More than a thousand Soviet and foreign specialists are attending. The convention was opened by the First Deputy Minister of the Bureau of the USSR Council of Ministers responsible for machine building, A. Kamenev.

Among the tasks being discussed are the status of technological science and machine building practice, determining the main paths of development of the technology, increasing its impact on labour productivity and the quality of production, lowering the cost of it, working out the main concepts in the development of technological systems, which includes perfecting the underlying technologies, the development of contacts with foreign colleagues, and the founding of the Association of Machine Builder-Technologists of the USSR.

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A Plea for Tighter Discipline to Meet the Challenge of Economic Reform

Since the start of 1989 the indebtedness of our sectors to the national economy, expressed in monetary terms, exceeds 700 million roubles. The year is drawing to a close and in a number of associations they have not even taken up the State order for supplying consumer goods valued at more than 100 million roubles. Work on the conclusion of contracts for the coming year gives even more cause for alarm. Clearly, there has been a lessening of accountability for the fulfillment of production programmes.