

MINERAL RESOURCES/MINING

Status of Fifth Continuous Casting Machine at  
Cherepovetz Metallurgical Complex Unclear

In a statement, S. Kolpakov, Minister for Ferrous Metallurgy, declared: "Construction of the fifth continuous casting machine at the Cherepovets Metallurgical Complex is taking place as a result of a special government decision, and the target date for its commissioning is 1988. The design specifications were completed on time in June, 1987. The orders were not unexpected for the machine-builders because this task was established in the production quotas for the Five-Year Plan. In addition, the dates of issue to the State Supplies Committee of orders for equipment to complete the unit and for automation devices are determined by the government in accordance with the readiness of the technical documentation.

The manufacture of equipment and automation devices is nearing completion and they are being delivered to the site in a timely fashion. By 28 October, 2,500 tonnes had been delivered. The assembly work, however, has been poorly organized: even though the site is ready, only 300 tonnes of equipment have been accepted for assembly, and the oil pan and lubricating systems already on hand have not yet been assembled.

In order to ensure successful completion of the work, a round-the-clock assembly schedule with flexible working hours must be established and the number of machine assembly workers must be increased.