica. This is when such a great document as the Antarctic Treaty was created. Opponents even then found a common language to create such an agreement. This also applies to the Arctic. What will we get to, what will the situations lead to when there is a national expedition – it does not matter whether to the North or to the South – and it is announced that it will not receive operational meteorological information, that rescue services will not take part in tracking the national polar expedition. We risk not only losing people, including literally, but also breaking off our traditional, long-term, hard-working relationships – scientific, logistical, practical – in the Northern and Southern Polar regions.

We risk leaving them in ruins. I suggest that colleagues and participants of this conference come out to write a joint declaration on this issue, in which we will once again declare that peaceful scientific cooperation in the polar regions should not be politicized. We will not be forgiven for this in the future. And in the future, our contacts should be translated into practical scientific cooperation in the Northern and Southern Polar regions. I am sure that we will make a positive contribution to the development of scientific and human cooperation in the Arctic.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE MODERN WORLD

Elena Klyuchnikova

*Senior Researcher at the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems
of the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences*

A lot of previous speakers have already stressed that the Arctic is indivisible, and environmental issues cannot be divided into some parts of the Arctic territories. Environmental protection in the Arctic is a joint task. Our cooperation has transitioned from large constitutionalized forms, for example, such programs as Kolarctic, to one-on-one cooperation between scientists and results in writing joint articles.

The projects that were started by the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems (since 1989) together with our colleagues from the Scandinavian countries should not end or even be put on hold at a times like these.

I also want to talk about such things as the global challenges of humanity that are reflected in the goals of sustainable development of mankind, in the global agenda, which we have all implemented in one way or another. For example, the transition to a green economy. There are topics and provisions in Russian legislation that force our companies to comply with environmental legislation and think ahead. For example, the law «On limiting greenhouse gas emissions». Nevertheless, our research shows that these ideas are not sufficiently conceptualized in our country. Due to the fact that joint work and projects have now been suspended, I think that in no case should we lose these established contacts. I would even point out that we need to carry out work on upgrading our own environmental institutions. This does not mean that we should substitute what has been achieved at the global level, instead, we should take advantage of the respite in order to adjust these institutions and concepts specifically to the Russian Arctic, to come up with solutions that will be useful for us, but will not break away from the global context. It is very important that we continue to speak the same language with our colleagues. This period of suspension of our international cooperation should be devoted to bringing Russian environmental initiatives into line with what is happening at the global level.

CHINA'S LAW AND POLICY IN THE ARCTIC

Kuan Zengjun

Doctor of Laws, Professor of the Chinese Institute of Frontier and Marine Research of Wuhan University

China has been formally involved in the Arctic issue since 1925, when it joined the Spitsbergen Treaty. Since then, China's research has continued to deepen – since 1999, it has successfully conducted 12 Arctic scientific expeditions. China's practical activity in the Arctic continues to grow and expand.

China is not only actively involved in construction in the Arctic, but also seeks to make a greater contribution to its management mechanism, accelerates the development of its legislation in order to protect the Arctic environment, as well as regulate, manage and supervise the Arctic activities of Chinese citizens, legal entities and other organizations in accordance with the law.

At the international level, China respects and observes the existing legal regime of the Arctic and is a party to a number of international treaties, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated Fishing in the High Seas of the Central Arctic Ocean, etc. These treaties define China's rights and obligations in the Arctic region and are an important basis for China's participation in Arctic issues.

At the regional level in May 2013 China becomes an observer of the Arctic Council and cooperates with its working groups.

At the bilateral level, China is actively deepening cooperation with the Arctic countries. With regard to cooperation with Russia in the Arctic, it should be emphasized that the two heads of state signed in June 2019 the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on the International Relations Entering a New Era and the Global Sustainable Development. In addition, China is actively investing in the Yamal LNG project and has become its largest foreign investor. At the same time, China, Iceland and Finland are strengthening cooperation in the Arctic by signing bilateral agreements in 2013 and 2017, respectively. By adopting joint declarations, signing bilateral agreements and implementing bilateral cooperation, China better understands the Arctic, protects it, uses it and participates in governance, builds the «Polar Silk Road» with all interested parties and opens up opportunities for cooperation to promote connectivity and sustainable economic and social development in the Arctic region.

At the domestic level, among the existing laws, article 32 of the National Security Law of the People's Republic of China emphasizes the need to adhere to the peaceful exploration and use of polar regions and strengthen international cooperation. In addition, the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China has prepared and approved a General Emergency Response Plan for polar expeditions, an Emergency Response Plan for Polar expedition aircraft, which provide a quick, orderly and effective mechanism for responding to emergencies that may arise during research activities in the Arctic. In 2017, the regulations for licensing Arctic expeditions were published, which define the necessary procedures required for the organization of Arctic expeditions by domestic entities, and emphasize the importance of protecting the environment and maintaining the ecological stability of the Arctic. It is important to note that China's legislative processes in the Arctic region lag behind the growing diversity of Arctic activities and international legal practice. There is no special law on the Arctic, and Chinese legislation remains at the level of departmental regulations, so it is at a low legal level and limited to the field of scientific research.

In 2018, the Chinese government released its first white paper on Arctic policy, China's Arctic Policy, the first regulatory document on Arctic issues.

In general, China, as a responsible power, always adheres to the basic principles – «respect, cooperation, mutual benefit (win-win result) and sustainable development». The People's Republic of China stands for the peaceful use of the Arctic, strives to maintain peace and stability, develops cooperation with all parties in all areas of the Arctic, uses historical opportunities for its development, actively responds to challenges associated with changes.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARINE SCIENCES

Denis Moiseev

Chairman of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, Deputy Director for Science of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences

I would like to tell you where we left off in February-March in the framework of scientific cooperation, primarily with Norwegian scientists, on joint research in the Barents Sea. There were several directions of our cooperation.

The first direction is a lot of projects within the framework of the Joint Russian–Norwegian Commission in the field of environmental protection, which were developed under the auspices of two ministries for nature protection – Russian and the Norwegian. The cooperation was very intense, especially in the framework of the preparation of a joint report on the state of the environment in the Barents Sea. We had formed a group of Russian and Norwegian editors, we had compiled the content, agreed with scientists from both sides, and compiled a template for each section. In February, we were going to reach out to experts and start preparing the sections, and then finalize the report. But, unfortunately, at the initiative of the leadership of Norwegian scientists, the work was suspended, and at the moment we are not working on the report. In addition, within the framework of this mixed commission, there were other projects related to marine debris pollution, climate, and other areas dedicated to the Barents Sea. It is a transboundary sea, the western part is Norwegian waters and coastal areas, the eastern part is Russian waters and coastal areas.

Another direction of our work was the cooperation within the framework of joint projects funded by Russian and Norwegian agencies and foundations. In February, together with colleagues from the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) we prepared a joint application. Intensive work was underway, but, again, at the initiative of the leadership of Norwegian scientists, everything was suspended. For the same grant competition, which was funded by the Ministry of Education and Science from the Russian side and by the Research Council of Norway from the Norwegian side, we prepared an application with our long-time partner, research company Akvaplan-niva and other scientific organizations. It was dedicated to the research of polar cod. Polar cod is a key indicator fish species that reflects changes in Arctic ecosystems. So far, cooperation in this direction has also been suspended.

So, most of the work is now suspended, but there is one direction that is still developing. It concerns the assessment of fish stocks of various species, primarily commercial. Cooperation is developing in this direction, because pragmatic Norwegians are interested in continuing fishing. Russian fishing vessels still enter and deliver fish to three Norwegian ports – Kirkenes, Båtsfjord and Tromsø. Now, just a few days ago, the catch quotas for the next year were determined. On the Russian side, the Polar Branch of VNIRO (PINRO) is engaged in this scientific activity.

In any case, science cannot be limited by borders. The Barents Sea is one, there is no fence along the maritime demarcation line. Therefore, I certainly hope that our cooperation will continue and develop in the future.

ASSESSING THE STATE OF WATER ECOSYSTEMS OF THE BORDER AREA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TRILATERAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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The Murmansk Region is one of the unique regions of the Russian Federation, where significant mineral reserves are concentrated on a relatively small territory. Such a rich resource potential has led to the intensive development of the industrial complex and a high level of industrialization of the region since the 1930s. Large centers of various industries are concentrated here.

The Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems is a separate structural subdivision of the Federal Research Center «Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences» since its foundation in 1989. It has been the leader in the North-West of the Russian Federation in the field of studying and solving environmental problems of the Arctic territories. Among the main research areas of the Institute are:

- research of terrestrial and freshwater Arctic biological systems;
- study of technological possibilities of processing poor ores and man-made waste of mining and industrial production;
- development of technological solutions to reduce the burden on the environment;
- development of mathematical models for assessing the negative consequences of anthropogenic activities;
- study of the biological diversity of the Euro-Arctic zone, study of rare species and development of measures for their protection;
- development of remediation technologies for natural and man-made environments;
- formation of biological collections of microorganisms (bacteria, microscopic fungi, microalgae), mossy and lichens, vascular plants, fungi.

One of the main directions of the Institute's work is to study the state of freshwater ecosystems in response to the influence of multifactorial long-term anthropogenic impact. The Laboratory of Aquatic Ecosystems of the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems is based on an integrated approach to the study of the «health» of water bodies and their inhabitants.



Structure of the integrated assessment of the state of aquatic ecosystems

The main areas of work of the Laboratory of Aquatic Ecosystems are:

- study of the dynamics of abiotic (water, sediments) and biotic (primary producers, invertebrates, fish) components of freshwater ecosystems;
- systematization and registration in databases of the results of long-term integrated monitoring of the state of aquatic ecosystems;
- ecological mapping and development of electronic materials based on GIS technologies for analyzing the spatial and temporal dynamics of the main indicators of aquatic ecosystems;
- paleolimnological reconstructions based on diatom and chemical analysis of lake sediments, reconstruction of the historical dynamics of the natural environment and climate in the Late Pleistocene and Holocene;
- development of methods for assessing the quality of water resources and the state of freshwater ecosystems of the Arctic by various indicators, mitigation and adaptation of the impact of anthropogenic and climatic changes on freshwater resources of the Arctic;
- study of the causes and consequences of new phenomena in Arctic fresh waters (algal blooms, biological invasions, distribution of the species, radical restructuring of the structure of hydrobiont communities).

These areas of work and the peculiarity of approaches to the study of fresh waters were actively implemented within the framework of international cooperation projects. In the course of numerous long-term studies within the framework of international projects, the basic principles of a comprehensive study of the state of ecosystems were formed, based on an interdisciplinary approach combining the methods of such sciences as hydrochemistry, geochemistry, hydrology, geocology, hydrobiology, ichthyology, ecology. The developed methods successfully allow solving the problems of studying the dynamics of development and the degree of anthropogenic modification of freshwater ecosystems of the Euro-Arctic region.

The Institute has repeatedly participated in studies to assess the quality of the environment of reservoirs and watercourses of the Murmansk region and the border areas of Norway and Finland. For the first time, unique materials concerning the ecology and systematics of benthic and planktonic communities, fish fauna were obtained for a number of reservoirs in this region. Joint work was carried out within the framework of international projects «Development and implementation of an environmental monitoring and assessment program in the joint Finnish, Norwegian and Russian border area», AMAP, ALPE, MOLAR, Servey Lake. The Institute also participated in the TACIS project «Margaritifera margaritifera: condition, management and sustainable development of some species of mollusks living in the northernmost points of the planet», conducted in cooperation with the Forest and Park Service of Inari (Finland), the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research, NIBIO Svanhovd (Norway).

Major works in the field of international cooperation also included such projects as:

- «Acidification and heavy metals in the lakes of the border area between Russia and Norway: status and trends»;
- Trilateral environmental cooperation in the transborder region to «Obtaining information on the impact of harmful substances, regulation of water bodies and climate change in the transborder area»;
- «Development and implementation of environmental monitoring and assessment program in the joint Finnish, Norwegian and Russian border area»;
- «Food safety and health in the Norwegian, Russian and Finnish border regions: link with local industry»;
- «Characterization of riverine fluxes of organic and inorganic contaminants to the Barents Sea»;
- «Monitoring of mercury (Hg) in the border area of Norway, Finland and Russia»;
- «Mercury in the Barents Region is a cooperation project between Norway and Russia to protect the environment from mercury pollution» (MERBAR project);

- «“SALMUS” – Salmon fish and pearl mussel – riverine ecosystem services and biodiversity of the Fennoscandian Green Belt»;

- «Phenomena of Arctic nature» (PAN).

The main partners of the Laboratory of Aquatic Ecosystems for many years are:

- Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), Svanvik, Norway;
- Troms and Finnmark County Municipality, Vadsø, Norway;
- Norwegian Barents Secretariat;
- Monitoring Department under the Norrbotten Administrative Board, Luleå, Sweden;
- Center for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Rovaniemi, Finland;
- Norwegian Institute for Water Research, NIVA, Oslo, Norway;
- Norwegian Institute of Water Research (Aquaplan-NIVA), Tromsø, Norway;
- The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway;
- Finnish Forest and Park Service, Metsähallitus, Rovaniemi.

The successful implementation of projects within the framework of long-term international cooperation has allowed us to form good-neighborly relations in the border area. The unification of research methods, the exchange of experience, the conduct of comparative intercalibration tests that significantly improve the quality and accuracy of analyses of components of natural environments can also be considered as results of the cooperation.

During the research, new knowledge was obtained, new approaches to assessing the state of the Arctic aquatic ecosystems were developed. It was reflected in numerous scientific publications and contributed to the development of world science. One of the main results of international cooperation is also the active dissemination of information about the results of work and the popularization of scientific knowledge.

The prospects for further cooperation of scientists of the border region, despite modern geopolitical processes, should be aimed at implementing joint efforts to form a system for monitoring the state of aquatic ecosystems of the border region. A promising area of work is the assessment of the processes of restoration of water bodies in the zone of influence of the Kola Mining and Metallurgical Company site in connection with the shutdown of the smelting shop in the village of Nikel. Of particular interest in modern conditions is the development of approaches to the restoration of disturbed water bodies, the study of the functioning of aquatic ecosystems under climate change, the assessment of the biological diversity of freshwater communities in order to preserve rare species and the development of the protected areas system, the popularization of scientific knowledge and the development of the tourism potential of the region.

THE CULTURAL LAYER. STARTING POINTS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND NORWAY

Svetlana Soldatova

President of the Northern Character International Film Festival

I want to start with some memories, which I think are very important. Our cooperation is not based solely on our joint projects. Our cooperation is primarily about people. One autumn day I arrived in the city of Honningsvåg, the northernmost city of Europe, where the Nordkapp Filmfestival was held. The word Nordkapp indicates that this cape, the northernmost point of Europe, is located there. In the morning I decided to hike up the mountain near this city. I walked along the winding path and came to the monument. The monument was dedicated to a tall, thin man with flowing hair, with lots of local seagulls sitting on him. A rusty bicycle was tied to it. I was surprised when I realized that it was a monument to Knut Erik Jensen, the man who invited me to

this festival. The residents of this wonderful city erected a monument to him. A man with incredible humor, who once studied at St. Petersburg University. He is now over 80 years old. A lot of his films are connected with our common history, including the military history.

At the age of four, he experienced a terrible tragedy when Honningsvåg was almost burned to the ground, only a church remained there. He and his family were left homeless. These ashes of the burnt Honningsvåg will stay in the heart of Knut Erik Jensen forever. He still dreams of making a film «Longing for Today», but cannot find funding for it, because in recent years feature films about the liberation of Northern Norway, about the contribution of the Soviet people to this story practically were not supported by the Norwegian Film Institute.

The second image that comes to me when I talk about Norway is, of course, the image of Hilde Korsæth, a wonderful cameraman and documentary filmmaker. She filmed here on Partizansky Island, did big projects, worked together with a Swedish film studio. Hilde made films about what happened here during the war. Her latest film was presented at the Northern Character: Green Screen Film Festival and received the main prize of this festival. It was called «For all our fathers fought» and was dedicated to the Second World War, when Norwegians and Russians fought side by side to expel the fascists from their native land.

In the annotation, she writes that this is a film about the wounds inflicted by wars, about people whose destinies turned out to be broken in the millstones of big politics. About how a son is trying to find out the truth about his father's past. In fact, it was a very finely made story about how a young man – now he is already aged, of course – lived almost all his life under the yoke of the fact that his father is a traitor, but in fact his father is a hero. That's how the circumstances turned out, that's how politics influenced the situation. This film is amazing, it has been shown here many times. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to make a big event in the Murmansk region. The pandemic did not give us the opportunity to organize meetings with the authors, even though it seemed to her very important to convey the position and attitude of Norwegian citizens. In fact, they were very grateful to the people who liberated the country from the fascists.

Another image that comes to me when I talk about Norwegians is Gørild Mauseth, who starred in the film «Karenina and I». The actress, who looks a bit Hispanic, and something like Tatiana Samoilova, decided to play Anna Karenina at the Drama Theater of Vladivostok, and say her parts in Russian. She traveled by train from Murmansk to Vladivostok with her whole family – with Tommaso Mottola, an Italian film director, and with her son. She tried to meet people related to Russian culture in order to understand what a Russian soul is. She was trying to learn the her parts in Russian. Of course, she learned only a few words – the Russian language is insanely difficult for beginners.

But Gørild Mauseth made a film about it – how she tried to immerse herself in the story, in our literature, how she fell in love with Tolstoy, how she tried to understand Anna Karenina. Gørild, who also had a young son at that time, was trying to understand how Anna could abandon her child. This story became the main mystery of the film. Gørild Mauseth's magnificent acting is also a part of the film. This film has won prizes at Russian film festivals, it is a documentary feature film. It also was on the Russia-Culture TV channel. Thus, the interest of the Norwegian cultural elite in how Russian culture influenced the development of the country was absolutely obvious.

And I want to say that our relations have developed quite well. In the mid-1990s, there was the Barents TV festival, where the state TV companies of Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland participated. We showed each other's films, went to different cities, learnt different approaches. We grew up in the Soviet system and thought that television should teach people, it should educate people. But the Scandinavians didn't think so, and it was a discovery for us. The focus of these films could be the story of Finnish loggers, whose main problem is that there are no women in their village and it is impossible to live without them. Or, for example, a story about a boy who lives in a small seaside village somewhere on the shore. He has Down syndrome, but he tries to make his own television and shows his fellow villagers movies every night.

The synergy of our approaches to documentaries, to filming, to the sound clarity grew into a high-qualitative interaction allowing us enrich each other. They came to us to find some dramatic stories that seemed completely ordinary to us, because that was how we lived, and for them it was something amazing. We were also interested in their approach to quality and production. This interchange continued constantly.

This festival was the inspiration for the Northern Character Film Festival, which is now taking place in Murmansk and has many directions, including environmental and inclusive ones. The backbone of this festival has always been the films of our countries – Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland. We thought that this should distinguish our festival from others, because northern stories, as it seemed to us, should be told by our northern directors.

This year the festival will be held for the 14th time, and the Northern Character: Green Screen will be held for the 5th time. The uniqueness of this project was that the festival events were held simultaneously both in Nikel, Russia, and in Kirkenes, Norway. Famous cinematographers came there, everyone was very interested in this cooperation, some films screenings were packed out. Kirkenes is sometimes called the village of Kirkenesovka for a reason – there are a lot of Russians there, there even are signs in Russian.

One of the events that we are proud of, which turned out to be very inspiring for our neighbors, is the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Northern Norway. Together with our colleagues and friends, we managed to organize a concert of the Northern Fleet Song and Dance Ensemble. Before that, the last time they performed was in 1945. The performance made a splash. The huge hall was packed, there were so many people that the ushers stopped checking tickets. They performed together with some Norwegian ensemble, also very professional. They made this performance as vivid as possible. It seems to me that Norwegians have never seen such crazy dances.

And it was such an emotional moment of warmth and kindness between our countries, between our peoples. We saw how culture breaks the ice, it was a wonderful event. The Ensemble played the anthem of Russia and Norwegian children sang along. It was an amazing moment of unity.

We work very hard on international projects and constantly analyze the situation, because it is impossible to get funding without justification.

One of our projects, «Russia and Norway – at the Crossroads of Epochs and Cultures», was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Dostoevsky and the history of the interpenetration of cultures of the two countries. It took place during the pandemic, several people from Norway took part in the events in person, but most of them participated online. Dostoevsky and Hamsun, Chekhov and Ibsen, Tchaikovsky and Grieg. We were looking for parallels, it was important for us to show how cultural and artistic figures drew inspiration from each other in different historical and cultural contexts, different genres.

