

founders of the nuclear-powered fleet, loves to cite this example. When he was on the "Lenin", the nuclear ice-breaker struck an ice hummock on a shoal - a large underwater block of ice. Even after the impact the reactor did not stop, although the ice-breaker went dead in the water, like it was rooted there. Thus even if a ship is struck in the reactor compartment, the power-plant will not suffer.

"And what if an nuclear-powered ship sinks?

" An ice breaker or a lighter tug will not sink, even if any two adjacent compartments should be flooded. They will not go to the bottom like the "Admiral Nakhimov"

"But let us assume, that nevertheless the ship sinks....

"O.K. We will not rule out such a possibility. We began to study this problem ten years ago. At that time I was connected with the Academician Krylov TsNII (Central Scientific Research Institute) in Leningrad, which conducted independent research into the matter.

What would happen, let us assume, with a lighter carrier? It has a protective shell, which is equipped with a flooding valve. When the ship sinks, the valve operates, and the shell fills up with water. The reactor in this case automatically stops, because the control elements operate automatically, they do not need energy. That is, the reactor will be drowned. And we examined the flooding situation both in shallow water and in deep water. There are differences here.