

What is the solution to this problem? The first would be to limit the number of subscriptions. The second would be to purchase paper abroad.

The increasing circulation of printed material attests to a higher level of involvement by the reading public, who want to be kept up-to-date with events at home and abroad. If information is restricted, the public is deprived of something very necessary.

What can be done to prevent this? In 1988, enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry are scheduled to produce 1,760,000 tonnes of printing paper. Figures for the first 6 months of the year show that the paper industry is meeting its production plan. Approximately 16,000 tonnes of newsprint above and beyond production targets have already been produced. By the end of the year this figure may reach 20,000 tonnes. However, this doesn't solve the problem.

The interesting point is that there is no shortage of paper in reality. One-fifth of the country's total production is exported. A large part goes to the COMECON countries where the per capita demand for paper is greater than in the Soviet Union.

It is important to note that newsprint is supplied to these countries on an exchange basis. In return for the paper being supplied, we receive other types of paper. However, this kind of commercial exchange represents a left-over policy from the former Ministry for the Paper Industry and the Soyuzlesbumzagranpostavka (Soviet Timber and Paper Export) trade organization which was disbanded on December 31, 1987. Why not exchange some other type