As a journalist, before creating this project, I tried to study the Norwegian press and see what was written there. I came to the conclusion that the government considers revising the results of the war, renouncing the humanitarian cooperation with Russia, limiting Russian sovereignty in the Arctic, forming anti-Russian sentiments as the most important direction of its activity. This approach was noted by the Norwegians themselves. Norwegian journalist Aslak Sira Myhre wrote: «We watch each other as close as we can and do not trust each other either in matters of peace or in matters of war. This distrust is a problem in itself. With every newspaper article describing what is wrong with Russia, with every commentator who shouts that something needs to be done urgently, with every politician saying that we have problems with Russians, the distance between the peoples of Russia and Norway increases. Not physical distance, but intellectual and emotional. And the greater the distance, the easier it is to continue forming the image of the enemy – over and over again. The sharper and brighter these images of the enemy are, the easier it eventually becomes for

us to accept the suffering of other people or even – in the worst case – war. The cure for distrust is knowledge, knowledge and meetings with other people. We need to be curious and open. Who are the Russians, what is in their head, how do they live? Why do they think that way?»

When I analyze this situation, it becomes less surprising when colleagues with whom we had the most wonderful relations stop calling and writing letters. These seeds fell into the well-prepared ground.

And yet, my report is devoted to growth points. It seems to me that our usual points of interaction will become the points for the resumption of our cooperation. First of all, of course, our common history – it is impossible to rewrite it. Then, there are cultural ties, the interaction of our cultural and artistic figures, our mutual influence and, of course, environmental processes. That's what our relationship was based on before.

PECHENGA DISTRICT – SØR-VARANGER COMMUNE: 50 YEARS OF COOPERATION FROM ESTABLISHMENT TO SUSPENSION

Tatiana Bazanova

Consultant on cross-border cooperation of the Pechenga Municipal District Administration

Just a while ago, I was thinking about how Murmansk interacts with its sister city Tromsø, and this morning I learned about the termination of twinning ties. The twinning relations of Murmansk and Tromsø and Nikel and Kirkenes were established almost at the same time, in 1972. The first sister city of Murmansk was Rovaniemi in 1962.

Unlike our sister-city relations with the municipality of Sør-Varanger, Murmansk and Tromsø had already suspended ties before, this is not the first time. Tromsø suspended ties by the decision of the Council of Deputies when our troops entered Afghanistan. But then, as we can see, the relationship was restored. We hope this time it happens too.

We did not put our relations with the Sør-Varanger commune on hold, we held events online. This, of course, was not a substitute for live communication, but it gave us the opportunity to once again demonstrate our friendship, desire for cooperation, exchange information, find out what is happening on the other side of the border. Just last year we had the eleventh Days of Russian-Norwegian cross-border cooperation. They were held in a mixed format. We also participated as honored guests, as representatives of a sister city, in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of East Finnmark. It was a very impressive event, including the arrival of His Majesty King Harald V. We met online at the end of last year and at the beginning of this year. We actually developed a two-year plan, all areas of cooperation were planned. We took into account whether the borders would open or not, so we had a flexible plan.

According to the laws on cross-border cooperation, we had to coordinate our plan with the coordinating body, the Ministry of the Arctic. The plan was approved, we assumed that on March 15 we would sign it online, that it would be signed by the mayor of the Sør-Varanger commune Lena Bergeng and the head of the Pechenga district Andrey Kuznetsov. On March 1, we were supposed to have a test meeting, we have already confirmed this plan, but the Norwegians asked us to postpone it for another time, and then just politely, without ultimatums and official letters, through the international coordinator Elizaveta Stepanova, they informed us that they had to postpone our plans indefinitely and asked us to treat this with understanding.

We have had a number of projects with other organizations. Our museum project covered museums in Sweden, Norway and Finland. It took place mainly online, it was a very active project, there were even exhibitions and meetings with the Sami. We asked our Finnish and Swedish partners, but only an independent artist, the project coordinator, was able to take part. She said that

they have a very strict policy – if you have Russian partners, there will be no funding, people are put in a very tough spot. But we understand that if we were ordered to stop all cooperation, then we too would not be able to disobey.

I want to look into the future, although it is very difficult to do from this point. After all, 50 years of cooperation, of which 25 years I have been personally involved in it, is a big deal. I connected our municipalities. It seems to me that I am such a people's diplomat, I feel comfortable living in peace. It brings me sincere joy to connect people of different cultures, different languages, and when I see that people find a common language, for me it is the highest joy. And it is clear that the current situation causes pain. We have already got used to it a little bit, and when I analyze this process, why everything fell apart so quickly, I understand that Norway is still more focused – both historically and culturally – on cooperation with Great Britain and the United States.

In 1826, the border with Russia was established, but from 1920 to 1944 there was a land border with Finland, the Petsamo region, which was again transferred to the USSR in 1994, and Norway had to change policy. It chose a position of balance between the Alliance and good-neighborly relations with such a large neighbor. Therefore, Norway's policy was generally focused on North Atlantic cooperation, but due to historical ties – starting with Pomor trade and military history and ending with human contacts – it tried to build good-neighborly relations with our country.

Northerners were offended that this story is not appreciated in the south, it still is like that now. In the history textbooks you will not read about the liberation of Eastern Finnmark by the Red Army, for Southerners it is a revelation. The Northerners themselves were always a little offended, felt discriminated.

Our relations, which were initially very formalized, ideologized, have gone an incredible way from strict regulation, ideologization, difficulties with crossing the border to direct, simple human contacts, to visa-free communication between our countries. The strongest resource of this cooperation is direct human contacts. And these contacts have not been broken. Even those people who cannot cooperate now, ask to be treated with understanding.

But I believe that we should not interrupt our contacts, we need to preserve peace and friendship in our own hearts. There is so much extremely unfair Russophobia in the Norwegian press now, there is no sober, balanced approach. Therefore, the main thing for us is not to get involved in these terrible showdowns ourselves and understand that there were times when, for some reason, relations were interrupted, but the border is still there, the Murmansk region is still there, Finnmark is still there. Therefore, all sensible people from both our countries understand that no one can destroy our the neighbourly relations. We will survive these times just like we did before. But it is very important to preserve the history, because other people will replace us, and they should not start from scratch, they should know the history, use our experience and go further, develop our relations.

THE NORTH WITHOUT BORDERS PROJECT. «HISTORY LESSONS» OF RUSSIAN-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS

Yuri Yerofeyev

Executive Director of the of the Northern Character International Film Festival

The international project «North without Borders» is a series of interrelated events organized to strengthen good-neighborly contacts between Russia and Norway, based on the themes uniting citizens of the two countries: common history, ecology, education, culture. The project was prepared by the Northern Character Production Center with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund.

This spring we recorded a series of lectures in Russian with translation into Norwegian. We deliberately did not limit the audience to Russian-speaking only – we wanted both Norwegians and people who live in other countries but know Norwegian to be able to remember something or learn about our history.

Initially, 12 lectures were planned with the participation of six Russian and six Norwegian lecturers. The recordings were to take place in Murmansk and the Sør-Varanger Library in Kirkenes, which has a whole department of Russian literature. But, well-known events have made adjustments to our plans. Unfortunately, the Norwegian side refrained from participating in the project. Only Russian lecturers remained. However, this did not in any way diminish the significance of the project, because we did not talk only about our merits, we talked about the fact that we have a common history.

Briefly about our lecturers and topics. One of them is Alexander Morozov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Deputies of the Pechenga District of the Murmansk region. He shared a personal story. The second lesson «Norwegian paper clip» is based on the history of an ordinary paper clip, a Norwegian invention. The lecturer told about the unusual role this item played during the Second World War, becoming a symbol of resistance. It was about the courage of Norwegian teachers who opposed the Nazis.

Our next lecturer was Anna Ermolaeva, a Norwegian language teacher. She spoke about her work at the Norwegian Consulate in Murmansk, shared her impressions of meeting and shaking hands with King Harald V of Norway in May 1998. She also remembered how her wedding with Murmansk journalist Dmitry Ermolaev took place within the walls of the Consulate and what kind of cuisine Norwegian diplomats prefer.

Maria Ilyicheva, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of History and Law of the MASU, conducted two lessons. She spoke about the history of Russian-Norwegian cooperation. In particular, she discussed the creation of the Sør-Varanger library in Kirkenes in memory of the feat of Norwegian teachers during the war, the true story of the rescue of a young Norwegian Astrid by Soviet border guards, the creation of a unique and one-of-a-kind Russian-Norwegian school, and numerous other cultural projects.

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor of the Department of Social and Humanitarian Disciplines of the MSTU Alexander Porzel told about the tragic period of the existence of the Norwegian state during the Second World War. His lessons were devoted to the events around the Oskarborg fortress. Its defenders allowed the Norwegians to save their King. A separate lesson was devoted to Operation Fritham, during which the Nazis failed to realize their military plans and gain a foothold in the Spitsbergen archipelago.

The topic of preserving the historical memory of the joint struggle of Norwegians and Soviet people was discussed in Sergey Goncharov's lessons. He is a member of the Council of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society. Sergey recalled the history of the origins of Russian-Norwegian cooperation. He spoke about cross-border trade, which resulted in a special language. He also touched upon the period of history when Norway became an independent state and the role of the Norwegian partisans during the Second World War.

Journalist and entrepreneur Dmitry Borovkov devoted his history lesson to the creation of the first Russian-Norwegian radio station in the region, how quickly the Russians and Norwegians managed to find a common language. It was interesting to learn about this. According to Dmitry, of course, this project was successful thanks to both sides: Russian and Norwegian.

Murmansk journalist Dmitry Ermolaev chose the history of filming the Soviet-Norwegian feature film *Under the Stone Sky* as the topics of his lessons. The film, based on the real events of the Petsamo-Kirkenes operation, takes the viewer back to 1944. Another topic of Dmitry's lesson was the preservation of historical truth through letters of Soviet soldiers. He told about the letter, which has been carefully kept in a Norwegian family for decades, passed down from generation to generation. I think this is very important.

The recording was attended by students of the Russian-Norwegian school, students-journalists of the Murmansk Arctic State University. And what is more important, each lesson is not just a statement of facts, it is a topic for reflection, it is in fact a message for a creative person. If you look at these lessons, you will see stories in them that can become the basis for a book, a movie, and even a piece of music.

In conclusion, I want to say that relations between Russia and Norway have not always been joyful and cloudless. But it is important to record such episodes from the lives of ordinary people. Both us and future generations need this.

CONSEQUENCES OF FINLAND AND SWEDEN JOINING NATO

Jan Øberg

Director of the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research, Nobel Peace Prize nominee

First of all, I should tell you that I'm not an expert on the Arctic but I know a little bit about conflict resolution and conflict analysis. I've been asked to speak about the likely consequences of the Sweden's and Finland's future membership of NATO.

1. This membership – I'm taking for granted now that it will take place – is a way to make both Finland and Sweden less secure. I'm of the opinion that borders are more peaceful if they are soft than if they are hard. And this is a way of hardening, because you bring parties closer to the border or to the distinguishing line between parties which at the moment are in conflict with each other. I think that goes without saying that probably this is a way to abdicate parts of your sovereignty. I'm a Danish citizen and I have seen for many years what it means. For Denmark, for instance, it means to basically not have an independent foreign policy, security policy formation, analysis, taking standpoints which might be different from NATO and in particular from the US. So unfortunately, I think it's a group mentality, it's a kind of groupthink. That is about the only thing we do not need at this moment in modern history.

2. This full membership instead of partial or approach to coming closer to NATO, of course means obligations. Basically, Sweden and Finland must come to rescue and support any member in the alliance that may be attacked. The question is that whether this would lead to Finland and Sweden at some point being morally or otherwise obliged to participate in the US wars somewhere. Because we are all well aware that NATO has long ago transgressed, particularly with the bombings of Yugoslavia 22 years ago, its own treaties. Actually, it's a violation because NATO cannot do things outside its own membership circles.

Being a full NATO member also means hosting a military base. And it might mean taking NATO nuclear weapons into harbours or even stationing them permanently. We neither confirm nor deny whether we have nuclear weapons with us. And we know this because that discussion is going on in Denmark at the moment, because Denmark has accepted to have American bases. By the way, without consulting the Parliament. And it's obvious that the Americans are not going to answer questions like whether they have or don't have nuclear weapon weapons with them. So this is again a way of hardening borders and increasing risks. It's obvious that if you have a war, wherever American or NATO bases would be, there would definitely be the first targeted by Russia or whoever the opponent would be to incapacitate these military facilities.

3. This type of membership makes all kinds of confidence building measures that were possible with neutrality or non-alignment, much, much more difficult, if not impossible. And that's particularly sad because Finland and its president Urho Kekkonen was an initiator of the OSCE, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It was a tension reduction tool, with its

different negotiations and meetings. And it still exists. But that type of civilian consultative processes will be much more difficult with NATO basically running the show for Swedish and Finnish foreign and security policy, at least what you cannot do would be to go against the United States.

I have always been of the opinion that neutrality also increases the possibility for countries to be mediated. I know it's difficult, it's more countries to be mediators when the big elephants are having their fights. But if we take away all the neutrality and neutral countries, then that is going to be even more difficult than that meaning we'll increase the risk of letting the whole policy be militaristic rather than civilian.

4. Becoming a full NATO member is a bizarre decision, let alone that it was taken in panic. Let alone there was no people's referendum, let alone the fact that in Sweden 47 % of the people were for membership. It is way too little in my view. One should have 70–75 %, which Finland was close to, behind such an important decision. This is a lack of democracy, and there's never been made a really serious multidimensional analysis of membership. It's pros and cons. It's nothing Sweden should be proud of in terms of democracy and people's participation.

Will there be sadness? Everybody knows that even if Finland and Sweden were not full members of NATO, they would be used in a situation where NATO would define as a crisis, where they need to use that territory, those two territories. And years ago Sweden agreed to have a host nations support agreement with the Americans so that the Americans could come in a crisis situation and use the territory. So one may ask, why on Earth a full membership? When you have already pleased the United States and NATO with the agreements you have made. This is basically, you know, to assure you that Finland and Sweden would participate in foreign wars somewhere else, which is rather new apart from the United Nations. Participation, these two countries and things they should never have been involved in, in my view, and could have avoided being involved.

5. I think it deserves to be said. It seems NATO is a nuclear weapons based alliance reserving its right to use to be the first user of nuclear weapons. And NATO has this wonderful bizarre formulation on its home page that we're all for nuclear abolishment. That means that nuclear weapons will never go. Even though the international law since last year, in January, with The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, clearly states that nuclear weapons should go.

Now, the sad thing is that Finland and Sweden and thereby take responsibility for weapons that are now defined to be a violation of international law, if you will criminal. Nuclear weapons are criminal. Have always been. They are militarily stupid, because you can't use the territory in which you have used nuclear weapons. They are immoral simply because they kill people in numbers that nobody has a right to do. They rest on a terrorist philosophy, every country that has nuclear weapons rests on a terrorist philosophy. Major definition of terrorism is the deliberate killing to achieve the political goal of innocent civilians, and there's no way you can use nuclear weapons without that. That's why they must go.

The sad thing is that Sweden and Finland used to be countries that spoke up against nuclearism, against nuclear weapons, nuclear proliferation. We even worked for nuclear abolition, general and complete disarmament in accordance with the United Nations. Sweden and Finland will not be able to do that in future. So that's a core responsibility for the worst weapons in the world, even if they are not used.

6. It's a yes to militarism, militarize paradigm in which military, industrial, media, academic complex basically runs the show. The peace discourse in science, in media and in politics have gone long ago. Nobody talks about peace anymore. Situation around The Russia-NATO conflict and Ukraine is an example of this. Where were the United Nations? Where was the international law? Where were the mediators? Where were things brought into play that could have stopped this terrible thing that we are seeing now?

We use more weapons and that's the problem. The closer you come to the Western culture way of thinking, it will probably at some point kill us all. Because if you have nothing else but weapons in your toolbox, that is what you will use, no matter what the problem is. It's utterly stupid,

and it's an example of intellectual moral disarmament. And that is very dangerous. When you combine it with military rearmament. And that's what NATO is doing now. outrageously, strongly, and making an even more asymmetric conflict in terms of military expenditures with Russia. So that's very sad that in my view living in Sweden that is Sweden's and Finland's decision against all kinds of reasonable public debate and reasonably broad diverse analysis before you do it.

7. Of the uniformity of media and media coverage, the mainstream media we already seen it. Up to the decision made and it will also, and I'm sad to say that it was no doubt increase the hatred of everything Russian, and I regret it sitting here talking with you. I think it's awful. I'm ashamed of a culture that cannot operate with differences without hatred. But it's an old story. You need enemies. If you have an alliance, you cannot say they're all my friends, and that's why Russia has never been let into NATO though it has tried a number of times back to 1954.

8. That decision is very unfortunate in a larger civilizational perspective. Because I don't think it's a secret anymore, maybe only for the Americans themselves, but I don't think it's a secret anymore that the United States empire is on its way down. All empires decline and fall at some point. The Soviet Union did it earlier, the Britain did it, Romans did it. I mean, all empires go up and they go down again. The question is when and for what reasons? The US empire, which has dominated the world for 45 years, is in decline. Others are coming up. We are heading for a multipolar world. And by linking yourself so much, putting all your eggs in the NATO basket and the US Washington basket you are making your own future, Sweden and Finland, much, much more tragic than it would otherwise have been.

Because if you were wise today, you would walk on two legs. You would develop your good relations with everybody outside the West. Including, of course, China. And you would not ally yourself 110 % with Washington that is going to lose. It runs confrontational policies everywhere it can and has no positive vision left. This is obvious that there is a Cold War masterminded and financed by the United States. Our foundation has probably over 50 pages of documents it.

And instead of getting into confrontation, we should get into a communication and cooperation. Humanity has no future unless we do that. Humanity has no future unless we can accept diversity. But create some kind of in unity in diversity.

Sweden and Finland has in a macro historical perspective put itself among the restaurant guests on the Titanic. And it's very sad. Everything else could have been done. Any intellectual, truly independent intellectual could have seen that this is where we're heading. I am very sorry that these two countries are joining NATO. I'm very sorry that the two countries are joining NATO. I'm of the opinion that NATO should be closed down. And that we should create a new security and peace system in the wider European Space. There's no discussion of it, and the fact that there's no discussion of it is an indicator of the intellectual disarmament I've told you about.

I'm honoured and grateful to have being given the opportunity to speak to you and I hope you're not disappointed that I did not talk about the Arctic, because I did not promise to do so. Thank you very much.

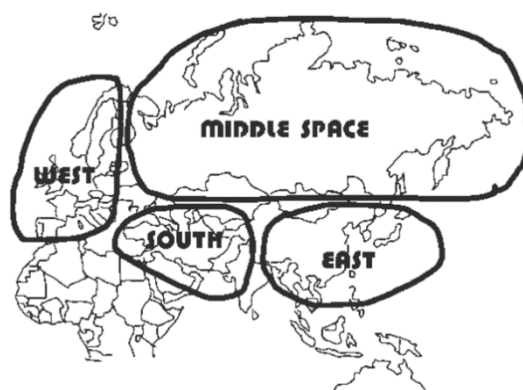
CONSEQUENCES OF FINLAND AND SWEDEN JOINING NATO

Ekaterina Serova

Postgraduate student of the Faculty of International Relations of St. Petersburg State University

The Finns have a saying «... if you want to join NATO, you have to do it while the weather is good». The decision to change the foreign policy completely, of course, should not have been taken at a time of crisis for international security. The simultaneous accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO will significantly change the political map of Europe and increase tensions between NATO

and Russia. If Finland was to join NATO without Sweden, NATO would have faced logistical problems similar to those of the Baltic states, since there would be no land connection between the member state and the Alliance. If Sweden was to join NATO without Finland, it would have most likely complicated relations between Finland and Russia and lead to the return of Cold War scenarios.



The Eurasian Chessboard (Z. Bzezinsky)

It is not fully obvious what tools NATO is ready to use to ensure the security of Finland and Sweden, small countries in northern Europe (in terms of population, but not in terms of territory), because despite their agreement on the issue of joining NATO, these two countries have many differences at the level of strategic culture, national defense planning, etc.

A nuclear umbrella? Rather yes than no, given that northern Europe is one of the three theaters of military operations in NATO's operational planning. The issue of the possible deployment of tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of Finland and Sweden has been considered in a negative way by the left forces for a long time, Sweden at one time advocated the creation of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe ... later it was suggested to work out a political decision on the accession of these countries to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017), Sweden voted in favor of it, but did not ratify the treaty, Finland did not participate in the voting, neither did the countries of the nuclear club. This decision would help clarify the situation, but would obviously become an obstacle to Finland and Sweden joining NATO.

We were lied to in many ways.

