

"In developing natural and applied research one must not forget about the social sciences. This area of the Siberian Branch's activity requires very close attention. I have in mind, first of all, philosophy, history, culture, and international relations. Without an ongoing understanding of the processes occurring in science and society, progress will be difficult.

"I also shared my concern regarding development of the infrastructure for Academy City: construction of housing, dormitories, and social and cultural facilities. Today, unfortunately, a natural development of scientific potential in the Siberian Branch is being held back by a lack of such facilities. I hope that these concerns will be taken into account and will assist in the formulation of more detailed plans for development of the Siberian Branch."

"Guri Ivanovich, could you speak about the atmosphere that characterizes Politburo meetings?"

"Very business-like, attentive, and imbued with a spirit of good will. Each problem is discussed for as long as required. For example, last Friday we worked from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on little more than three agenda items. I recall that previously, in the pre-perestroika period, an item frequently took 10-15 minutes. Decisions were more often confirmed than discussed. Today's Politburo meetings are characterized by a spirit of debate and differences of opinion. For example, the conversation about the development of the Siberian Branch grew into a discussion of our economy's unreceptiveness to the achievements of scientific and technical progress. Academician N.P. Laverov, Chairman of the State Committee on Science and