

without being carefully considered by the Institute's ecology experts. This is the job of a special commission.

"For many years now we have been operating an environmental station at Mirnyi. Workers from the Institute use it constantly to monitor the condition of the snow, the ice and the atmosphere. In particular they watch the depth of the ozone layer in the stratosphere. Thus, we are able to make a direct evaluation of the consequences of our economic activity and to coordinate any possible environmental damage. Unfortunately, we can't stop new construction work from taking place in Antarctica. In order to carry out their normal work, the polarmen need stations, airfields and moorings. However, it is in our power to reduce the possible ecological disturbance to a minimum. To do this, for example, at Molodezhnaya Station on the coast of the Sea of Cosmonauts, they have built sewage purifying works and sewers have been laid down.

"Fuels and lubricants used by all diesel electric power stations and other machinery do the greatest damage to the purity of the continent. However, it has turned out that if these things are handled carefully, penguins will live even at a fuel dump. This is what happened on Stroitelii Island. The polarmen constructed a fuel dump there and the penguins stayed at their favour *e site, which means that the ecological balance had not been disturbed."

"How much serious pollution to the Antarctic seas do the ever-increasing number of ships cause?"

"I think that there are serious grounds for concern. In any case, all the Soviet ships are