The natural resource base of the Nordic countries, for example, Sweden, has everything necessary to establish production of its own atomic bomb within six months. We can recall that lithium was discovered in the waters of Carlsbad and Marienbad, which plays an exceptional role in nuclear weapons (the products of lithium irradiation in a nuclear reactor, tritium). For a very long time, uranium ore reserves provided Sweden with the second place in Europe in terms of the share of nuclear energy in electricity production. Today, the topic of nuclear energy in Finland and especially in Sweden is very politicized, but the situation will change with the coming to power of the coalition of right-wing forces in Sweden (September 2022) and the country's continued movement to NATO, as in Finland, where parliamentary elections will be held in April 2023, but today the Center-Right Coalition is already ahead of the Social-Democrats and Leftists by 5 percentage points, according to opinion polls).

10 years ago, Swedish journalist Mikael Holmström published a monograph on Swedish security policy «Den dolda Alliansesen». He claims that Sweden's security policy during the Cold War (non-alignment in peacetime and neutrality in wartime) was the opiate for its citizens. In the event of a major war, the formal neutrality would last no more than a week, and then Sweden would

join the Western allies in the fight against Russia. As for Finland, we can recall that immediately after the start of Operation Barbarossa, Germany used Finnish waters and airfields for offensive actions against the Soviet Union. In the 1960s, the Finnish Defense Forces conducted demonstration exercises for unforeseen circumstances of the use of nuclear weapons. To simulate an atomic bomb, they left a small mushroom cloud for the troops to hid from, and when the situation passed, they shook off the remnants of radioactive substances (radioactive dust) from their clothes and continued the fight. Now such scenarios are not being drawn up in countries that do not have nuclear weapons, but it may be more correct to assume that they are no longer as publicly discussed as they used to be.

But the differences that exist in the strategic culture of the two countries are also indicative. Against this background, the relationship with NATO is noteworthy. For example, Sweden is already ready to allow flights of American B-52 bombers in its airspace during exercises, unlike Finland. These bombers were used in Vietnam, in Yugoslavia, and were originally created to deliver thermonuclear bombs to any point of the Soviet Union. How is it dangerous, besides the fact that it is a weapon of mass destruction? The northern territories of Finland and Sweden are located in the Arctic zone, and the Arctic is no Vietnam. After what has happened in Vietnam, people there are still born with serious genetic deviations, and the jungle has grown anew. In the Arctic, the situation is different – the Arctic ecosystem is extremely vulnerable to anthropogenic impact, if you ride a tractor in the Arctic (in the tundra, for example), not to mention the use of fire, then nothing will grow in these places even after 10 years. Therefore, it is natural that the costs of environmental protection measures is bigger. The environmental component of any activity that we conduct in the Arctic is greater than anywhere else. The Arctic Council was engaged in solving these problems.



Meeting of NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg with the Foreign Ministers of Finland and Sweden in January 2022

The influence of NATO on regional formats of military cooperation. The accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO will contribute to the deepening of defense cooperation between the two countries. Until now, there have been no tangible results of cooperation, the specifics of bilateral cooperation between Finland and Sweden in the field of defense were the absence of an institutional structure, bilateral agreements regulating cooperation (this does not apply to declarations of intent, individual statements) and, as a result, clear goals and objectives as the basis for short- and long-term planning of cooperation. To date, it is not possible to coordinate the

existing national defense strategies of the countries of the region at the level of military headquarters.

The most successful area of cooperation is naval surveillance: one of the three joint defense initiatives of Björn von Sydow and Gustav Hegglund, implemented since 1996, the SUCBAS Project was launched due to the growing awareness of the risks arising from the use of the Baltic Sea as a transport and energy route, however, in the 2010s it became obvious that an integrated policy in the Baltic Sea region is impossible without Russia, which is not a participant in the project, in 2014 the concept of a Swedish-Finnish naval combat group with the possibility of mutual use of infrastructure in marine and coastal territories (SFNTG) was developed.

Cooperation was suspended unilaterally by Sweden due to fears that the intensification of defense cooperation with Finland would lead to NATO membership and worsen relations between Sweden and the United States. The project to coordinate surveillance in airspace failed due to the fact that the Swedish Armed Forces (unlike the Finnish ones) did not have a centralized air monitoring system (*fin.* yhtenäinen ilmatilannekuva) for three regions (Götaland, Svealand, Norrland), but each had a separate surveillance system.

The crisis of Georgian-Russian relations has shifted the defense cooperation of Finland and Sweden from a dead point: in 2008 The Defense Ministries of both countries announced their intention to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of military training, joint exercises and procurement, invest in defense cooperation of the Nordic countries, as well as their desire to cooperate with NATO in order to gain access to the common operational situation in the airspace of the member countries. In 2009, at the presentation of Björn von Sydow at the Royal Academy of Military Sciences, Gustav Haggglund returned to the issue of restarting Swedish-Finnish defense cooperation in a new capacity, suggesting to his colleague to divide the areas of responsibility, as a result, Finland will be able to guarantee protection from attack on land thanks to strong land forces, Sweden will ensure Finland's trade relations on the Baltic Sea with the help of modern submarines and a long coastline along the main shipping route of Finland, and the air forces of the two countries should be ready for rapid deployment. The proposed method of maintaining defense capability did not oblige the parties to conclude an agreement, and, unlike a defense alliance, cooperation would be based on mutual promises. The Swedish side reacted rather coldly to this initiative. It should be added that since 2019, Björn von Sydow has been heading the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), a central research institution that directly reports to the Ministry of Defense.

A new trigger for the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense was the events in Ukraine: in May 2014 (2 months after the events in Crimea) Finnish and Swedish Defense Ministers Carl Haglund and Karin Enstrom agreed on general terms of cooperation in peacetime, and by the beginning of next year a program was prepared, which identified six areas of interaction (Navy, Air Force, land forces, logistics, secure communications and staff activities). Thus, the countries intensified cooperation, but without obligations on defense.

The joint defense initiative was an «incredibly big political problem» due to differences in the structure of the national armed forces: Finland supports territorial defense, while Sweden has liquidated almost everything to invest in peacekeeping operations. Erkki Tuomioja, who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland in 2011–2015, called practical cooperation in the field of defense a problem of the first order, «which may gradually lead to the need to conclude agreements, for example, on the use of joint procurement during a crisis, and to deeper commitments in 10–20 years».

The new stage associated with the beginning of Russia's special military operation Ukraine marked the transition to a qualitatively new tool in ensuring external security by abandoning adherence to the policy of neutrality, the policy of military non-alignment and the decision in favor of joining the military-political bloc. On the other hand, today the Finnish-speaking and Swedish-

speaking media publish separate fragments of speeches by representatives of the political elite that the decision to join NATO was a consistent and natural process, and this should not be surprising. I would like to add that it is important for international politics to observe the laws of logic, in this case we are talking about the second law – which was violated by those responsible for making political decisions in these countries – two incompatible judgments cannot be true at the same time; at least one of them is false. Therefore, we must admit that **either** we have been lied to again for decades, developing educational cooperation, scientific cooperation, cultural ties, twinning relations, **or** politicians have completely discredited by taking on a managerial role to the detriment of a strategic vision, where their partners overseas are the main functionary (manager). We are faced with an unprecedented phenomenon of severing scientific ties in the Arctic, including largely due to the unwillingness to discuss the military agenda in the Arctic Council (although there was a thematic network on geopolitics) - this would mean not transformation, but adaptation taking into account new challenges and would demonstrate the interest of the parties in the negotiation process.

Another consequence of NATO membership will be the **resumption of deferred transactions** within the framework of bilateral military-technical cooperation with the United States. Finland's deals on the purchase of multi-purpose American fighters in 1992 and the recent state defense order for fifth-generation F-35 fighters are well known from media materials, but this is only the tip of the iceberg, which is visible from the bow of the ship. For example, for two decades (at least since 2002), work has been underway to conclude a missile agreement – and they began with the acquisition of JASSM air-to-ground attack missiles (one such missile cost \$ 3 million for Finland). In 2012, one batch of missiles was delivered, the deal raised some concerns about whether the political leadership had a clear understanding of the importance of the acquisition. The fact is that the missiles can reach St. Petersburg and the Kola Peninsula, where the Russian S-300 and S-400 air defense systems are located, the range of which, in turn, covers almost the entire airspace of Finland. Note that JASSM missiles are presented in Finland as a means of deterring Russia. This trend has especially intensified since 2007 – when the S-400 was adopted in Russia, then the events in Georgia added fuel to the fire.

Радиус действия финских ракет JASSM и российских ЗПК S-300 и S-400. На карте не случайно отмечен Стокгольм — один из пяти рубежей обороны с инфраструктурой систем разведки дальнего радиуса действия. Другие оборонительные зоны включают южное побережье Швеции (там находятся основные порты, важные для операций НАТО), Гётеборгская область на западе Швеции (это специальная зона для получения помощи от сил НАТО на основе соглашения о поддержке принимающей стороне 2014 г.), южно-центральная Швеция и Северная Швеция.



The range of Finnish JASSM missiles and Russian S-300 and S-400 air defense systems

The most important Finnish air defense weapons are AMRAAM missiles (for NASAMS air defense systems). The number of missiles is not exactly known (theoretically, 144 missiles are required for 24 NASAMS installations purchased, but it is unlikely that Finland has such a number). In addition, their range is less in comparison with the Russian Buk air defense system, which was used in Finland until 2009.

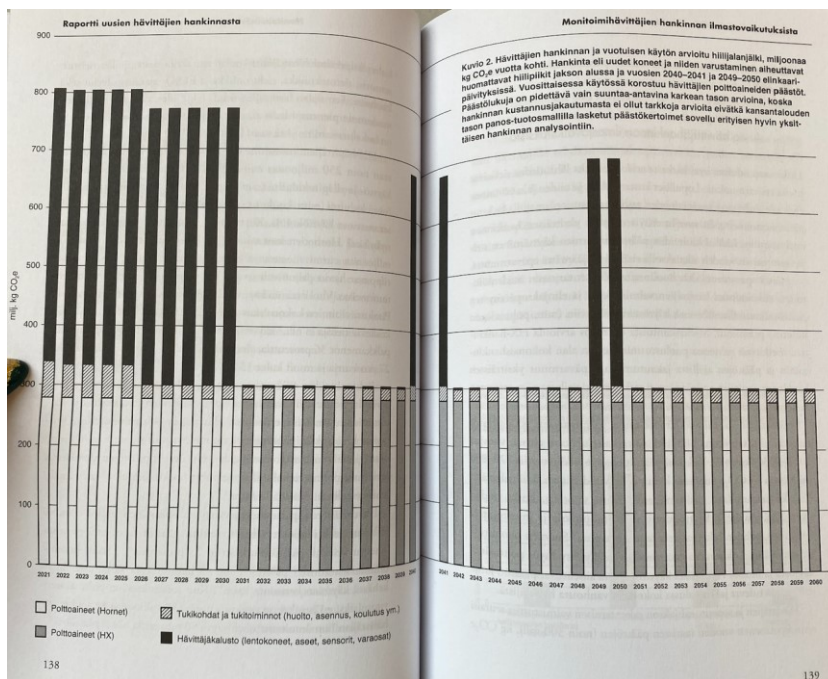
Purchase of F35. It seems that the «replacement of fighters with fighters» with the strengthening of their combat capabilities is the only way to save the Homeland in the event of a preemptive military strike, since according to the reports of the Finnish Ministry of Defense, the share of the Air Force in the entire allocation for defense is more than half. The last taxpayers who will pay for the «decision of the past world» to replace the fighter fleet will be born around 2040. The question arises about the future of the territorial defense forces, the traditional commitment of the Finns to a strong defense on their own in favor of expensive strategic projects to upgrade the fleet.

Of course, the tax burden on certain industries will increase in Finland's attempts to strengthen the offensive potential of aviation. From the point of view of operational capabilities, the F-35A and its predecessor F/A 18 combined the characteristics of two different classes of aircraft (fighter and bomber), they have the appropriate marking with the letter A. In fact, the very idea of an air attack by Finland defies rational explanation: the country simply will not have time to use all available missiles in case of a preemptive strike from Russian territory. The Finnish Armed Forces also planned to adopt ATACMS operational-tactical surface-to-surface missiles, but the deal fell through due to the «high» cost of the missiles.

The climatic consequences of the acquisition of fighters. The assessment of the technical capabilities and impact potential of new aircraft is accompanied by an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere throughout the entire life cycle of the fighter. The peak of total carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere falls on 2021–2030 and amounts to about 770–800 million kg per year (CO₂ equivalent). The carbon footprint will be the highest in the first five years. After the completion of the construction and the adaptation period, the total emissions will amount to about 300 million kg per year (CO₂ equivalent) for 10 years. 2040–2041 and 2049–2050 – another surge in emissions, during these years the life cycle will be modernized. In total, emissions

from the purchase of a batch of fighters will amount to 6.5 % of Finland's consumption structure.

Undoubtedly, Finland will be more technologically dependent on the United States. The dependence on military technology for a resource-free country is much higher today than decades earlier, when fighters were purchased from the Soviet Union and Sweden. Those fighters could operate autonomously, but the operation of current air weapons systems ultimately depends on the manufacturer and seller. This complex system can technically be controlled across the Atlantic.



Membership in NATO can improve the possibilities of joint defense planning of the Nordic countries. Norway, represented by representatives of the Norwegian Defense Association (Norges Forsvarsforening), The Norwegian Defence University College (Forsvarets høgskole), calls on Finland, Sweden and Denmark to conduct a consistent assessment of their own military capabilities and develop a common defense plan for the Scandinavian Peninsula with the participation of the Pentagon. Apparently, these calls deserve a more responsible attitude of the authorities, especially with the assumption of the post of the new Norwegian ambassador to Moscow, Robert Kvile, who is well acquainted with the key issues of Russian security, including nuclear.

The basis for the development of a joint «North Atlantic» plan is the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements with the United States, including in the energy sector, in the field of promoting the commercial interests of companies supplying dual-use technologies (for example, Finland planned to open an expert office in Washington in the fall to promote the commercial interests of Patria and Insta), on the development of infrastructure and the use of the northern territories for transit purposes, for example, the new Norwegian-American defense agreement granting the United States the right to use and unhindered access in four «agreed» areas.

Apparently, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden will start with the creation of a joint NATO Air Force headquarters in the region. Already today, the Norwegian, Danish and Finnish Air Forces have about 150 F-35 fighters in service. Sweden's plans to produce the fifth-generation JAS 39 Gripen mean that in a few years up to 250 modern fighters will be in service in the Nordic countries. The area of responsibility of the headquarters will include planning, coordination and management of air operations, and over time, the defense organization and planning approaches will be revised, covering the entire area of operations in which national armed formations will be involved.

TAKING INTO THE ACCOUNT THE EXPERIENCE OF INTERFAITH RELATIONS AS THE BASIS FOR THE FORMATION OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE REGION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE MURMANSK REGION)

Julia Bardileva

*Candidate of Historical Sciences, Docent, Head of the Department
of History and Law of the Murmansk Arctic State University*

One of the most important problems within the framework of the multi-confessional space of the region is to ensure the conditions for the formation of religious tolerance and the achievement of social religious security. Religious security should be understood as a system of guarantees of freedom of conscience and religion, the state of protection of vital interests of the individual, society and the state from religious extremism and aggression. Ensuring religious security involves understanding the characteristic features of the modern religious situation and the factors that determined the specifics of the formation of the ethnoconfessional space of the region at different historical stages and determine it today, developing solutions aimed at maintaining constructive relations between religious societies in the region and preventing conflicts based on religious hatred and enmity.

On December 12, 1993 the Constitution of the Russian Federation declared Russia a secular state and gave legal guarantees for the right to freedom of conscience. The number of religious associations in Russia doubled in the first half of the 1990s, including destructive religious organizations. In order to overcome the dangerous consequences of the negative influence of new

destructive trends, in 1995, the Council for Coordination with Religious Associations was established under the President of the Russian Federation. Its permanent members are representatives of various faiths, studying topical issues related to the maintenance of interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance in the country. On September 27, 1997, the Federal Law of the Russian Federation «On Freedom of Conscience and on Religious Associations» came into force, in the preamble of which religious movements of particular importance in the history, culture, socio-political life of Russia – Christianity, especially Orthodoxy, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and other religions were clearly identified, They are an integral part of the historical heritage of the peoples of Russia. At the same time, the religious policy of the Russian Federation presupposes the implementation in practice of a universal type of legal regulation of the status of religious associations, which guarantees the endowment of religious associations with equal rights and obligations, regardless of their rootedness in Russia (Bardileva, 2014).

Among the factors, which influenced the development of religious appearance of the Kola North at various stages in its history are: the influence of the severe nature on the formation of the pagan beliefs of the indigenous Sami population; the transformation of these beliefs in connection with the arrival of the Russian Orthodox population of the Kola Peninsula and counter the spread in the Northern territories of Catholicism, and from the sixteenth century, Protestantism (religion of the Sami and the Russian population to Orthodoxy was not only characteristic of the spiritual life of the region and an important geopolitical factor contributed to the consolidation of the territory of the Kola Peninsula for the Moscow government and the defense of the Kola North from repeated attempts to conquer the Russian Lapland); colonization of the Murman coast in 1860–1900-ies, which led to the appearance on the territory of the Norwegian and Finnish population of the Lutheran religion, the opening of a Lutheran parish in the city of Aleksandrovsk; the beginning of the WWI, the construction of the Murmansk railway, 1917 Revolution, and the period of the Provisional Government of the Northern Region during the Civil War that caused a significant influx of population to the region among whom were representatives of different faiths, Catholics, Muslims, Baptists, etc.; the Soviet period in the history of the religious life of the region, characterized by two trends – a total closure of churches, chapels and religious societies, Orthodox, Baptists, Evangelical Christians, Muslims, Adventists and repressions against the clergy and laity, and after the great Patriotic war, the emergence of new trends in the region in the environment of the exiled population and the beginning a new faiths propaganda, including by foreign missionaries in the period of Perestroika and the formation of the new Russian statehood.

It is important to remember that the religious situation in the Kola North at this stage differs in many ways from the religious picture of a number of other regions of the Russian Federation, and this difference is primarily manifested in the relatively indifferent attitude of the population of the region to religion. On the one hand, such a situation has its advantages – there are no pronounced interethnic conflicts, there is interaction of secular authorities with representatives of various movements and groups, built in the form of an equal dialogue, sects of a destructive totalitarian nature do not take root (a society that is neutral to religion is less susceptible to propaganda of new trends), but on the other – such the indifference of the population to the history and current state of the religious situation in the region and religious values can lead to underestimation of the role and importance of historically rooted, traditional beliefs, to the inability to make timely forecasts regarding the development of state-church relations and relations between various religious movements and groups (Bardileva, Grachevskaya, 2014).

If in the early 1980s there were only two Orthodox churches and a few small Protestant communities in the region, then at the end of 1995 there were already 15 denominations and about 130 religious organizations operating in the region. The Kola Christian Center, the community of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, the Seventh-day Adventist community, the Murmansk Muslim Religious Association, the parish of the New

Apostolic Church in Murmansk, the Society for Krishna Consciousness, the community of the Church of Christ began to operate in the region. In the same years, separate Christian missions and missionary societies appeared, for example, the Murmansk branch of the interregional mission «Gedeon», the Murmansk Christian Russian-Norwegian mission («Arctic Mission»), the regional voluntary Christian missionary society «Good Samaritan». Destructive associations also appeared for a short period. In 1992–1993, the infamous «White Brotherhood» functioned in the region, in 1994, the appearance of members of the Aum Shinrikyo sect was observed in the region, but they failed to gain a foothold. Satanists also appeared in the region (Bardileva, 2006)

The 1990s can rightly be called triumphant for the Russian Orthodox Church after decades of persecution and repression. New churches began to be revived and built, on December 27, 1995, an important event took place in the religious life of the Murmansk region – the formation of the Murmansk and Monchegorsk diocese (today – the metropolia), on October 2, 1997, the revival of the Trifono-Pechenga Monastery began.

By the end of the 1990s, there was a slight decrease in the number of registered communities in the region, which is explained by the self-dissolution of some due to the lack of adherents (for example, the Murmansk branch of the inter-republican Christian mission of mercy «Gedeon») and the refusal to register others. The latter happened to the Jehovah's Witnesses, as their intrusive activities for the «spiritual enlightenment» of the Murmansk people caused sharp public discontent and protests of other faiths. But, despite the fact that some former communities or groups disappeared, new currents also appeared. For example, in 1998 the Murmansk Christian Church (Union of Evangelical Faith Churches) was registered, in 1999 – the Church of Evangelical Christians «Golgotha» (Union of Evangelical Christian Churches), in 2000–2001 – the religious organization of modern Judaism «Murman» and the Jewish Community of Murmansk (Orthodox Judaism, The Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia), in 2002 – the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Whereas in 1998 71 religious associations officially operated in the region and 66 existed without registration, in 2004 211 religious associations functioned in the Murmansk Region (67 – the Russian Orthodox Church, 114 – Protestant and 30 – non-Christian). Of these, the regional Department of Justice registered only 103 religious associations of twenty denominations, the rest acted as religious groups, i.e. without registration, for various reasons (distrust of the authorities, small number), but all within the law (Religion ..., 2008). In 2017, the Murmansk and Monchegorsk Metropolia has 77 parishes (69 were officially registered) with 78 churches, 3 monasteries, and about 70 priests.

