

along a human chain, in an attempt to put out a fire in a park area where the flames had not only engulfed the trees but had also spread to the underlying peat.

"We are exceedingly undermechanized when it comes to extinguishing forest fires", stated N. Pavlinov, Head of the Forest Conservation and Protection Directorate of the RSFSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. "We had high hopes for the ATs-10 fire-fighting machine designed 10 years ago for not just two, but six occupants. After supplying us with a miserly quantity of these machines, as of this year the factory of USSR Minstroidormash (Ministry for Building Road Construction Machines) has discontinued their production. And no entreaties, even to the point of offering high contract prices, have succeeded in persuading them to the contrary".

After meeting with the directors of the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry, one had the impression that many of them were resigned to the idea of forest fires being inevitable and have become reconciled to the resulting losses.

Word had been received that a group of senior officials of the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry, including two Deputy Ministers, was on its way to Tomsk. "Who knows, the visit could result in the firefighters being furnished with communications facilities, with new television towers designed for spotting forest fires rising above the forests, but not merely to the extent of six or seven a year, as the requirement for them is in the hundreds. And the staff aircraft may not only be fitted with radio, but also with video equipment".