

Our correspondent: "In the end more than ten ships have been withdrawn from service. What will the crews of these ships be doing?"

Subbotin: " I can answer that one right away. Not a single member of these crews will end up unemployed. Our personnel people are already busy finding them jobs, and then again, we aren't just standing around twiddling our thumbs. We're trying to keep on all the specialized fleet workers, to provide something useful for them to do and to make sure that they have a regular salary.

"What exactly are we doing? Well, first of all, we are helping out the Moryakovskii Maintenance and Operations Base, since this workers' collective has suffered the worst from the extraordinary situation which has developed on the Ob' River. The Moryakovskii base will be given five freighters from the new line of ships and a supply ship. Evidently some of the crew members will transfer to shore work at the Samus' Maintenance and Operations Base, where a large ship-building workshop is now under construction. The new shipyard will turn out barges which will be used on the smaller rivers. And finally, the Line employs quite a few crews which have been doing double shift work. We will now have qualified workers to bolster these work-teams."

Our correspondent: "Given this sort of situation, it is rather difficult for you to carry out your main task. What is the freight transshipment situation like?"

Subbotin: Our goals for the second quarter of the year have been met. The fleet functioned quite well in July as well. We handled thirty nine thousand tonnes of freight over and above the planned