According to surveys, an Atlas of Religions and Nationalities of Russia was compiled in 2012. According to this Atlas, 42 % of residents of the Murmansk Region considered themselves to be the Orthodox Christians; 12 % said they did not believe in God; 3 % professed Christianity, not considering themselves either Orthodox, Catholics, or Protestants; professed Orthodoxy, but did not belong to the ROC and Old Believers – 1 %; pagans – less than 1 %. In this study, there were no Muslims or Protestants among the survey participants, although Muslim religious organizations are registered in the region (Atlas ..., 2012).

Currently, the confessional space of the region is characterized by parity between the Russian Orthodox Church and numerous Protestant religious associations (rather by the number of communities, than by external manifestations). The high degree of activity of the latter is explained both by their historical presence in the Kola North since the beginning of the twentieth century (evangelical Christians and Baptists) and by the location of the region (the proximity of Finland, Norway, Sweden). Missionaries from the USA and Western Europe are also active in the region.

As for the nature of relations between local authorities and religious denominations, the Governor and the Government pursue a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of religious organizations. At the same time, taking into account the historical and confessional identity of our

region, the authorities, public and commercial organizations are more actively interacting with the Russian Orthodox Church (Bardileva, 2014). Contacts are also being established with Muslim organizations in the region.

In 2014–2015, the number of Muslim organizations increased from two to four (all registered in Murmansk). For many years there has been a question about the construction of a mosque in Murmansk: either the allocated plot did not suit the believers themselves, or the residents of nearby houses actively protested. One of the places more or less satisfied everyone, so the fundraising started. However, in the case of the construction of a mosque on this site, a «conflict of interests» could arise – the building of the Orthodox monastery's compound would be located on an elevation opposite the mosque. The activities of Muslim communities registered in Murmansk and the region (at the moment there are about 10 of them), in general, do not cause any particular problems in interfaith relations and relations of state structures with Muslim groups. Today, the Muslim prayer building is located on Frolov Street.

On October 8, 2017, the second prayer room of Muslims was opened in the closed city of Alexandrovsk. This is a very important area, as strategic facilities are located there. Therefore, there is a special approach to work, both on the part of the Muslims themselves, the bulk of whom are military personnel, and on the part of the authorities. The latter reacted to this with understanding and were themselves interested in opening an official place of worship for Muslims, since this is a place where anyone will get a correct understanding of Islam and its values from educated people. About 60 people took part in the event. Friday Jummah prayers, classes on the basics of Islam and Quran readings, as well as community events will be held in the prayer room on a permanent basis. On May 13, 2018, a solemn opening of a prayer room was also held in Severomorsk, Murmansk region. The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy head of Severomorsk E. Mironov, Head of the Department of Administrative and Organizational Issues of the city Administration O. Prasov, Acting Deputy Commander of the Northern Fleet for work with personnel, captain of the 1st rank M. Ratnikov and Chairman of the Duma of Murmansk and the Murmansk region R. Bikkinyaev. The event was also attended by the chairmen of the Muslim communities of the Closed cities of Alexandrovsk and Zaozersk, etc.

In fairness, it should be noted that a number of dissatisfied statements and attempts to counteract the activities of some religious movements in the territory of the Kola North have taken place in recent decades. A sharp protest from the public of Murmansk was caused at one time by the allocation of a land plot for the construction of the Jehovah's Witnesses center in the Rosta district. The city administration decided to hold public hearings, which took place in March 2007 in a very heated atmosphere. The organizing committee received 157 applications for participation from teams totaling over 3 thousand people, as well as 945 applications from residents of the city. At the public hearings, the conversation was not so much about the allocation of the site, as about the religious organization «Jehovah's Witnesses» itself. They were traditionally accused of intrusive harassment of passers-by on the streets and invasion of apartments, not wanting to recognize state laws and holidays, a ban on blood transfusion, etc. Voting results: 116 people for construction, 269 against. Construction was banned (Bardileva, 2014).

In April 2017, the activity of Jehovah's Witnesses on the territory of our country was banned. The Supreme Court of Russia decided to terminate the activities of the organization «Management Center of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia» and local religious organizations included in its structure, and transfer all property to the ownership of the Russian Federation. The organization's activities are recognized as extremist. The Ministry of Justice of Russia also included Jehovah's Witnesses in the list of organizations banned or liquidated for extremism (Religious ..., 2017). A Jehovah's Witnesses organization banned in Russia was liquidated in the Murmansk Region, the press service of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation reported on April 20, 2018. In the case of the organization of a banned religious association, two residents of the city of Polyarny were detained, documents and literature were seized, the report says (Liquidated ..., 2018).

Religious associations officially registered in the Murmansk region (as of 2013–2017)*

Name of the denomination or a religious organization	Number of members as of 29.07.2013	Number of members as of 13.02.2015	Number of members as of 18.04.2017
The Russian Orthodox Church	58	61	69 (including 3 monasteries)
Christians of the Evangelical Faith (Christians of the Evangelical Faith, Pentecostals, 1 – The Church of Evangelical Christians in the spirit of the Apostles, 1 – The Church of Evangelical Christians «Vozrozhdenie», 1 – The Church of Evangelical Christians «Golgotha»)	30	30	27 (including 6 Pentecostal organizations)
Roman Catholic Church	1	1	1
Religious associations of Muslims of the city of Murmansk	1	4	8
Evangelical Christians-Baptists	6	6	6
Seventh-day Adventist Church	7	7	6
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria	2	2	1
Judaism	2	2	2
Jehovah's Witnesses	8	8	8
New Apostolic Church	1	1	1
Society for Krishna Consciousness	1	1	–
The Church of Christ	1	1	1
The Salvation Army, a religious organization of Evangelical Christians	1	1	1
Religious organization of the True Orthodox Church of Murmansk	–	1	1
Total	119	126	132

*The table is based on the data from the Department of Justice in the Murmansk region.

The presence of the only religious organization in the region, Vozrozhdenie, also causes increased attention from various government agencies. The spiritual center Vozrozhdenie is one of the churches of the charismatic movement. It appeared and acts mainly in Ukraine. The authorities of the All-Ukrainian Union of Churches of Christians of the Evangelical Faith consider the activity of the head of this center, Vladimir Muntyan, to be inconsistent with Evangelical teaching, as well as very close to occult practice. Muntyan himself was tried for theft and fraud. In addition, this group took a very active part in the events of the Kiev Maidan. Most experts across the country call this movement a totalitarian sect. They open offices all over the country to collect money from parishioners, promising that the seriously ill will certainly be cured, the poor will get rich, the unhappy will become happy. Vozrozhdenie has its own TV channel with professionals shooting commercials for them. In Ukraine, sectarians gather entire stadiums and concert halls performing exorcism.

What were they infamous for in the Arctic? Illegal missionary activity, extremism, drug trafficking, robbery and lewd acts with minors. The Prosecutor's office of the Pervomaysky administrative district of Murmansk punished the head of the «spiritual» center in Murmansk for illegal missionary activity. The Investigative Committee opened a criminal case against an unemployed resident of Severomorsk, one of the adherents of the church. The man was suspected of committing lewd acts with minors. A few years ago, the Severomorsky district court convicted

Leonid Krishchenko, a member of the Murmansk group of the «Vozrozhdenie» of the VKontakte social network. The court found him guilty of posting extremist materials on the Internet. In social networks, the man was hiding under the name «Leonid Wojciechowski». He distributed photos and videos advertising the activities of Ukrainian nationalist right-wing organizations as part of the «Right Sector» (an organization banned in Russia), the main character of this nationalist organization is Stepan Bandera. The court imposed a very lenient sentence on Kryshchenko – 200 hours of compulsory labor. One of the pastors of the organization, Alexey Nikolaev, was imprisoned for drug trafficking in 2012, and the second pastor, Mikhail Koval, was released in 2013 after serving time for armed robbery. In 2008, he and an accomplice broke into a store in Kola, shooting at the seller. They stole 28,724 rubles. And after that, they held meetings promising healing from diseases, eradicating poverty and establishing financial well-being. In March 2017, the news agency Nord-News.ru was reported that these two former criminals «prayed» and «treated» residents of the Murmansk region. They asked for up to 150 thousand rubles for a prayer about the success of a child in competitions – for the needs of the church (Ukrainian sectarians in Murmansk ..., 2018).

In 2010, the investigators of the Murmansk region paid close attention to the neo-pagan Ynglings – their leaflets were classified as extremist (In Murmansk ..., 2017). In the premises of the printing house of the military unit in Murmansk, leaflets of the «Old Russian English Church of Orthodox Old Believers-Ynglings», banned in April 2004 by the Omsk Regional Court (<http://www.sova-center.ru/racism-xenophobia/docs/2004/04/d8899/>) were found. The Ynglings propagandize the idea of racial superiority, and the swastika serves as a symbol of the movement. Ynglism is one of the directions of neo-paganism created by By Alexander Khinevich in Omsk in 1992. The customer for the production and distribution of leaflets was Nikolay Markushin (Prosecutor's Office ..., 2018).

The above-mentioned cases of religious extremism and fraud require appropriate measures, namely: control by law enforcement agencies over the activities of all religious organizations in the region, recording accurate data on the number and qualitative characteristics of the areas of work of religious structures in the Murmansk region in the regional Department of Justice, monitoring the financial activity and sources of financing of these structures in the tax service. It is equally important to carry out extensive educational work among the population, especially young people, within the framework of which it is necessary to provide information about traditional and new religious movements in the region, to acquaint with the distinctive features of the religious situation in the region, the spiritual and cultural component of the activities of regional religious organizations, to warn about possible dangers lurking in the activities of destructive sects, to form skills at the early stages to identify attempts at their recruitment activities.

This work in the Murmansk region is carried out by various structures: schools (during the "Fundamentals of religious cultures and secular ethics" classes, which forms initial knowledge about various religious cultures of the world and a tolerant attitude to other people's religious experience), higher educational institutions (MASU lectures and seminars on the disciplines «History of World religions», «Religious denominations of the Murmansk region»), the program of additional education "The civilian population in countering the spread of the ideology of terrorism"), monitoring and educational functions are also assigned to the Expert Council for the State Religious Expertise under the Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation for the Murmansk region.

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FINLAND AND SWEDEN JOINING NATO

Janus Putkonen

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I am a Finnish editor, analyst and director of the Finnish Patriotic Movement, Janus Putkonen. I have been working in the defence of the geopolitical information war and since the beginning of 2015 I've been living here, in Donbass, the front line of the Ukrainian civil war in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's republics, which has escalated into an even greater geopolitical conflict by 2022.

Recently I had a great pleasure and honour of visiting the recent Arctic Council conference and getting to know for the first time the beautiful city of Murmansk and an area of particular importance to the whole of Northern Europe. I really fell in love with Murmansk and the people I met there.

Today we are discussing a disturbing eastward expansion of NATO, which has posed a growing security threat to Russia in Europe, not only in the wake of the 2014 Ukrainian coup on the country's western borders, but also now, on the northern borders of Russia. As we know, the border between Finland and Russia were presented to the world during the Cold War as a border of peace, but the situation has changed radically during the past decade.

In 2014, as means of reaction fuelled by the tragic events in Ukraine and the unjustified blaming Russia for them, influenced by the propaganda of the Western mainstream media, Finland signed the NATO Host Nation Agreement at the summit in Wales under the leadership of President Sauli Niinistö, with the signature of the commander of the Finnish Defence Forces.

This signature, according to American strategists, made Finland part of «shadow NATO» controlled by the United States. Military alliances conducted in violation of Finnish laws and constitutions were deepened over the years through bilateral military agreements with all leading NATO countries.

As soon as the NATO Host Nation Agreement was signed, official Finland took an active role in Operation Atlantic Resolve, which was adopted in Washington at the same time and given to NATO at the beginning of 2015, and its regional implementation, which is the background for the military engagement of the Western military alliance against Russia.

The West's military campaign was launched with war propaganda created from Ukraine, claiming that Russia was an aggressive force first in Kiev, and later in Crimea and Donbass.

Following the West's final rejection of the Minsk agreement, Russia was finally forced to intervene in the civil war in Ukraine at the end of February 2022, especially in order to prevent a new large-scale genocide in Donbass supported by NATO, in order to counter the invasion of large nationalist forces which began on 17th February 2022 and was defined to launch with its full force, according to documents recovered from NATO computer in Mariupol, on 8th of March.

Russia's special military operation, which prevented a repeat of the 2014 genocide and stopped the invasion forces in Ukraine, was portrayed in Finnish war propaganda as «an unprovoked aggression».

The events in Ukraine have been the permanent leading excuse for NATO expansion to Finland and thus to the entire Arctic region. Finland has lost its independence through the EU, and the Finns are completely irrelevant to the geopolitical strategists of the West. As we understand, in the view of Western power, Finland is actually Murmansk, St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad.

We are well aware of what is Finland's dangerous geopolitical offside position today, which endangers Russians and Finns in the wide scale anti-Russian offensive.

It must be understood that an illegal, unconstitutional and totally undemocratic NATO coup took place in Finland in May 2022. The military coup done by the West and the territorial occupation of Finland by NATO forces during the summer of 2022 were carried out with the help of a state government that sought hegemony in the West and was committed to the agenda of globalism, contrary to national and regional interests. The Finnish people were not given the opportunity to influence the final transfer of geopolitical decision-making power away from Helsinki to the supranational elites and institutions of the West.

Supported by false globalist-dominated opinion polls in the mainstream media, the application for membership of NATO was the end of an 8-year-long NATO process that made Finland a vassal state under Western control, whose main task is to create a military threat from Finland, under the leadership of the Nazi-style Gauleiters under the leadership of NATO, against the Russian people and the region.

Since the beginning of 2022, NATO has been fighting Russia «until the last Ukrainian», and the realities now suggest that we will next face something that President Vladimir Putin warned Finns about back in 2012 when he visited Finland: NATO is willing to fight to the last Finn.

I am sorry, that today the rapidly growing regional security threat, which is directed particularly towards Murmansk and the Arctic, comes from Finland. It has to be said that today's Finland is no longer in any way the country I was born and grew up in. For the past 30 years, Finland has been deprived of independence and Finns have been committed to supranational and undemocratic agendas of globalism, which have little or no support among the Finnish people.

While Russia has offered the world the opportunity for development and a road map to a multipolar world in accordance with the UN Charter, and has brought together, in support of its geopolitics outlined by Yevgeny Primakov and successfully implemented by President Putin, several major powers and up to 80 % of the world's citizens, Finland is committed to the hegemony of the One World Government, which the Western elite are aiming to impose on the whole Russian world.

On behalf of all Finnish Patriots who are aware of the facts and realities of both the relations between Finland and Russia and the events of the war in Ukraine and the true nature of the conflict, I would like to apologise to the Russians for the current escalating situation in the direction of Finland.

We know as a fact, that to this day and over the past 30 years, when an internationally binding Neighbourhood Agreement has been in force between Finland and Russia, Russia has never ever threatened Finland, or Finnish national interests. Never. Not once.

We know that the Russians have not done anything against the Finns that would justify the concentration of NATO forces against Russia on Finnish territory. Russophobia, fomented by the West-led regime and the mainstream media, the attack on economic warfare, Finland's political provocations and military actions, even criminal false flag attacks, such as the strikes on the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, are part of the confrontation escalated by the West.

As we know, one of the main reasons why Russia was forced to carry out military intervention in Ukraine was the nuclear weapons Kiev wanted on its territory, which created a real threat to Russia's national security. A similar acute threat is also growing in Finland, as prime minister Sanna Marin's globalist administration is today openly expressing an interest in concentrating nuclear weapons in Finland by the United States and NATO.

The geostrategic importance of the Russian Northern Fleet and the Kola Peninsula to Russian defense is well known to us, so a cross-border regional patriotic peaceful work and citizen diplomacy in Murmansk and the Arctic is more important now than perhaps ever before. There is a reality that the only way to put an end to the arbitrariness is to stop it.

Russia is a real superpower and there are no military solutions against it. This understanding has been obscured by the huge anti-Russian war propaganda that has continued to rage in Finland since the 2011 Russian parliamentary elections. At the same time, led by the Reuters news has in recent years created false propaganda about Finland as the happiest nation in the world. Why?

What is now thought to be the happiest people in the world, Finland, a perfect sacrificial lamb, is being driven by NATO to commit national suicide against the Russian armed forces, without any rational justification.

I hope that the patriots defending our peoples in Finland and Russia will succeed in blocking and rejecting the plans of the Western strategists after the coup in Helsinki, just as the patriots were able to resist in Donbass after the coup in Kiev.

In this justified resistance, we patriots have a duty to do our best, for each other, and not against anyone.

PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINNISH-RUSSIAN COOPERATION

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I obviously think that now we should develop our cooperation and our capabilities together. In Finland, scientists are now actually forbidden to cooperate in any way with their Russian colleagues. For example, my university, the University of Helsinki, has officially banned contact or participation or cooperation with Russian colleagues. Also, many Russian companies have been isolated from the Western world. This is very surprising and very sad. But, of course, we have

alternative plans and opportunities, and we would like to develop cooperation with you. That is, the Finns are actually being persecuted. Recently, a bill was proposed in Finland, according to which scientists who support Russia's military operation in Ukraine and are pro-Russian can be deprived of all scientific titles. This bill was introduced by the Finnish Government in March. They have been working on this bill for a very long time and as a result, in September of this year they decided to postpone it, cancel this initiative. They talked with all universities in Finland, with the scientific community and, of course, everyone was against it, because to deprive scientists of their titles on the basis of some political ambitions is crazy. Unfortunately, this is a good example of what is happening in our world right now.

What exactly can we do now? There are civil initiatives, the so-called civil diplomacy. We can develop our relationship, look to the future. Of course, many people are thinking now that in any case it is necessary to normalize Finnish-Russian relations. We need to see what will happen in 5–10 years. But, of course, the absolutely terrible, crazy Russophobia that is currently developing in Europe gives very little space for such initiatives.

What now? One of the solutions is tourism. Recently, the tourist project «Friendship Train», initiated by Janus Putkonen, was launched. As part of this project, dozens of Finns came to St. Petersburg. Now a similar project is being developed – to bring Finns to Murmansk. Another solution is to continue scientific projects. We all need to cooperate as actively as possible. It should be noted, however, that it is very difficult for us now. Only the healthiest, richest people can survive in this situation in Finland – scientists also have mortgages, families and children. We have a very effective mechanism, you can dismiss a person very quickly. Therefore, the situation is very difficult, and a lot of people can't say anything right now, they are just silent, they don't answer, they don't come. If someone speaks or expresses a desire to cooperate with Russia, speaks at some conference, then a campaign begins against them, and very quickly it becomes possible to dismiss him. We are really developing Russophobic totalitarianism. Let me remind you that our government is currently discussing the possibility of building a fence on the border with Russia. The plan, of course, is absolutely insane. Now they have apparently found some kind of consensus – to build only part of the fence, probably so that they can tell about it in the media. Therefore, although there are absolutely no threats from Russia against Finland, even our government and the press recognize this. Our border is still a peaceful one. Therefore, there is reason to hope that we will be able to cooperate with you even in the near future within the framework of possible new projects in order to normalize the situation.

There is an area in which cooperation has been developing very successfully recently. This is the history of the Great Patriotic War. For both Finns and Russians, these studies have been very important for a long time. We wanted to understand each other, to understand why everything happened in the past. We have very successful plans with Petrozavodsk University, we studied, for example, the Finnish occupation in Karelia. We also cooperated very successfully with St. Petersburg State University, we studied the participation of Finns in the siege of Leningrad. Therefore, I would very much like to develop this area with your scientists in the North, we are ready for this. I think it is very important now to develop relations between historians and especially young historians – students and postgraduates who will come after us. It is very important that they also have an interest in the development of our relations in the field of historiography. We have serious projects in this area, so it and other areas need to be developed.

There is a fairly high probability that Finland will never be a member of NATO, despite its application. Finland asked 30 countries about joining NATO, but forgot to ask its people. No one asked the Finns anything, there was no referendum. Finns traditionally do not support NATO, so our government decided not to ask the opinion of its nation. Now Turkey and Hungary are very much slowing down the process of Finland's accession to NATO, so there is a possibility that in 5–10 years Finland still won't be a member of NATO.

