

We also met with miners of the city of Zheltye Vody, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, who drive new shafts in granite walls for future experiments and who said that while on assignment on Novaya Zemlya they stay in warm stone hotels under much better conditions than the experimenters. But even they complained about the icy transport that carries them to work, the poorly thought-out wage system, the scanty fare on television...

I listened to them and thought: it is to this place, the village of Severnyi, that in return for a visit to the Nevada testing range, they are intending to invite American scientists within the next year or two. What are we going to show them, besides our unique diagnostic equipment and the highest degree of professionalism of our experimenters? A village forgotten by everyone, sitting on a shore piled high with rusting scarp metal?!

And here is something else I thought about while standing near the shaft where, a week ago, a nuclear blast had taken place. On this blast converge many problems about which we somehow used not to even think. We not only need to think about them, we need to solve them, too.

Of course, one can and must dispute, discuss and ultimately establish timetables and decide who will alert whom and when concerning the conduct of the next nuclear explosion. One can and must think things over and make decisions as to whether we need nuclear weapons or not. If yes, what kind and how many? If no, what approach do we take to disarmament, to a full and final cessation of testing, and how to bring all members of the "nuclear club", and especially the USA, into this process? But one thing today is absolutely clear. It is time for the Supreme Soviet to define and legislate a State. It's time to adopt a Union program of nuclear research for a year, for five years, for a longer period of time, and one that includes underground testing. And it's time, of course, to take the demands of the day into account in improving the conditions and procedures under which scientists, the military, and local authorities interact in the preparation, conduct and monitoring of decisions in the sphere of defence and security.