

## PULP AND PAPER

### Shortage of Newsprint in USSR Aggravated by Exports to Socialist Countries: Proposed Solutions to the Problem

Questions raised in the article "The Illusion of the Limit to Subscriptions" ("Lesnaya promyshlennost' No. 83 of 14 July 1988) are forcing us to critically rethink various aspects of our collaboration with East Bloc countries in the field of pulp and paper exports. One can fully concur with the view that in its present form, the assortment exchange of pulp and paper commodities is neither assisting in the solution of the problems in the industry nor guaranteeing a Soviet market for this output. As was reported at the 44th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), Prague 5-7 July 1988, "the composite model of the division of labour, constructed chiefly with reference to the exchange of Soviet fuel, raw materials and semi-finished products for manufactured goods, has exhausted the dynamization potential of the turnover of merchandise". Nor is it contributing to the development of a rational structure of the timber complex in the member countries of the CMEA. A particularly striking example of this is the production of newsprint, which is one of the major items of Soviet pulp and paper exports, and also an object of the assortment exchange.

In the volume of newsprint produced the USSR ranks fifth in the world. The output of it is 5.9 times less than in Canada, 3.3 times less than in the USA, 1.7 times less than in Japan, and 1.2 times less than in Finland. At the same time, our production of this kind of paper is four times greater than the total output in the sister