COMPLEX EXPEDITION OF THE NORTHERN FLEET, RGS AND 12TH CHIEF DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO NOVAYA ZEMLYA IN JULY–AUGUST 2022: ROUTES AND WINTERING SITES OF THE PIONEERING EXPLORERS, HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF THE POMOR CAMPS

Sergey Zinchenko

Captain 2nd rank, Head of the Northern Fleet Headquarters Department, member of the RGS

Complex Expedition of the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Russian Geographical Society to the Yuzhny Island of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago was carried out within the framework of the project «The Main Facade of Russia. History, Events, People» and is dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the expedition of one of the founders of the Russian Geographical Society, the Russian navigator and explorer Fyodor Litke.

In accordance with the approved plan of the expedition, 7 research areas were identified on the coast of the Yuzhny Island of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago. The route length was more than 1,400 nautical miles. 25 specialists of various profiles took part in the expedition, research groups made 22 landings on the coast for scientific research. The main phase of the expedition started on July 27, 2022. On the icebreaker Ilya Muromets, the joint expeditionary force left Murmansk for the Barents Sea and headed for the shores of Novaya Zemlya.

The infographic is set against a green background. On the left, there is a photograph of the icebreaker 'Ilya Muromets' on the water. In the center, there is a list of statistics: '7' for research areas, '22' for landings, and expedition dates from July 27 to August 10, 2022. On the right, there is a map of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago with 'Yuzhny Island' highlighted. At the bottom right, there is a photograph of the expedition team on the deck of the ship.

Районов исследований: **7**

Количество высадок: **22**

Сроки экспедиции: 27 июля – 10 августа 2022 г.

Численность отряда: 25 специалистов

Экспедиционное судно: ледокол «Илья Муромец»

Протяженность маршрута: более 1400 морских миль

арх. Новая Земля

о. Южный.

ЛЕДОКОЛ «ИЛЬЯ МУРОМЕЦ»

ОТПРАВКА ЭКСПЕДИЦИОННОГО ОТРЯДА

General information about the expedition

The objectives of archaeological research during the expedition were to monitor well-known archaeological and historical sites (including cultural heritage sites) on the territory and in the waters of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago.

The bulk of the work was concentrated around the coast of the Yuzhny Island of the archipelago, partially touching the southeastern and southern coasts of the North Island.

In the course of the 2022 research, a thorough inspection of the objects was carried out, the current state of the monuments was photographed, topographic plans were taken, GPS linking was carried out, the boundaries of the monuments were determined. Also, in the course of the work, previously unknown objects were identified – the Obmany Shar camp and unknown buildings within the previously known monuments (Cape Drovyanoy).

Based on the results of the work, it is planned to prepare documentation to clarify information about objects in the monument protection authorities of the Arkhangelsk region.

During the landings, the expedition participants searched for historical artifacts related to the history of Arctic exploration. They found more than 30 historical artifacts, household items, fragments of traditional fishing vessels.

In Kamenka Bay, not far from the place of Pakhtusov's wintering, a perfectly preserved wooden wheel from a cannon machine used at the turn of the XVIII–XIX centuries was found near the shoreline, and on Krasheninnikov Peninsula, it was possible to find the base of a cross laid in a pile of stones, made by Avgust Tsvolko in the course of an expedition to explore the eastern coast of Novaya Zemlya in 1838.



The main results of archaeological research

All the found artifacts were transferred to the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society for further analysis and distribution to museums.

Together with military scientists of the Institute of Physics of the Earth of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a number of geological and geophysical studies were carried out for the first time.

According to the results of the geomorphological analysis of the area, traces of ancient seismic events with an intensity of 8–10 points were found and recorded. This means that in the future, repeated strong earthquakes are possible in the region, and therefore it is necessary to adjust building codes to increase the seismic resistance of objects being built on Novaya Zemlya. Aerial photography of the area was also carried out for the subsequent construction of orthophotoplanes and high-precision digital terrain models for more detailed analysis.

Microseismic sounding was carried out in the area of Valkov and Strogonov Bays and Menshikov Cape. The results of processing these unique geophysical data will allow us to qualitatively determine the deep structure of the proposed seismic faults and unambiguously confirm their seismogenic nature.

Within the framework of biological research, specialists of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute conducted observations of the avifauna and marine mammals of the open part of the Barents Sea.

At the landing sites on the Yuzhny Island of Novaya Zemlya the specialists conducted observations of birds and mammals. 41 species of birds and mammals (2,220 individuals) were spotted, including species listed in the Red Books of different levels: the long-tailed duck, the tundra swan, the ivory gull, the beluga whale, the polar bear. The mute swan was spotted outside the range.

Specialists collected 45 samples of moss, soil, fungi, plants to study the content of natural and artificial radionuclides. Based on the results of the sample analysis, the levels of the terrestrial ecosystem and the migration of radionuclides in the coastal Arctic tundra will be studied.

During the expedition, oceanographic studies were carried out by specialists of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences together with military personnel.

The purpose of the work was to collect data necessary for the analysis and forecast of natural processes and anthropogenic impacts occurring in the coastal areas of the Kara and Barents Seas.

As part of the work of the hydrographic service of the fleet, the following studies were carried out:

- route measurement (depth survey along the route of the vessel to adjust navigation charts);
- instrumental assessment of the bottom relief in order to search for sunken objects in the Obmanny Shar Bay;

- survey and inspection of geodetic points in order to assess their technical condition along the entire length of the route;

- inspection of lighthouses and directional signs;

- study of the hydrological regime in the archipelago area (collection of statistical data on the main characteristics of water for making adjustments to the order of operation of various hydroacoustic systems, etc.).

The purpose of the research is to obtain modern cartographic material for correcting existing and publishing new navigational charts, manuals for navigation in the interests of ensuring the safety of general navigation, solving other special and scientific tasks.

In addition to search and scientific research, several planned memorial events were carried out during the Complex Expedition to the Novaya Zemlya archipelago:

- together with the military, the expeditionary group took part in the opening of the monument in the village of Belushya Bay on the grave of the sailors of a minesweeper, who in 1943, saving the escorted transport, performed a feat and covered the transport from a torpedo from a German submarine with the side of their own ship;

- in the village of Lagerny in the Matochkin Shar, the expedition detachment laid wreaths and honored the memory of five Red Army soldiers at their burial.

During the expedition, it was possible to conduct a wide range of studies in various directions, to obtain unique scientific data, to assess the condition of the historical monuments of the archipelago.

The tasks assigned to the Complex Expedition to the archipelago have been completed successfully.

COMPLEX EXPEDITION OF THE NORTHERN FLEET, RGS AND 12TH CHIEF DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO NOVAYA ZEMLYA IN JULY–AUGUST 2022: THE RESULTS OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

Denis Moiseev

*Chairman of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, Deputy Director
for science of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences*

I would like to talk about ecosystem studies both at sea and on land, which Murmansk Marine Biological Institute specializes at and which were carried out during the Complex Expedition.

The icebreaker Ilya Muromets is a new vessel built in 2017 and it is very well equipped. The question was whether we would be able to do marine submersible work in order to take samples of water and bottom sediment, lower various devices into the water. We left Murmansk,

reached Belushya Bay, went around Yuzhny with a stop on the Severny Island, then returned to Belushya Bay and returned by military transport aircraft to Severomorsk and further to Murmansk.



Expedition route on the icebreaker Ilya Muromets, July 27 – August 10, 2022

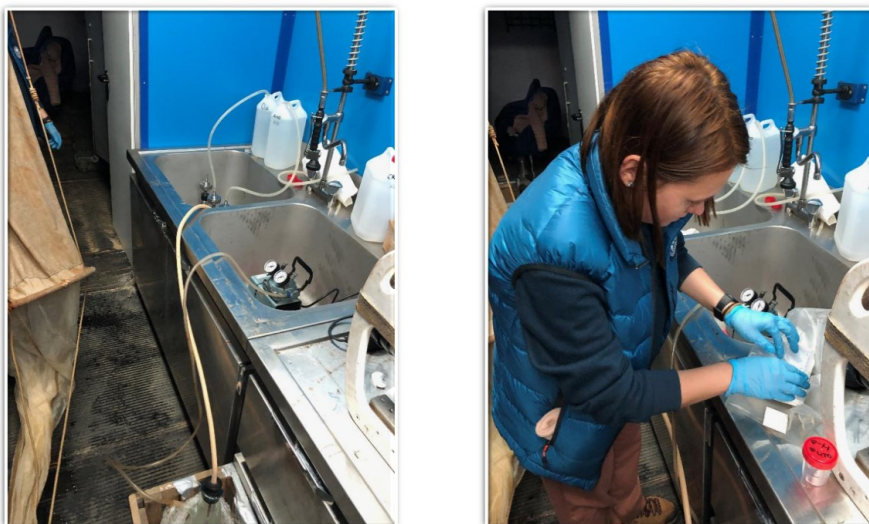
The participants of the expedition represented scientific institutes and the Ministry of Defense. There were 3 people representing the MMBI. We were able to perform almost all types of work in order to explore various components of marine ecosystems:

1. Определение термохалинных параметров водной среды;
2. Отбор проб воды для определения фотосинтетических пигментов, бактерио-, фито- и зоопланктона;
3. Отбор проб для определения характеристик бентосных сообществ;
4. Отбор проб воды, донного осадка, морской и наземной биоты для определения концентраций естественных и искусственных радионуклидов;
5. Проведение орнитологических и териологических наблюдений по маршруту движения судна и на высадках;
6. Отбор проб (колонок) на гранулометрический состав;
7. Почвенно-зоологические исследования.



Types of marine work

We worked together with hydrographers on the deck of the icebreaker. We found a spot where to work and a winch. The hydrographic container served as our laboratory for sample processing. The deck was located quite high, but, nevertheless, it did not interfere with work. We installed a chlorophyll filtration unit inside the container. We took the bottom soil, washed it through a special sieve and what was left was preserved with formalin. We came across various crabs, sea worms, various types of fouling, bivalve mollusks. During the expedition, the western and eastern parts of the Yuzhny island of Novaya Zemlya were examined from the sides of the Barents and Kara Seas, as well as the Matochkin Shar. A total of 30 samples were taken from 10 stations.



Filtration unit for the preparation of samples for chlorophyll

In the course of zoological studies, 42 species of birds and mammals were spotted, including species listed in the Red Books of different levels: the long-tailed duck, the tundra swan, the ivory gull, the beluga whale, the polar bear (13 individuals). Observations were made, a lot of photos were collected.

Terrestrial radioecological research:

- radioactivity was measured: readings varied within 0.01–0.03 mR/h;
- 54 samples were collected for the determination of natural and artificial radionuclides: ^{40}K , ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr , including soil, mushrooms, moss, higher plants (rose root, polar willow, saxifrage), excrement of geese and reindeer;
- the levels of contamination of elements of the terrestrial ecosystem and the migration of radionuclides in the Arctic coastal tundra will be studied.

Soil and zoological research:

- 38 soil-plant samples were collected to study the species composition of soil animals (testate amoebae, soil worms (enchytraeus), microarthropods (moss mites, springtails);
- this will open up new species of invertebrates of Novaya Zemlya, expand knowledge about the biodiversity of the archipelago and the high-latitude Arctic as a whole;
- The study will be carried out jointly with A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution and Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The main results of the expedition:

- the participants of the expedition paid military honors to the Red Navy men in the village of Belusha Bay and laid a wreath at the military burial near the village of Lagerny;
- studies of the camps of Pomors, Litke, Valkov, Pakhtusov and Rakhmanov were carried out;
- an assessment of seismic activity has been made, signs of major earthquakes have been detected;

- 13 polar bears have been spotted;
- comprehensive studies of coastal ecosystems of the Barents and Kara Seas (thermohaline characteristics, plankton, bottom organisms, algae, seabirds and mammals, radioecology, granulometry) were carried out;
- underwater exploratory research was carried out;
- unique photo and video materials (natural and historical objects) were collected.

**THE RESULTS OF THE COMPLEX EXPEDITION OF THE NORTHERN FLEET, RGS
AND 12TH CHIEF DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION TO NOVAYA ZEMLYA IN JULY–AUGUST 2022**

Sergey Goncharov

Member of the Council of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society

I would like to summarize the reports and draw attention to some points. I think people who have dealt with such a format of research will confirm that this is one of the most complex organizational forms. The organization of scientific research keeps everyone busy – both those who are in charge of the transport and those who work, and those who prepare the expedition. It not only gives good results, but also creates a lot of problems and issues related to responsibility. In this regard, I would like to express my great gratitude to the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and its various departments, scientific institutes and organizations, as well as our leader, commander and chief Sergey Shoigu. As far as we know, he personally supported this expedition.

The expedition was being prepared for two years, deadlines were constantly postponed, we wasted a lot of nerves. In addition, an expedition is always a risk, encounters with polar bears, landings, loading on watercraft and delivering people. These are all high-risk events, since people have different training, researchers are usually not so well-trained, so security issues are very important. We kept in mind that Georgy Sedov and Vladimir Rusanov made an outstanding contribution to the development of science, but still died on the Arctic islands. We didn't want that for ourselves.

The expedition ended, we collected a lot of material. One of the objects found – a walrus skull – is already actively involved in our educational work, mainly with children. It is important to be able to actually touch the Arctic nature, not just to listen to stories.

Various types of detailed reports on the expedition are currently being prepared.

Historically, it is very important for us to examine the Pomor settlements. It is important to remind people that these desolate spaces have been inhabited by Pomors from time immemorial, that they made their living there. We found a seven-meter, perfectly preserved keel of a fishing vessel, made according to Pomor technology from solid pine. This is a spare keel, which most likely was brought from the mainland and was kept in the camp. This suggests that at least by the end of the XIX century, when other countries did not even think about doing something like this, this activity was very well established among the Pomors. Other countries only sent expeditions there, and our people managed to live there, they extracted valuable resources, made a profit from it, fed their families, created jobs. It is very important.

I would like to mention our other project – the Complex Expedition of the RGS and the Northern Fleet «Remember the War», aimed at the search for sunken ships. Significant results were achieved during this expedition.

In the entire history of the world, no one was ever willing to die for the Arctic and its beauty except for our people and the fascist invaders, who failed during their offensive. It is very important

to remember that this land was not only inhabited from time immemorial by our ancestors, primarily Pomors, but also was thoroughly soaked with the blood of our warriors.

I wish good luck to everyone who wants to explore the Arctic and Russia in general. One of the mottos of the Russian Geographical Society is «Rediscovering Russia». And we often say that loving your country is first of all knowing it. You don't have to go to the distant Arctic to do some good, we also have a huge number of plans for the Murmansk region, there are lots of things to explore and discover.

THE REGIONAL PROJECT 'SEARCH TEAMS: ON GUARD OF MEMORY' AIMED AT PRESERVING THE MEMORY ABOUT THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR AND PROMOTING PATRIOTISM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS TEACHING THEM ABOUT SIGNIFICANT DATES OF OUR HISTORY AND STUDYING RUSSIAN MILITARY HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

Eduard Mironov

Head of the Department for Perpetuation of Memory and Memorial work of the Regional Center for Patriotic Education and Pre-conscription Training of Youth of the Murmansk region, commander of the search team Vaenga

The war is not over until the last soldier is buried
Alexander Suvorov

The State Regional budgetary institution of youth policy Regional Center for Patriotic Education and Pre-conscription Training of Youth was established on March 4, 1998. One of the most important areas of the our work is the development of the youth search movement, whose main task is to preserve a connection with the past, not to let the memory of the Great Patriotic War and its heroes disappear.

Treating every human fate with care during the excavations and research allows young people to realize the priceless, uniqueness of each life, their involvement in everything that happens around. Touching the traces of war through active activity helps young people to gain responsibility, respect for the life and dignity of a person, their good name and memory of them.

In the battles against the Nazi invaders for the Soviet Arctic in 1941–1944, more than 100 thousand soldiers were killed in the Murmansk and Kandalaksha directions.

Fierce battles with the enemy took place mainly for rocky heights, where it was impossible to dig up real graves, so soldiers who fell in battles were buried in trenches, in rifle cells, lightly sprinkled with soil, or left on the surface of the earth, laid with stones and peat. These symbolic burials on the battlefield did not stand the test of time and after a few years the battle areas turned white with the remains of fallen heroes.

The search movement in the Murmansk region was born in 1959. Young people who called themselves search teams went to the hills. These were the first search teams in our region. Lev Zhurin became the founder of the search movement in Murmansk. He was supported by David Tolchinsky. Later, in 1998 Lev Zhurin became the first specialist in youth work in the newly created Center for Civic and Patriotic Education of Youth.

From 1980 to 2021, the search teams of the Murmansk region found and buried: in the Murmansk direction – more than 15 thousand defenders of the Soviet Arctic, 407 of them were identified by the names. In the Kandalaksha direction – more than 1,353, 85 of them were identified by the names. In total, the names of 10 thousand people have been immortalized.

Now there are 21 search teams in the Murmansk region. These are voluntary associations. They include different people for whom the idea of perpetuating the memory of the fallen soldiers is

not an empty phrase. They live as their heart tells them. You can't just live peacefully when you know that unburied soldiers are still lying in the polar hills. So search teams go to the battlefields every year to bring back the names of the fallen and forgotten from oblivion... But most of them are elderly people, young people are rare.

The field search season in the Murmansk region is short, from June to October, but even during the short search season, specialists of the Regional Center for Patriotic Education and Pre-conscription Training of Youth together with search associations that are part of the Murmansk regional public Organization «Coordinating Council of Search Teams of the Murmansk Region for the Search and Burial of Soldiers of the Red Army who Fell in the Great Patriotic War» («DOLG») conduct military-patriotic expeditions, within the framework of which the condition of burials, graves, obelisks is checked, the lists of the buried are being clarified, the coordinates of the location of the graves are registered, photographing of the graves, cleaning of the graves from vegetation, garbage, work on the external improvement of graves, monuments are being carried out.

On the territory of the Murmansk region, both projects of the all-Russian public movement «Search Movement of Russia» are being implemented (such as «The Road to the Obelisk», «The Fate of a Soldier», «Memory Watch», «Learn to Remember», «Day of the Unknown Soldier»), and regional projects (such as «Search Teams: on Guard of Memory», «Memory Entrusted to Us»), which are aimed at studying the activities of the Search Movement of Russia by the youth of the Murmansk region.

During the implementation of the project «Search teams: on Guard of Memory» from 2021 to 2022, cultural events and interactive exhibitions of the finds of search teams were organized in educational organizations of the cities of Murmansk, Olenegorsk, Severomorsk and Vidyaevo. In 2021, three thematic events were held in the cities of Murmansk and Kandalaksha. In 2022, a similar educational event was held in the Murmansk Gymnasium № 6. In the Severomorsk city, a school search team was created on the basis of the Severomorsk search team Vaenga.

As part of the further implementation of the project, it is planned to hold similar events on the territory of the Kandalaksha and Pechenga municipal districts with the involvement of members of the search teams «Verman», «Poisk», «Omega», «Nickel».

In addition to lectures and meetings in the educational organizations, permanent exhibitions and expositions dedicated to defense of the Soviet Arctic during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945 have been opened by representatives of search teams of the Murmansk region; rooms of military Glory are being restored.

As part of the implementation of the projects «Memory in Granite», «Carnation on the Rocks», military monuments and burials of the Murmansk region are being renovated, memorial expeditions, environmental clean-ups are being carried out, military graves are being improved, signs and information boards are being installed, memorial events, commemorative actions are being held, relatives of the victims are accompanied with the participation of representatives of search, historical, military-patriotic, civic-patriotic clubs and associations, Young Army detachments, tourist and other organized children's and youth clubs, associations and organizations of the Murmansk region.

Since 2021, the opening of the «Memory Watch» is held on the second Saturday of June, on the Day of the Search teams of the Murmansk region. This date was approved by the law of the Murmansk Region in June 2021, as a memorable date of the Murmansk region. The end of the regional action is a solemn ceremony of burial of the remains of Soviet soldiers found during search expeditions in the summer at the memorial complex «Valley of Glory» (Kola district).

PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF RUSSIA AND THE NEAREST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Ivan Bogdanov

Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Docent of the Department of General Humanitarian and Natural Sciences of the North-Western Institute of the Moscow University of Humanities and Economics, member of the Severomorsk search party Vaenga

The problems of national security of our state and its citizens are becoming more urgent and significant every day. Of course, this phenomenon is objective, since the country is going through a difficult path of radical transformations in the state, political, economic, legal, social, cultural and other spheres of society, which directly, although in different ways, have their impact on the security of Russia in general and its citizens in particular.

The purpose of the study is to clarify the attitudes of residents of Scandinavia and the closest European countries to patriotic education, to clarify the features of patriotic education that prevail in these countries. At the same time, another purpose of the study is to clarify the attitude of the inhabitants of Europe and Scandinavia to the Russians and to Russia as a whole.

