

MISCELLANEOUS

The Dive of the "Neptun"

Tourists invited on board submarine

It wasn't so long ago that visiting the Severodvinsk Shipbuilding Plant would have been unthinkable. And now, in the very heart of the nuclear shipbuilding industry, what is perhaps the most unusual presentation that one could possibly imagine for this powerful industrial enterprise, is underway. Recently, the conversion spawned a most astonishing phenomenon - the country's first tourist submarine. Reports about its presentation to the public caused nothing less than a sensation. On the other hand, one should not really be too surprised: the scientific and industrial potential of the people of Severodvinsk is truly colossal, as their actions testify.

The Americans were somewhat quicker to grasp the advantage to be had from this sort of "re-orientation", and so they created their submarine, the "Atlantic", which could accommodate 20 passengers. They were followed by the astute Japanese. Their calculations turned out to be right: tourists from various countries immediately fell in love with this unusual submarine.

For the people of Severodvinsk merely imitating did not make much sense. And so the Soviet submarine is significantly different from its foreign counterpart. The presentation which was attended by representatives of foreign firms and our own 'Intourist' agency, revealed serious interest on the part of specialists as well as prospects for developing the project, which the shipbuilders of Severodvinsk have called "Ichthyandr".

This is an excellent corroboration of the effective use that can be made of the immensely rich, creative and industrial potential of the conversion now underway. It is no accident that Academician I.D. Spasskii played an active role in developing the project. The "Neptun" is the project's first brainchild.