

equipped with storage tanks for collecting used fuel and lubricant waste. These tanks are taken back to Leningrad, where the waste is reclaimed."

"What economic factors are the most dangerous for the ecology of Antarctica?"

"The conjectural geological exploration and subsequent mining operations would be very dangerous. Particularly alarming is the oil-mining of the shelf areas of the seas. This will really seriously affect the ecology of Antarctica. For this reason an international concensus is now being prepared. This will specify all possible cases of damage to the environment and how the balance can be corrected.

"Nor should we forget about the so-called "hole in the ozone layer". Although on the continent of Antarctica itself there is no excess of freon substances, which, as we know, decompose the ozone layer of the air, nevertheless, it is Antarctica which has received the full brunt of the freon attack. As a result of atmospheric currents, these substances collect over the south pole from everywhere on the planet. As a result of the freons, the ozone layer is drained and harsh ultraviolet solar radiation falls on the continent and the surrounding seas. This radiation, as we know, has a disastrous effect on the health of people, animals and on the vegetation which, nevertheless, does exist on the Antarctic peninsula and along the coast of the continent. For this reason we are extremely interested in seeing the Montréal Protocol applied as soon as possible. According to the terms of this Protocol, the signatory countries, including the Soviet Union, undertake to sharply curtail and, by 1993, to eliminate altogether the use of freons in various aerosol and refrigeration units.