In modern Russia, the need for systematic measures of comprehensive education of worthy citizens of the country, patriots of their homeland, is very acute.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the system of ideological education of citizens ceased to exist and the resulting void began to be quickly filled, on the one hand, by a broad stream of Western «moral values» cultivating the basest human feelings: all-permissiveness, the overthrow of high morality and respect, extolling violence, cruelty, drug addiction and much more. On the other hand, our homegrown «specialists» kept pace too, indiscriminately destroying everything that was done and accumulated in the Soviet years, distorting historical facts, perverting the traditional Russian high morality and spirituality, patriotic feelings of the people.

Of course, those who value Russia, its uniqueness, centuries-old moral traditions, integrity and security could not put up with this destructive rampage in the moral life of the country. Therefore, by the mid-90s of the last century, the question of reviving the moral and patriotic education of our citizens for the benefit of a renewed Russia began to be raised (Gorshkova, 2020). And this is no accident. It is well known that the idea of patriotism occupies one of the key places in the history of Russia. According to historical facts, the role and significance of patriotism acquire a special role at the sharp turns of history, when objective trends in the transformation of society are accompanied by an increase in the physical and spiritual strength of its citizens, which is especially characteristic during periods of wars, invasions, social conflicts, revolutionary upheavals, natural and other disasters. The manifestation of patriotism in such periods is marked by high noble impulses, special sacrifice and the will of the people, their civic duty, their Homeland (Bondarenko, 2009).

Patriotism in Russia has always been regarded as a symbol of courage, valor and heroism, the strength of the Russian people, a necessary condition for the unity of the greatness and power of the Russian state.

Let's consider the patriotic education in Scandinavia and the nearest European countries.

The inhabitants of **Finland** seem to be a very patriotic nation. From our point of view, this is a people with a heightened sense of self-esteem and pride in everything that is Finnish. Meanwhile, it turned out that Finland is not among the top ten patriotic countries in the world! Such research is regularly conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) of the University of Chicago. The questions are centered around the following: how proud respondents are of living in their own country and whether they consider their people better or worse than other nations. Moreover, the Finns are not even among the top ten patriotic countries in Europe (the results of research by the British, the newspaper Daily Mail, 2010).

The issue of positive and negative patriotism has been intensively discussed in the Finnish press for several years. Finns accuse themselves of «bad» patriotism, that society has noticeably gone too far, and pride in their nation turns into open disregard for all other peoples.

The absolute majority of respondents, no matter where they are, and no matter what they say about patriotism, consider the preservation of Finnish traditions, love of the language and pride in their people to be the most important thing for themselves.

The Finnish understanding of patriotism – the preservation of ancestral traditions, respect for the laws of the country and the desire to make their land even better – differs significantly from our understanding familiar: a patriot is first of all a person who is ready to sacrifice and perform feats in the name of the interests of his homeland.

For Finns, defending their homeland and giving their lives for it is simply the duty of a Finnish citizen. The topic of protecting the Fatherland, the topic of war, is difficult to ignore when talking about patriotism. Finns defined their attitude to the past as follows: «A traumatic experience, the depth of which is difficult to explain to a foreigner».

The «youngest» veterans are now more than 90 years old, but Finns are still experiencing disunity when it comes to the topic of war. After all, although they fought in alliance with Hitler, they never wanted to conquer foreign lands, the ideology of fascism is alien to the Finnish mentality, as well as the idea of war in general.

When Soviet monuments were being actively demolished in neighboring countries, the Finns continued to take care of the graves of their heroes and their enemies alike, hospitably accepting the overthrown statues of foreign idols on their land.

The Finnish collection of monuments to Vladimir Lenin was especially replenished at that time. Finns do not hide the past, do not tear pages out of history, do not rewrite commemorative plaques, do not rename streets. Not only victories, but also defeats are the best lessons for future generations.

Finnish patriotism is akin to a small clean spring, with its soft murmur, a thin but endless trickle filling the rocky frozen land with well-being. And perhaps the most amazing drop in this patriotic spring is the well-groomed Memorial in Hanko, erected to Soviet soldiers who heroically fell during the Great Patriotic War. At this granite stele, ideology dissolves among the age-old pines, politics fades, the boundaries of enmity are erased (Electronic ..., 2018).

People living in **Sweden** are convinced patriots, but it is difficult to imagine a Swede who would climb the barricades with a blue-yellow flag in his hands. Swedish hockey players do not know the words of their own anthem, and they have to soundlessly open their mouths to the music when the team wins the championship. Swedes are the first to admit with pleasure that he lives in «the most boring country in the world with a very bad climate and terribly high taxes». Swedes celebrate Christmas in Thailand to skip traditional family feasts. Speaking about their homeland, Swedes usually shyly lower their eyes and begin to apologize for the fact that their country is so small and so northern that there is nothing to show to an experienced tourist, and the prices are so high and it's so hard to live nowadays. But the first impression can be deceptive. And while the Swedes allow themselves to speak condescendingly about their country, it is strictly forbidden for tourists.

In general, talking about the country of residence and especially about patriotic feelings is a very difficult topic to discuss, and the Swedes are reluctant to talk about it.

The Swedes prefer to keep patriotic feelings to themselves, maybe they are a little shy of them and do not invite anyone to the corner of the soul where these feelings are stored. At the same time, the Swedes sincerely pity those who, by some strange unfair chance, did not happen to live in Sweden (Electronic ..., 2022).

The level of food prices in **Norway** is very high, but at the same time the salaries are also high. For example, a doctor earns more than \$10,000. With such incomes, in Norway patriotic feelings are not treated with disdain. Such a passion for the motherland can not be found anywhere else.

Flags and Vikings are everywhere. Even young people with dyed hair like to dress up as Vikings and fence with swords, depicting scenes from their history. The thing is that the Norwegians have been under the rule of Denmark and then Sweden for many centuries. Having gained independence at the beginning of the XX century, they became extremely proud of it. And yet, at first, a small country, whose territory is mostly mountains, was rather poor. Norwegians lived without a developed industry, fished, raised sheep and deer. And then, in the 1960s, they miraculously got rich – mainly due to the fact that oil and gas were found in coastal waters. Norwegians learned how to extract it and began to build super-technological oil platforms.

In Norway, money was disposed of humanely (this is also a matter of pride) – they began to develop pension funds and other social security measures and take care of the environment. The country has preserved its «wild» nature and at the same time «tamed» it. Mountains, forests, fjords are neatly stitched with tourist roads. It is clear that the Norwegians did not work for foreign tourists – they worked for themselves. Some people think that Norwegians are weirdos. They only have skis and boats on their minds. And there is no greater happiness for them than to get into some remote cabin and enjoy the nature. A Norwegian has 8 pairs of skis in their family. The math is simple: mom, dad and two children (everything is fine with the birth rate, two children in the family is the norm), and everyone needs both alpine and regular skis.

In winter, only around Oslo, 2 thousand kilometers of ski trails are laid. And in summer, a Norwegian can leave the house with a backpack and go all the way to the north, to the famous Nordkapp, spending the night in special cabins or tents and never getting into an industrial zone. But, of course, most people prefer a car or a yacht. Highways are good everywhere. Camps and hotels are everywhere – both simple and comfortable, but always settled naturally into the landscape, and wooden. This passion for wood is universal. Every Norwegian dreams of living in his own wooden house. And almost everyone's dream comes true (Electronic ..., 2015).

France also has its own peculiarities of understanding patriotism. The typical concern of the French is about the purity of their language, so that it is not distorted or corrupted. Equally common for them is the widespread belief that the expansion of France has an educational mission and at the same time has improved France's position in the international arena. There is also a law that was put forward by the Minister of Culture Jacques Toubon in 1994. This law not only consolidated state regulations (on the protection of the French language in the labeling of goods and in public record keeping), but also provided for the protection of the language in other cases, in particular on radio, television, etc. For example, at least 40% songs in pop music programs must be in French. In school textbooks, the words Homeland, patriotism, patriots are not used at all. They love not the motherland, but the French language and the French Republic. And even when it comes to protecting the Motherland, the French talk about protecting the Republic (Electronic ..., 2015).

As for **Germany**, it is not so easy for Germans to talk about patriotism even seventy-seven years after the end of the Great Patriotic War. In no other country in the world do people begin to stammer and stutter so actively when performing the national anthem. And there is probably no other country where the national anthem is played as rarely as in Germany.

National pride in Germany after the Second World War was replaced by other concepts: at first, the post-war generation was inspired by the idea of a united Europe. Then there was talk of «constitutional patriotism» in intellectual circles. This concept was introduced by the German philosopher Jürgen Habermas. Simply put, he suggested that the Germans should be proud of the Basic Law of the country.

Children are not taught patriotism and pride for their country in Germany at all. It is believed that they have it or they do not, they do not need to be forcibly taught it. Germans do not claim that they are the most best, but they do not hide their pride in their state when foreigners enthusiastically speak about the vaunted German qualities – discipline, order and accuracy. The understanding of patriotism and love for the motherland here is associated with the desire to improve Germany in all

respects. The restraint of the Germans in regard to boundless patriotism and «patriotic education» is explained, among other things, of course, by German history. The phrase «I am proud to be a German» was the main slogan during the time of National Socialism, which caused one of the most horrific disasters on our planet. The Germans have experienced for themselves what «exaggerated patriotism» can lead to. Therefore, the projection of patriotism based on one's own exclusivity and the exaltation of the entire state is considered reprehensible in Germany. In state and educational institutions, or, for example, the police and the prosecutor's office of Germany, you will not find portraits of the chancellor and the president. In schools there are no thematic lessons, they don't sing the national anthem before the start of the school day, in universities there are no lectures about the glory and greatness of the motherland, and at the state level there are no demonstrations with the anthem and national flags.

Of course, there is also regional patriotism in Germany. However, it is more of an ethnographic nature. For example, the Bavarians on holidays proudly walk in their leather pants and blow hunting horns, the Cologne people love their carnival infinitely, and the Berliners enjoy their dry Prussian humor. However, most of the time this patriotism is pretty much the same. It's quiet, unspoken, aimed not at comparison with other regions or nations, but at a calm understanding of what your land or country has achieved, what it can be proud of, and simple satisfaction with it (Electronic ..., 2022).

England is perhaps the only country that has never aspired to be a part of Europe. Italians and Spaniards secretly dream of joining this glorious name, Eastern Europeans want the same thing noisily and aggressively, Germans pretend that they are Europe, but deep down they are not too sure about it, Scandinavians live in their own world, not counting on this honor. And only the British consistently refuse this privilege, separating themselves from the whole world in every possible way. There are Mediterranean countries, Central Europe, Scandinavia, Slavs, the Balkans. The English want to be on their own. And they succeed. They know that they are the greatest country. After all, even the Prime meridian passes through their territory.

For all their deep and sincere conviction of their own superiority, the British are deprived of any frank expression of their patriotism. It is impossible to imagine an Englishman repeating as a prayer «I am proud to be English», as their brothers do overseas, or even just whispering warm heartfelt words about their country, which are characteristic of their neighbors on the continent. Loud, noisy patriotism is most often characteristic of peoples with a complex of national inferiority and uncertainty about their place in the world. Those who are firmly convinced of their own superiority do not need it. On the contrary, self-irony, ridicule, healthy skepticism towards themselves completely kill the desire to look down on them from others.

It is known that the British do not like to show their feelings and emotions. English restraint has long been the subject of jokes. External violent manifestations of patriotism, according to the British, do not comply with the rules of good manners, which leads some to believe that they do not have this feeling at all. In the historical times, England was the center of a huge empire – being an outspoken patriot was equivalent to bragging about your own wealth or health or beauty. And the concept of «homeland» was very broad. Today, when the threat of being absorbed by the European Union, or American culture, or total globalization becomes a reality, patriotism ceases to be an empty sound. More and more people are talking about the need to revive the traditions of «good old England», to remember the former greatness and pride (Pavlovskaya, 2022).

Analyzing the statements of foreigners, we can conclude that there are no obvious Russophobic sentiments among the population, moreover, foreigners are quite calm about global geopolitical situation, everyone wants to live peacefully and happily. Yes, every country and its inhabitants are proud that they have some kind of sovereignty and are probably ready to defend it, but at the same time, as a rule, there is no aggressiveness.

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THE FATE OF SOVIET PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE KOLOSJOKI CAMP № 8 IN PETSAMO DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

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The article is devoted to the fate of prisoners of war in the Finnish Kolosjoki camp № 8 in Petsamo during the Great Patriotic War. The research is based on Finnish, Soviet/Russian archival sources and photographic documents. Some of the materials are being introduced for the first time. On this basis, an attempt has been made to systematize the information about the Kolosjoki prisoner of war camp № 8.

As it is known, nickel is a strategically important metal in military affairs (Autere, Liede, 1989). Without nickel additives, it is impossible to manufacture armor. As the Second World War continued, the demand for nickel for the military industry grew. Profitable copper-nickel ores were discovered in the Petsamo area in the first decades of the XX century and aroused growing international interest.

With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, Finland fought against the Soviet Union on the side of Germany. The leadership of Nazi Germany took advantage of the favorable situation and, by agreement with the Finnish government, began to mine the ore reserves of the Petsamo area.

For the extraction of copper-nickel ores, the labor of prisoners of war of the Red Army was mainly used.

Since the end of the summer of 1941 on the territory of the village of Kolosjoki, Finns, with the assistance of the Nazis, organized a labor camp for prisoners of war.

Several similar labor camps for prisoners of war were organized on the territory of Petsamo, which were also involved in various other related industrial facilities: road construction, quarries, construction of a hydroelectric power plant.

According to Finnish data, camp № 8 (in the military diary of the camp, the name is used – the lower camp of Kolosjoki № 8) was founded on August 6, 1941 in the vicinity of the pre-war nickel plant. The position of the head of the camp at various times was begonged to Finnish servicemen: Lieutenant A. Kari, Lieutenant Emil Thorvald Petersen, Lieutenant U.A. Halttunen, Lieutenant E. Tammivuori, Lieutenant K. Holm (Lars Westerlund Talvi-, jatko- ja Lapin sodan sotavanki- ja siviilileirit 1939–1944 Käsikirja, Helsinki, 2008).

Lieutenant A. Kari was appointed the first head of the camp from 07/6/1941 to 09/10/1941, in October he was transferred to the southwestern part of Finland (Turku-Pori), where a concentration camp for Soviet officers under his leadership was founded on September 8, 1941.

According to the specified coordinates, the Kolosjoki camp № 8 was located 900 m from the modern melting shop and 1200 m from the housing stock of the village of Nikel. Not far from this place there is also a cemetery with the graves of prisoners of war. To date, the names and surnames of 47 Red Army soldiers buried there have been established.



Kolosjoki POW Cemetery № 8

With a high degree of certainty, it can be argued that, unlike Camp № 1, located in Köyliö, and in which Soviet officers were kept, there were only privates in Camp № 8. This is evidenced by the lists of prisoners of war provided by the Finnish National Archive. The lists were delivered to Russia on the initiative of employees of the Finnish National Archive as part of the Finnish project «The fate of prisoners of war and internees in Finland 1939–1955» (<https://kronos.narc.fi/sfv2/sfv2.html>). The lists were handed over to the chairman of the charitable military-patriotic fund «Zastava of St. Ilya Muromets». Having received the information, the search team Omega went to the Pechengsky district and carried out memorial work on the territory of the cemetery. On July 24, 2014, the memorial cross and memorial tables with the names of Soviet prisoners of war who died in Kolosjoki camp № 8 were opened.

When analyzing the data of the Finnish National Archive, it was found that out of 47 prisoners of war, six people were shot, three of them were killed while trying to escape. The list also indicates the causes of death of the remaining prisoners of war. Among such causes are: acute heart failure, forced starvation, a complex fracture of the parietal part, carbon monoxide poisoning, paralysis, dropsy, pneumonia.

Turns out that 6 % of prisoners of war were shot and the vast majority – 63 % of prisoners of war died of exhaustion (starvation).

The book «The Fate of Prisoners of War – Soviet Prisoners of War in Finland in 1941–1944» explores the causes of high mortality in various Finnish POW camps.

Finnish researcher Mirkka Danielsbacka claims that the Finnish authorities did not aim at the extermination of prisoners of war, as happened, for example, in Nazi Germany, but, nevertheless, the physical exhaustion of prisoners of war at hard work and death as a result of clearly insufficient nutrition is the result of conscious actions of those responsible for the inhumane conditions in the camps. As Mirkka Danielsbacka writes in her book, no one in Finland denies the fact of high mortality among Soviet prisoners of war. There are ongoing discussions about whether this was a deliberate policy of the Finnish authorities.

Prisoners of war of the Kolosjoki camp № 8 worked at the nickel plant and their working conditions initially required a high-calorie daily ration. Meanwhile, their death due to starvation occurred no longer than a few months after their captivity. This clearly indicates unacceptable nutritional conditions that caused rapid depletion of the body. For example, an excerpt from a letter – the memories of an eyewitness of those tragic years: «Prisoners of war look weak. They were weak and emaciated, as they did not have enough food, so where could they gain strength from. In the middle of 1943, more than 100 people worked in the mine shaft...» (Matsak, 2005).

It means that some Finns showed compassion and tried to help Soviet prisoners of war, feed them. The prisoners of war really had a constant feeling of hunger, but sometimes there was the possibility of contacts with the local population. Communication with Russian prisoners of war took place, in particular, through the exchange of food for handmade handicrafts. The prisoners made primitive, but skillful crafts, which especially attracted schoolchildren. Children specially stored food at home to exchange it for toys. When information about the facts of such an exchange reached the leadership, an announcement was posted on a power pole that it was forbidden to bring food to prisoners (Matsak, 2005).

The situation was similar in other camps on the territory of Petsamo. For example, from the protocol of interrogation of Soviet prisoners of war 1942–1943: working day 16 hours, meals – coffee in the morning, lunch – potato or cabbage soup, dinner – coffee, bread 300 g per day. Tobacco is only for Ukrainians, 2 cigarettes a week. Bath 2 times a month, bed linen change – 1 time a month. The Finnish population treats prisoners of war with sympathy... There was a case of fishermen secretly giving fish to prisoners of war.

Finnish researcher Lars Westerlund claims that the prisoner of war camp was disbanded on 11/25/1944 (Lars Westerlund Talvi-, jatko- ja Lapin sodan sotavanki- ja siviilileirit 1939–1944 Käsikirja, Helsinki, 2008, p. 72).

Extracts from the military diary of prisoner of war camp № 8 testify:

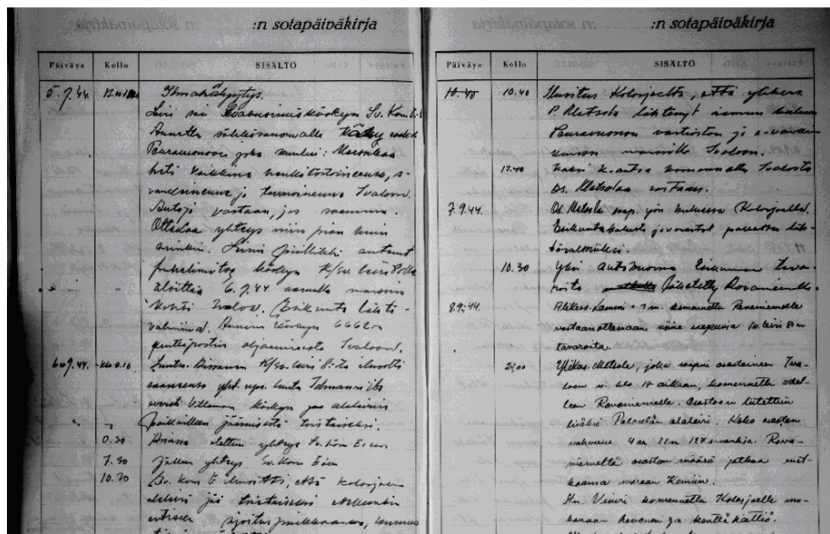
«... 4.09. the war between Finland and the USSR is over...

5.09. ... all prisoners in camp No. 8 stopped working...

5.09 ... start from 6.09 ... start moving to Ivalo in the morning...

6.09 0.10 the lieutenant from camp № 8 ordered to leave the lower camp... 00.30 connection was established... 10.40 announcement from the Kolosjoki camp... R.M. went to... and the prisoners to went to Ivalo...

7.09... 10.30 the truck with the headquarters property was sent to Rovaniemi...» (Sotapäiväkirja № 8 (6661) 9.4.44-11.22.44 p. 17).



Thus, the topic under consideration requires further detailed research, translation of Finnish sources into Russian, in order to restore a complete picture of the detention of Soviet prisoners of war in Kolosjoki camp № 8.

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PUBLIC WORK OF THE NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION "SHIELD"

Gennady Gurylev

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Our organization was founded in 2007, we have been working for the sixteen years. We have several areas of work, but the main ones are the preparation, search, processing and writing of

materials for books about the activities of partisans, including Norwegian partisans and Northern Fleet intelligence officers during the Great Patriotic War, as well as the activities of state security agencies before the war, during the war and partly after the war.

