

*Introductory address by the director of Norsk Polarinstitut, TORE GJELSVIK, at the opening of the Symposium :*

On behalf of Norsk Polarinstitut I wish you all a most cordial welcome to this Symposium. In particular I should like to greet our foreign guests from the Greenland Geological Survey, the Geological Survey of Canada, SEVMORGEO including the Arctic Geological Institute of the Soviet Union, and the U.S. Geological Survey. I thank you for your willingness to submit papers on the specific topics we have suggested. My gratitude is also extended to Dr. Anna Siedlecka from the Geological Survey of Norway, for her readiness to introduce us to the geology of the Varanger Peninsula, thus closing the geological Arctic Circle.

This meeting has two objectives. First, to enable geologists working in Svalbard in fields related to the chosen subject, to report on, discuss and try to solve problems of common interest. Secondly, to stimulate and strengthen the geological cooperation between the Arctic circumpolar nations.

I would also like to thank you for coming on such short notice. Invitations could not be sent out until our geologists were safely back from their Antarctic expedition in mid-February, and until we could be sure of a good Soviet-russian participation. The short notice prevented participation by some of those we had hoped to see. I would like to particularly mention Mr. W. B. Harland of Cambridge University who, together with his students and scientific colleagues, has given such important contributions to the geological research in Svalbard.

Finally, welcome to all those of you having come without a special invitation. Although the symposium is especially called for geologists having worked in Svalbard, we realize that science knows no national and institutional borders. We are happy, therefore, that you have wanted to join us.

For the reasons mentioned and because of economic limitations, it would be impossible for us to arrange a symposium for a big crowd; it could not be officially or widely advertised. I do think, however, that this symposium will prove that we are a group of just the right size to have a good working session.