

"foreigners". Rules have already been set down for foreign ships sailing on our national sea route escorted by icebreakers, so that having open routes is not so far fetched. However, a preliminary analysis indicates that the income for these services might amount to 37 million rubles a year, while the present cost of operating the nuclear fleet amounts to 57 million rubles. So that the question of sources to compensate these expenditures remains open. And the transfer of the nuclear fleet to budget financing could be viewed not as the removal of the icebreakers and their crews from the Murmansk Steamship Line but merely as a possibility for having the government grant sufficient monies to cover the losses.

Certainly, this is one way out, but there is clearly still a long way to go before a final decision is reached. The steamship line conference has only taken the first steps in this direction, and it has prepared some good information for further consideration by both the republican and union governments.

Vodnyi transport  
25 October 1990  
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