We were able to release six books and two albums that are used in education institutions, in particular in schools. We have 166 schools in the region. We provide an opportunity to get acquainted with the history of the Kola Peninsula, as well as about the Great Patriotic War and World War II.

The second direction is the restoration and perpetuation of the memory of the fallen intelligence officers of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, the Red Army, primarily the intelligence officers of the Northern Fleet, the Norwegian partisans in the northern part of Norway. To date, we made 22 trips there, restore three obelisks in the places of death. This work is supported by a part of the population of Northern Norway, we find support from the leaders, in particular the province of Finnmark, up to the participation of the governor in some of our events.

The third direction is the main one for us, it is very important for us. This is work in educational institutions of the Murmansk region under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. Since 2008–2009, we have started to provide documentary television films – primarily those related to the North. Together with TV-21, we produced six films, all of which won prizes at various festivals. Two films about our campaigns in Northern Norway took second place in the competition dedicated to the centenary of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.

These films are provided to schools. Schools began to accept these films for screenings in additional lessons, or to show individual episodes in history lessons dedicated to the Great Patriotic War. We began to expand the geography of films more and more – the battles of Moscow and Stalingrad, the Battle of Kursk, the Crimea, the capture of Berlin, Prague. We paid special attention to the Petsamo-Kirkenes operation.

We took as a basis a history textbook for the tenth grade, in which six paragraphs are devoted to the Great Patriotic War. Only six hours, but 158 questions on this topic. We understood that even the smartest adult would not answer everything, let alone the students. Therefore, we began to create thematic collections, and for the last 5 years we have been providing thematic collections to schools for use in elective classes or even in the educational process. Most of the thematic collections include lecture material, a documentary TV movie and articles related to this topic. And of course we provide opportunities to get acquainted with different books. The number of books on individual topics reaches 20–25. As a result of working with the book, the student can receive a certificate of participation in the project «Descendants remember».

A very important topic for us in these collections is the heroic stories of the Great Patriotic War. We have articles about pilots, tankmen, snipers, female warriors, child warriors, gunners, sappers. This allowed the students to get acquainted with specific stories. These articles were usually based on information about the Heroes of the Soviet Union. When a student, starting from the fifth grade, gets acquainted with such collections, they learn about the heroic deeds during the Great Patriotic War. This affects their understanding of life, makes them more patriotic. After the start of the special operation in Ukraine, we began to provide materials about heroic deeds in the events of the operation.

We provide students with the opportunity to learn about the activities of intelligence and counterintelligence during the Great Patriotic War. This topic is quite difficult, so we give it to high school students.

To date, since September 1, we have issued 350 such thematic collections, since February we plan to issue another 450 thematic collections. That is, two or three selections can get into each school.

Another very interesting educational activity in our opinion is conducting quizzes. We have collected about 40 different quizzes. There are quizzes from 10 to 60 questions based on what specific schools want. But the most valuable and most important thing is that we also provide gifts

for the first places. Unfortunately, we noticed a trend, the quality of answers to questions is not always high. This suggests that it is necessary to work in this direction and give children the opportunity to find out the correct answers at the end of any quiz. So the student will remember the correct information.

Observing the situation, I am extremely concerned, extremely interested in the continuation and development of our activities. Young people should have an understanding that they should live where they were born, protect the country that feeds them, and not the neighboring one where they pay more. If we do not solve this problem, we will not be able to ensure the security of our country. I have made comparisons several times in my speeches. 1812 – the whole of Europe went against to Russia. 1854–1856 – the whole of Europe, supporting or specifically participating, is trying to get a piece of land in the Crimea. WWI – it was us who stopped the Germans at Paris. I'm not even talking about the civil war, when we were under siege from all sides – both in the East and in the West, and here in the North too. And, of course, the Great Patriotic War showed that the whole of Europe provided a soldiers who fought against us. Today the whole West has turned against us, and we are withstanding the onslaught. But, as the show commentators often say, the victory will be ours.

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROIC MEMORY: ZAPADNAYA LITSA FRONTIER

Dmitry Novikov

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From June 1 to September 15, 2022, a complex expedition of the 12th Chief Directorate of the Ministry of Defense (12 GU MO) and the Russian Geographical Society "Zapadnaya Litsa Frontier" was conducted.

The expedition was a natural continuation of the previously carried out by military personnel search activities and perpetuating the memory of defenders who fell in the battles for their Homeland during the Great Patriotic War.

The participants of this expedition were assigned the following tasks: firstly, to carry out research within the framework of the military-historical work carried out by the 12 GU MO (the search for missing soldiers, their identification, burial and preservation of their memory); secondly, to neutralize (destroy) unexploded ordnance of the war; finally, to involve the personnel in the popularization of military-historical knowledge and traditions of the army and navy. The search teams included military personnel and civilian personnel of military units of the 12 GU MO.

The area adjacent to the banks of the Zapadnaya Litsa River, which flows in the north-west of the Kola Peninsula and into the Barents Sea, was chosen for this multitasking expedition. Here, from 1941 to 1944, was the line of defense of the Soviet troops defending the approaches to the city of Murmansk.

Let's define the historical context: after the unsuccessful offensive in the Kandalaksha direction in the summer of 1941, the German command of the Army Norway transferred the main blow to the Murmansk direction. In September 1941, the fighting resumed, the purpose of which was to encircle our troops in this area. Two main strikes were identified: the first – in the direction of the Chertov Pass, the second – in the area of the Bolshaya Zapadnaya Litsa Bay. Having taken our troops in a pincer, the Germans were to meet in the area of the Dikoe Lake, thereby completing the complete encirclement and destruction of units of the 14th army. But as a result of a counterattack on September 17, 1941, the 14th army, with part of its forces, defeated the 3rd Mountain Rifle Division, and threw its remnants behind the Zapadnaya Litsa River. As a result, the

German command stopped the offensive in the Murmansk direction, and switched to a positional war, which lasted until 1944. Events that changed the course of military operations in favor of the Soviet Army took place on this sector of the front, the fiercest battles were fought here.

Unfortunately, to this day, the territories of these positional battles have not been sufficiently studied. To determine the specific search areas, the expedition participants studied archival documents and maps, memoirs of witnesses of those events.

The enemy launched its third offensive against Murmansk on September 8, 1941. As the commander of the 52nd Rifle Division, Major General Georgy Veshchezersky recalls, «We expected the enemy's offensive, but we did not know when it would begin. I even reported to a member of the Military Council that it will still be quiet in the next few days.

And on September 8, at six o'clock in the morning, a dull rumble of mortar and artillery explosions was heard in the direction of the 112th Rifle Regiment. I called Korotkov to the phone. The commander of the Regiment assumed that the shelling was caused, apparently, by Radkevich's group, which was conducting a reconnaissance search on his site. I ordered him to contact the battalion commanders immediately.

The situation was clearing up slowly. Korotkov's connection with the battalions turned out to be broken, and for a long time he could not find out anything. As it almost always happened in battle, the first information came from the gunners. Kubeev reported that the enemy had opened heavy fire on the heights of Coastal and Priozerneya, on the hollow between them, as well as on the front edge of Khudalov's regiment. The artillery preparation lasted more than an hour. Then, hiding behind a thick fog, reinforced by a smoke screen, the enemy infantry moved. The attack on Priozerneya was repulsed, but the northern slope adjacent to the ravine was occupied by rangers. A part of the hollow itself was also occupied: machine-gun bursts, shots and hand grenade explosions are heard from there» (Veshchezersky, 1965). And as follows from the memoirs of Veshchezersky «During the whole of September 8, 1941, a melee was going on at the Priozerneya height... the left battalion, under strong pressure from the enemy, retreated to the eastern slopes of Priozerneya. The losses are great».

To search for artifacts of those battles, the expedition participants decided to send one of the search groups to the Priozerneya height, but first we had to identify this place, because there is no height with this name near the Western Face on modern maps. Only after several weeks of studying the maps stored in the archives, we were able to reliably determine the location of the Priozerneya height.

In June, as soon as the snow disappeared from the hills, the search group headed to the area of the Nerpichya Bay, near which the Priozerneya height is located.

The altitude study lasted several days. Using metal detectors and other search equipment, the servicemen examined Priozerneya height, starting from the very top and gradually descending to the foot of the hill. They found elements of weapons and equipment, belonging both to Soviet soldiers and Nazi soldiers.

On the third day of the search, almost at the very edge of the lake adjacent to the hill, a metal detector signaled the presence of a metal object at a shallow depth. It was a Soviet steel helmet of the 1936 model, lying in the ground at a depth of about 20 centimeters. A little deeper into the soil, the searchers found the remains of a Soviet soldier. He was wearing a greatcoat and boots. A gas mask, a pouch for ammunition and other elements of soldier's equipment lay next to him. On the same day, the remains of 4 more soldiers were found nearby.

During the next month, the members of the expedition, centimeter by centimeter, carefully scanned what was hidden in the ground. During this period, the remains of 28 Soviet soldiers who died on September 8, 1941 during the defense of the Arctic were found. All of them were part of the 112 infantry regiment of the 52nd Infantry Division.

Among the remains was a medallion with a note, according to which we identified it as belonging to the Red Army soldier Afanasy Kapotyia, a native of the village of Derazhechi in the Gomel region of the Byelorussian SSR. According to the name list of irretrievable losses, the Red Army soldier died on September 8, 1941.

A soldier's spoon with the name «Kirillov» scrawled on it was also found. Having studied the name lists of the regiment stored in the archive, we determined that there was only one soldier with such a surname in it – Mikhail Kirillov, a native of the village of Khom-Yandoby of the Chuvash ASSR, who was listed as missing.

The participants of the expedition contacted the relatives of the Red Army soldiers, whose names have been established. Interaction with military commissariats at the place of birth of the fighters was organized, their remains were transferred for burial at home. The remains of 26 other soldiers were buried with military honors on the territory of the Valley of Glory memorial complex in the Murmansk Region on October 9, 2022.

In the summer of 2023, a memorial sign will be installed on the site of the remains found.

As a result of searches in the area of the Baburinskaya height, fragments of equipment, weapons and household items were found. Also, ammunition for 80 mm mortars in the amount of 39 pieces was found in the ground at a depth of about one meter. The found ammunition was destroyed by detonation.

On August 25, during the survey of the German stronghold in the area of 1505 km of the federal highway R-21 on the shore of an unnamed lake, the expedition participants found small aluminum fragments. The head of the expedition decided to study the bottom of the lake with the help of divers. As a result, a Messerschmitt Bf/109E-7 aircraft with the factory number 6308 and the tail number «Yellow 15» was found at a depth of three meters.

The batch of Messerschmitt Bf-109 E-1 was released in the amount of 318 pcs. by the Fieseler Aircraft Company in the period from June 1939 to July 1940. In the list of losses, the aircraft with the factory number 6308 is listed as E-7, which means that after the release it was upgraded to the E-7 version.

After studying historical documents, we found that the plane was operated by a German pilot, Lieutenant Gerhard Weil, who fell into the lake on September 14, 1941 after being shelled from the ground by Soviet troops. The study of the nature of engine damage confirms this.

From foreign sources of information, we managed to find out that Gerhard Weil survived after landing on the surface of the lake. In 1943, he served in JG5 as commander of the 4th squadron of the 5th fighter squadron (4./JG5), and then was transferred to the same position in JG6. On 12/24/2014, he was shot down on an Me-109 and was wounded near the city of Liege Belgium, from which he died (Mombeek, 2003).

Historian Alexander Mardanov, referring to archival documents, writes: «On September 14, in the Murmansk direction, the Germans continued their offensive on the left and right flanks of the front, trying to cover our 14th and 52nd divisions, but by the end of the day the enemy was stopped. The first night combat sorties began to be carried out by seaplanes ICBM-2. From 02:05, four ICBM-2s bombed enemy troops in the Zapadnaya Litsa area. It was the first night bombing in the Arctic.

With the onset of the day, German aircraft began bombing in the area of the front line. At 07:40, several Me-110, Yu-87 and Me-109E of the 14th detachment rose from the Hebukten airfield. In the Luostari area, they were joined by the Me-109E of the 1st detachment based here. At 08:05, the whole group appeared in the area of the front line. According to the Northern Fleet, from 08:05 to 08:41, eighteen Yu-87 bombers struck our troops in the area of Zapadnaya Litsa. 6 I-16 and 5 I-153 headed by Captain Safonov were sent to intercept enemy bombers at 08:30» (Mardanov, 2015).

The head of the 12 GU MO, Lieutenant General Igor Kolesnikov, decided to carry out work on lifting the aircraft and moving it to the territory of one of the military units for primary restoration measures. 15 servicemen and special equipment were involved in lifting the aircraft.

The work was carried out in several stages. At first, the divers determined that there were no explosive objects. Then the elements of the tail section and fragments of the fuselage were manually lifted.

At the second stage, the divers attached an inflatable pontoon to the wings of the aircraft and filled it with air from cylinders. This made it possible to raise the fragment to a height of two and a half meters above the bottom surface. With the help of cables and a winch, the wings of the fighter were pulled up to the shore, where they pulled it ashore using a boom crane. Then the engine was lifted in the same sequence.

While the Messerschmitt was being prepared for transportation, divers with the help of metal detectors examined the muddy bottom in search of small-sized elements of the aircraft.

On the shore, twenty-millimeter MG-FF cannons with partially unspent ammunition were extracted from the wings of the aircraft. The shells were handed over to specialists for destruction. Specialists made models for the museum.

The command of the military unit consulted with the head of the Winged Memory of Victory Foundation Boris Osyatinsky and the head of the restoration workshop of the Zadorozhny Museum Yuri Kostkin. Based on the recommendations of these specialists, the conservation of all elements of the fuselage was carried out, and trained military personnel began primary restoration work.

Technical specialists of the military unit clean the Daimler Benz engine from traces of corrosion and silt deposits formed over the years in the water.

At the moment, the aircraft is in a heated box of the military unit's park and is being prepared for transfer to a specialized restoration workshop.

After the restoration is completed, the aircraft will be transferred to one of the country's museums by the decision of the Commission of the Ministry of Defense for the Identification and Preservation of Military-technical history and Fortifications.

For the historical and patriotic education of young people on the day of lifting the plane out of the water, we invited the Young Army of the Murmansk region. Multimedia equipment was installed in a tent on the shore of the lake. Members of the Russian Geographical Society and members of the expedition from among the military personnel of the 12 GU MO held a history lesson with the Young Army cadets and told about the battles in the Arctic.

The members of the expedition completed the tasks they faced in 2022. Next year, it is planned to hold a second, larger-scale season of the expedition with the involvement of a significant number of participants in its work.

During the expedition, we faced the problem of identifying geographical objects, such as, for example, one or another height or lake. Studying archival and modern maps, we saw that the part of the Arctic region where significant events for our country unfolded is mostly «nameless». After all, most lakes and heights are not given names, but only their characteristics and outlines are indicated. But in the books with the memoirs of the participants of those events, the names of the heights and lakes that were given to them by soldiers and officers who defended them at the cost of their lives are mentioned.

At the end of the expedition, at the general meeting, we decided to prepare proposals for the return or naming of geographical objects mentioned on working maps and in memoirs. In our opinion, this will contribute to the preservation of historical memory. We will continue the work on the cultural and historical development of the region.

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PREFACE TO THE FILM «THE ICE-FREE PORT OF HOPE»

Daria Khrenova

Film director

My report is rather a preface to the film «The Ice-Free Port of Hope», which will be shown at the conference. We have already organized screening in May in Severomorsk and Murmansk, and in mid-November we will show it at the Northern Character festival.

I would very much like to listen to some opinions, because for me it was an experimental film. The first time I was in the Murmansk region – first I came myself during the pandemic, then we were invited to the Northern Character film tour – I was completely struck by the special atmosphere of the Arctic, its nature, where every stone, every meter of moss breathes the memory of the war. To be honest, I have been almost all over Russia because of my work, but I have not seen anything like that – the way people try to preserve the history. I realized that it would be great to do some kind of cinematic research on how the war could take place here among this moss, rocks and in such harsh climate.

The plot of the story is based on the diaries of Admiral Arseniy Golovko. When I started working on the film, we had a meeting with his son Mikhail Golovko. It turned out that he was engaged in restoring his father's diaries. What was published in a book called «Together with the Fleet» is a very heavily edited version. Arseniy Golovko was very worried that the publication is very far from the original. Now his son is editing this diary, part of it has already been edited. He is incredibly happy that we began to work with this diary, to cooperate with him, because he was in decline, thinking that no one needed it. In fact, this is an insanely interesting diary, I was struck by this text, how humane it is, it is not just some reports about military operations, but a rather strong experience. For example, Arseniy Golovko writes quite critically, including about his mistakes. It was a discovery for me.

One part of the film plot is the Admiral's diary, but it's not really a chronicle, the action takes place in our time, so I think the film is quite experimental. The Northern Fleet helped a lot in the filming – they let us shoot in Severomorsk, Gadzhievo, Polyarny. I really liked Liinahamari, I'm doing a sequel, but in a completely different way – I'm filming a movie about the fate of the monument to submariners that collapsed there.

I would like to say that a lot of work has been done with captured German materials that have recently been declassified, they are also in the film. Perhaps it will be interesting to someone.

POSTSCRIPT

While this publication was being prepared, events occurred concerning the conduct of Russian scientific research in the area of the Spitsbergen archipelago.

ON THE PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE AREA OF THE SPITSBERGEN ARCHIPELAGO

Denis Moiseev

*Chairman of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, Deputy Director
for Science of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences*

The Norwegian authorities did not give MMBI RAS permission to carry out marine scientific research on the research vessel *Dalnie Zelentsy* in the territorial waters near the Spitsbergen archipelago in December 2022 – February 2023. Therefore, on December 29, 2022, a comment was published by the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova, in connection with the situation around Russian scientific research in the area of the Spitsbergen archipelago (source: https://mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/1846076/):

«Recently, the Norwegian authorities have made the working conditions of Russian organizations in the Spitsbergen archipelago and in its waters significantly more complicated. The measures introduced by the Norwegian side in violation of the principles and provisions of the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1920 already affect all the main areas on which the long-standing, fully compliant with international law Russian presence in the archipelago is based – coal mining, tourism, science.

Here is one of the latest examples. In December 2022, the Norwegian authorities imposed unlawful restrictions on the research work carried out by the Russian vessel *Dalnie Zelentsy*, owned by the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (MMBI RAS). In the area of the archipelago, Russian scientists planned to carry out comprehensive studies of marine ecosystems in accordance with the program officially registered in the Norwegian database Research in Svalbard and extended until the end of 2023.

In addition, the Russian vessel, despite having sent the relevant notification to the Norwegian side about its entry, was denied access to the Russian village of Barentsburg. The MMBI RAS biogeostation has been located in the village for more than 10 years. Its further work is now significantly hindered due to Norwegian discriminatory measures.

Considering that the MMBI studies conducted annually were previously successfully coordinated by the Norwegian side, we consider the restrictions introduced this year to be exclusively politically motivated. Regular statements by Norwegian officials and military experts indicate that Oslo preferred to succumb to anti-Russian hysteria to the detriment of fulfilling its international legal obligations.

One of the most important provisions of the Spitsbergen Treaty is ignored – the right of equally free access of citizens of its member states to the archipelago for any purpose and task. We remind you that it is under these conditions that Norway's sovereignty over the archipelago is recognized by the countries participating in the Treaty, including the Russian Federation.

Such a discriminatory approach is categorically unacceptable. The Russian position with the appropriate arguments has been repeatedly brought to the Norwegian side through official channels.

We will continue to defend the legitimate interests of the Russian presence in the Spitsbergen archipelago, to ensure respect for the rights of Russian organizations, including representatives of science, their unhindered access to Spitsbergen to conduct legitimate activities according to the 1920 Treaty».

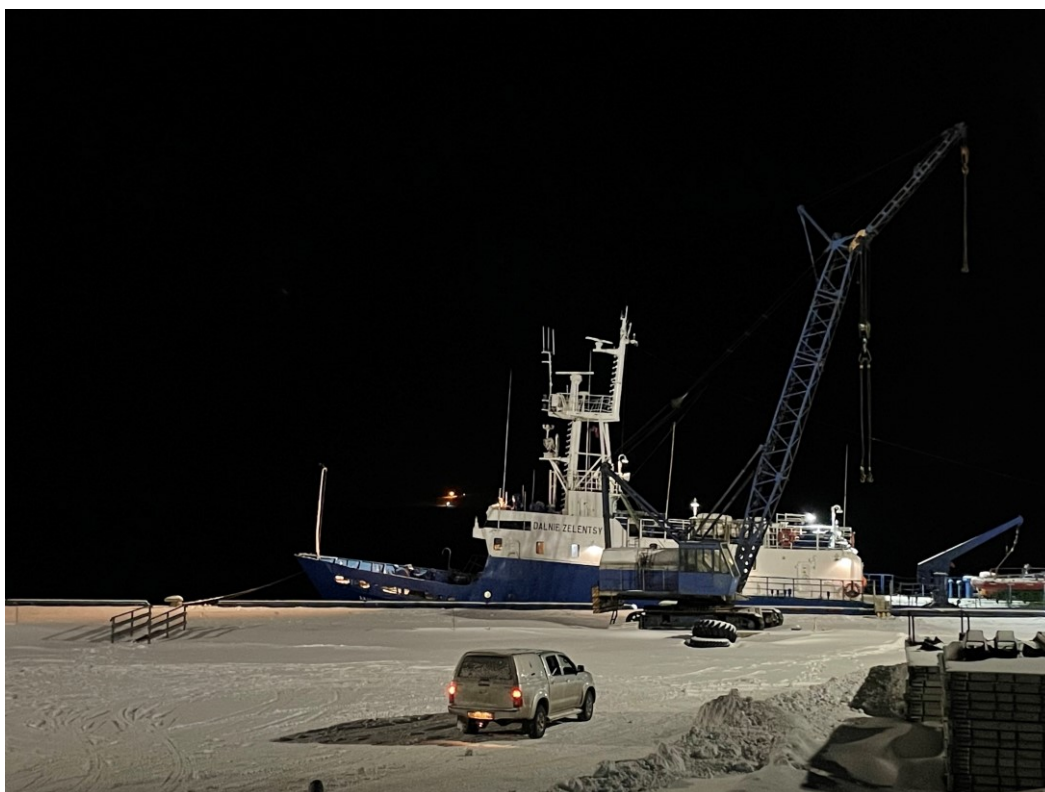
ON THE RESEARCH VESSEL «DALNIE ZELENTSY» ENTERING THE PORT OF BARENTSBURG

Denis Moiseev

Chairman of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, Deputy Director for Science of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences

After the denial of permission to conduct marine scientific research in the territorial waters of the Spitsbergen archipelago, the MMBI RAS submitted a request for permission to enter the port of Barentsburg for water bunkering and resupply on January 23–27, 2023. The Norwegian authorities had given the permission. Further events developed as follows.

Research Vessel Dalnie Zelentsy approached the border of territorial waters to the east of Isfjorden. Due to the intensifying storm, the captain submitted a request to enter the territorial waters of Spitsbergen a day earlier – on January 22, 2023. Norwegian authorities agreed. In the territorial waters the Research Vessel Dalnie Zelentsy was met by the Norwegian coast guard ship Harstad. From January 22 to January 23, until entering Grønfjorden, Harstad accompanied Dalnie Zelentsy at a distance of 200–300 m.



Research Vessel Dalnie Zelentsy in the port of Barentsburg. In the foreground is a car in which the Norwegian passport and customs control was carried out (photo by A. Deryabin)



Polarsys, the ship of the Governor of Spitsbergen, in the port of Barentsburg (photo by A. Deryabin)



Inspection of personal belongings of representatives of the scientific group of the Research Vessel Dalnie Zelentsy (photo by A. Deryabin)

In the port of Barentsburg, 7 representatives of the Norwegian authorities was waiting for the Russian ship. Those were representatives of the Norwegian Police Service and Customs, and an interpreter. They did not board Dalnie Zelentsy, but requested a copy of the crew list. Later, during the entire ship's stay in Barentsburg, in shifts of 2–3 people, they carried out round-the-clock passport and customs control of the crew and the scientific group when they disembarked and boarded the ship. They arrived in Spitsbergen from the Norwegian mainland specifically to control the Russian vessel. They came to Barentsburg on the Governor's ship Polarsyssel. They lived on it for the entire period of the Russian vessel's stay. Polarsyssel arrived there specifically to ensure their work.

For reference: *This control procedure became possible after a new border control law came into force in Norway on May 1, 2022. This law provides for the entry into force from May 6, 2022 of a separate regulation on the control of those entering Spitsbergen and leaving the archipelago. The Order gives the Governor of Spitsbergen the authority to check identity documents of persons arriving in or leaving the archipelago by plane or ship. Detailed information about the law in Norwegian: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/ny-grenselov-trer-i-kraft-med-hjemmel-for-innhenting-av-passasjeropplysninger/id2910825/>*



RESOLUTION ON THE III INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE “SECURITY OF ARCTIC FRONTIERS: ECOLOGY, HISTORY, IMAGES OF THE FUTURE»

The III International Scientific and Practical Conference «Security of Arctic Frontiers: ecology, history, images of the future» was held on October 27–28, 2022 at the Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU). The main organizer of the event was the Murmansk regional branch of the Russian Geographical Society. The Murmansk State Technical University, Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Northern Character Production Center are the co-organizers of the conference.

The conference was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society celebrated in 2022.

While preparing and holding of the conference, the priorities of Russia's current chairmanship in the Arctic Council in 2021–2023 were taken into account. Traditionally, a special role was assigned to the issues of preserving the historical memory of the events of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945.

Taking into account the international situation, participation in the conference was organized in a remote video conferencing format with simultaneous broadcasting and posting of the recording on the public video hosting YouTube. The expert community and the general public were informed through the media, as well as social networks: VKontakte and Telegram. English and Russian were conference working languages.

Experts from Russia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, China and Belarus took part in the work, including representatives of the Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU), Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (MMBI RAS), the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (KSC RAS), Murmansk Arctic State University (MASU), the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research (TFF, Sweden), Wuhan University, a number of environmental and public organizations. The conference included 2 sections: «The Arctic – a region of sustainable development, dialogue and cooperation» and «Topical issues of the history of the Arctic». One of the significant events of the conference was the discussion «Russia and Norway in a changing world».

After the welcoming speeches, the conference was opened with a report by Natalia Anikeeva, Head of the International Cooperation Department of the MSTU. The presentation was devoted to international projects of the MSTU and a retrospective of cross-border scientific and educational cooperation in the Arctic.

Deputy Director for expeditionary work of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), head of the Russian scientific Arctic expedition on the Spitsbergen archipelago Yuri Ugryumov told about the largest modern research project in the Arctic – the Drifting Ice-Resistant Polar Station «North Pole-41».

The issues of international scientific integration on the example of environmental protection activities in the Arctic were highlighted by Evgeny Borovichev, Deputy General Manager for Scientific Work at the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The topic of the importance of maintaining dialogue and cooperation in the Arctic Council format was touched upon in the speech by the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council in 2021–2023 Youth Envoy for International Cooperation in the Arctic Mikhail Uksusov. As a representative of the MASU, he spoke about the experience of changing the structure of international project cooperation in the field of science and education, taking into account the newly introduced restrictions.

Alexey Gaidashov, Deputy Chief of the Republican Centre for Polar Research of Belarus of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, head of the Belarusian Antarctic Expedition, greeted the participants of the conference from Cape Town and spoke about disturbing facts indicating attempts to politicize peaceful cooperation in the Polar regions, in particular on the exchange of operational meteorological information and in the field of search and rescue. He urged his colleagues and all interested parties to work together to combat this dangerous unacceptable practice.

Kuan Zengjun, Professor of the Chinese Institute of Frontier and Marine Research of Wuhan University, made a report on the legal foundations and modern policy of China in the Arctic, and also spoke about changes in Chinese legislation concerning the development of Polar regions.

Denis Moiseev, Deputy Director for Science of the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, made a comment on ongoing, including suspended at the initiative of the Norwegian side, projects on joint scientific research in the Barents Sea and the Arctic archipelago of Spitsbergen.

Elena Klyuchnikova, Senior Researcher at the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems of the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, spoke about the inadmissibility of interrupting international cooperation in the North in the environmental protection field. She also proposed to carry out work on upgrading our own environmental institutions by using the time given by the suspension of cooperation in order to adjust what has been achieved at the global level in the most useful way for the Russian Arctic.

Vladimir Masloboev, Advisor to the Director General of the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, focused the attention of the expert community on the devastating consequences that the development of tourism in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and in the Arctic as a whole may entail due to insufficient knowledge of the «ecological capacity» of the northern territories.

The experience of assessing the state of water ecosystems of the border area within the framework of multilateral cooperation was presented by Senior Researcher at the Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems of the Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences Peter Terentyev.

President of the Northern Character International Film Festival Svetlana Soldatova in her speech spoke about the cooperation in the field of culture and art as a platform for the resumption of a full-scale dialogue between Russia and Norway in the future.

Executive Director of the of the Northern Character International Film Festival, journalist, documentary film director Yuri Yerofeyev spoke about the international project «North without Borders», in particular about the creation in 2022 of a series of 12 video lectures on the history of Russian-Norwegian relations.

Tatiana Bazanova, a Consultant on cross-border cooperation of the Pechenga Municipal District Administration, spoke about the history and current state of twinning relations between the Pechenga district and the Sør-Varanger commune. Among other things, comments were made on statements about the possible rupture of twinning agreements.

Jan Øberg, Director of the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research (TFF, Sweden), as an expert on international conflicts, spoke on the possible consequences of Finland and Sweden joining NATO.

Ekaterina Serova, Postgraduate student of the Faculty of International Relations of St. Petersburg State University, continued the above mentioned topic, including in the context of the prospects for the deployment of nuclear weapons and the concentration of other weapons on the territory of Sweden and Finland near the Russian borders.

The Head of the Department of History and Law of the Murmansk Arctic State University Yulia Bardileva highlighted the relevance and significance of the topic of taking into account interfaith relations as the basis for the formation of religious tolerance and social security on the example of the Murmansk region.

Finnish film director, journalist and public figure Janus Putkonen, made a report about important historical aspects and the current state of relations between Russia and Finland in the context of Helsinki following in the wake of US and NATO policy, as well as the deep involvement of Finns in the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine and a number of Russian regions.

Political scientist, publicist, expert in the field of history and law from Finland Johan Bäckman reported on the alarming practice of political repression in the academic environment of Finland for ties with Russia. In order to preserve good-neighborly relations in these conditions, the expediency of developing mechanisms of «people's diplomacy» on the basis of projects in the field of tourism and joint study of the history of the Second World War was pointed out.

Yusup Kalaev, a representative of the Muslim community of Oslo (Norway), welcomed the participants of the conference, spoke in favor of normalizing relations between Russia and Norway, establishing and developing contacts with Muslim and other organizations of the Murmansk region.

The historical section of the conference was opened with a report by a representative of the Northern Fleet Headquarters, a member of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the RGS, Captain 2nd rank Sergey Zinchenko. He spoke about the results of historical research of the Pomor camps, routes and wintering sites of the pioneering explorers during the Complex Expedition of the Northern Fleet, RGS and 12th Chief Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation to Novaya Zemlya in July–August 2022.

Denis Moiseev spoke about the marine and terrestrial ecosystem studies carried out during this expedition, announced plans for an anniversary complex expedition of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation to Franz Josef Land dedicated the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the archipelago in 2023.

Sergey Goncharov, a member of the Council of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society voiced the gratitude to the leadership of the Ministry of Defense, personally to the Minister and President of the Russian Geographical Society Sergey Shoigu for supporting the expedition, as well as to everyone involved in its preparation and conduct. Attention was focused on the importance of the findings made to highlight the topic of the ancestral continuous residence and conduct of economic activity by Pomors on the islands and archipelagos of the Arctic. It was mentioned that there are significant results of the «Remember the War» project aimed at searching for sunken ships related to the history of the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945.

In the report of the representative of the Regional Center for Patriotic Education and Pre-conscription Training of Youth of the Murmansk region, the commander of the search team «Vaenga» (Severomorsk) Eduard Mironov the information on the implementation of the project «Search Teams: On Guard of Memory», including the practice of creating «school search teams» in the Murmansk region was provided.

Anna Churlik, Methodologist for scientific and educational activities of the Historical and Local History Museum of the Pechenga Municipal District, master's student of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov, presented the current results of research based on historical sources in Russia and Finland on the fate of Soviet prisoners of war in the Finnish Kolosjoki camp № 8 in Petsamo.

Chairman of the Board of the Non-Profit Foundation «Shield» Gennady Gurylev presented information about the public work of the Foundation for the creation of books, documentaries, classes in schools of the Murmansk region, as well as memorial events dedicated to the study of history and the preservation of the memory of the activities of state security agencies, Soviet and Norwegian partisans, intelligence officers The Northern Fleet during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945 .

Captain 2nd rank Dmitry Novikov spoke about the preparation and results of the joint search expedition of the 12th GU MO of the Russian Federation and the Murmansk Regional Branch of the RGS near the Zapadnaya Litsa Frontier, including the discovery and ascent from the lake of the downed German Messerschmitt BF 109-E aircraft.

Mikhail Malakhov, Chairman of the Ryazan Regional Branch of the RGS, Hero of Russia, addressed the conference participants in an online mode. He presented a feature film about Russian Arctic explorers «Archipelago».

After that, documentary film director Daria Khrenova presented her film «The Ice-Free Port of Hope», based on the diaries of Admiral A.G. Golovko, commander of the Northern Fleet during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945. She also told about the work on the film about the destroyed monument to Soviet heroic submariners in the village of Liinakhamari of the Murmansk region.

Following the conference, it was decided to recommend the involved international and domestic organizations of the Arctic countries to:

1. Recognize the relevance and practical significance of the topic declared at the conference and the issues considered in the sections.

2. Support the need to hold this conference on the stated topics on an annual regular basis.

3. Recognize that the results of the conference can be applied in the framework of international cooperation in the Arctic, cross-border and interregional dialogue between representatives of the Arctic countries and other stakeholders in the interests of solving common problems.

4. Among the issues that, based on the obtained expert data and public opinion, are of great practical importance for the sustainable development of the Arctic and require the attention of interested structures, the following should be highlighted:

- 4.1. To take into account the information that in 2022, as a result of attempts to isolate Russia from other Arctic states, there is a halt in the long-term historically established scientific and educational cooperation in the Arctic region. Joint work on previously launched projects within the framework of the «European neighborhood and partnership Instrument», the Kolarctic program, as well as the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Research Council of Norway, etc. have been put on hold at the initiative of the United States and its allies, including in violation of the agreements concluded. Interaction has degraded to the lowest possible organizational level of sporadic informal contacts. In this regard, experts are particularly concerned about the suspension of work and the exchange of information in the field of climate and environmental research, environmental protection, as well as search and rescue in the Arctic. The situation described above has triggered an intensive process of reorientation of Russian organizations to bilateral cooperation in the Arctic with non-regional observer countries of the Arctic Council.

- 4.2. To welcome the launch by Russia of the largest modern scientific research project in the Arctic, the Drifting Polar Station «North Pole-41».

- 4.3. To positively assess China's desire to adhere to the basic principles of «respect, cooperation, mutual benefit and sustainable development» in the Arctic, advocate for the peaceful use of the Arctic, maintain peace and stability in the region, deepen cooperation with all parties in all areas of the Arctic, use historical opportunities for the development of the Arctic and actively respond to the challenges associated with changes in polar latitudes.

- 4.4. To recognize as unacceptable the attempts to politicize the Antarctic Treaty.

4.5. Strongly condemn the alarming facts related to the refusal of some countries to exchange operational meteorological information, as well as to provide assistance in the field of search and rescue for national expeditions.

4.6. In the context of the suspension of international Arctic cooperation in the field of environmental protection in Russia, it is advisable to engage in upgrading domestic environmental institutions in order to preserve and develop the results achieved during the period of joint work at the global level in the interests of improving the environmental situation in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

4.7. Due to rapid development of the of tourism in the polar regions, increased efforts should be made to determine the «ecological capacity» of the territories of the Far North, to take measures to reduce and minimize the destructive consequences of this type of use of polar nature by humans.

4.8. The spheres of culture, art, mutual study of history, especially the joint struggle against fascism during the Second World War, and bilateral tourism should be considered as the most promising for the preservation and restoration of Russian-Norwegian dialogue and cooperation. To do this, it is possible to use the results of such initiatives as: «The North without Borders. History Lessons of Russian-Norwegian Relations», «Marches of memory», the Northern Character International Film Festival.

4.9. It is important to take into account that the twinning cooperation established between the municipalities of Russia and other Arctic countries after the Second World War is one of the basic foundations for preserving the Arctic as a region of peace, dialogue and cooperation. Attempts and calls to sever twinning ties are dangerous for the peaceful sustainable development of the Arctic region.

4.10. To record that the decision to join Finland and Sweden in NATO was made under the influence of current US policy, during an anti-democratic procedure without taking into account the opinion of the peoples of these countries. It will lead to the loss of a significant part of national sovereignty. External forces will inevitably seek to deploy nuclear weapons and other weapons aimed at Russia in Finland and Sweden, thereby jeopardizing the well-being and security of the Finnish and Swedish territories and the Arctic borders as a whole.

4.11. The population of the northern territories regularly faces attempts to involve them in the activities of extremist organizations, destructive religious sects of various kinds. In this regard, it is important to conduct targeted educational work, primarily among young people, with the participation of representatives of traditional faiths.

4.12. In May 2022, Finland stepped back from the long-standing policy of neutrality and good neighborliness with the Russian Federation, submitting to the military-political, economic and information-propaganda line of the current leadership of the United States, NATO and the EU. Helsinki's approaches to cooperation in the Arctic have turned towards confrontation with Russia, which complicates border relations as much as possible and destabilizes the situation in the circumpolar region. The alarming practice of political persecution of scientists and university professors for ties with Russia has spread. In the current circumstances, in the interests of reducing security threats in the Arctic, formed as a result of changes in Finland's foreign policy, as well as contributing to the normalization of the situation in the region, it is recommended to intensify efforts in the field of «people's diplomacy», in particular, to intensively develop Russian-Finnish projects on joint study of the history of World War II, as well as cultural and tourist exchanges.

4.13. It should be noted that the members of the Muslim community of the Norwegian capital, Oslo, wish to preserve peace and good-neighborliness with Russia and express interest in establishing and developing contacts with Muslim and other organizations of the Murmansk region.

4.14. August through September 2022, during the Complex Expedition of the Northern Fleet, RGS and 12th Chief Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, it was possible to conduct a wide range of activities to explore the Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zemlya,

in particular, in the field of monitoring historical monuments of the ancestral economic activity of the Pomors and the events of the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, exploring the routes of Russian expeditions of the past, assessment of seismic activity of the Arctic region, as well as in the field of ecosystem research on land and in the sea, radioecology, hydrography, etc. Taking into account the identified research potential, it is recommended to continue the practice of exploring Novaya Zemlya in the format of a complex expedition in 2023. It is proposed to consider the possibility of organizing a comprehensive expedition to Franz Josef Land, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the archipelago.

4.15. In the Murmansk region, as a result of the efforts of the Regional Center for Patriotic Education and Pre-conscription Training of Youth, local search teams during the implementation of the project «Search Teams: On Guard of Memory», the practice of involving schoolchildren in search activities, including in terms of working with archival data, historical reconstruction, care and improvement of monuments and military graves has been worked out. It is recommended to take the developed approaches as a basis for the further dissemination of this experience in the Far North.

4.16. On the basis of the historical documents introduced into scientific circulation in relation to the Kolosjoki No. 8 camp, increased attention should be paid to studying Finland's practice of creating labor camps for Soviet prisoners of war in the Far North during the Second World War in terms of establishing facts of inhumane treatment, executions, and other acts that have signs of crimes against humanity and have no deadlines prescription.

4.17. The experience and positive practices and materials developed as a result of the activities of the non-profit foundation «Shield» and dedicated to the history of the Second World War in the North should be highly appreciated and recommended for wide dissemination. Since 2007, when the organization was founded, 6 books, 2 albums, 6 documentaries adapted for school classes, a large number of thematic collections and historical quizzes have been created. In order to perpetuate the memory of Soviet soldiers and Norwegian partisans who fought fascism, 3 obelisks were installed, 22 «Marches of memory» were organized on the territory of the Murmansk region and Northern Norway with the involvement of the public and various organizations of the two countries.

4.18. To take note of the results of the joint activities of the Murmansk Regional Branch of the RGS and units of the 12th Chief Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation stationed in the region, in particular, conducting complex expeditions to the Sredny and Rybachy peninsulas, to the area of the crash of the largest Soviet airship Osoaviakhim V-6, search activities at the Zapadnaya Litsa Frontier. To raise the question of forming a joint search party in accordance with the current legislation.

5. Ensure the publication of text and multimedia materials of the conference on the MRB RGS website (murmansk.rgo.ru), in the public social network Vkontakte: https://vk.com/mo_rgo, https://vk.com/northern_character, as well as on the YouTube platform.

6. This resolution should be sent to the Arctic Council Secretariat, the International Barents Secretariat, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Barents Regional Council, relevant working groups, other interested international and national structures for information and consideration.

7. To express gratitude to the participants of the conference, as well as to the heads of organizations and their divisions who have delegated their representatives to speak.

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