

According to our preliminary evaluations, the operator cannot cause any kind of catastrophic consequences.

"What can you say about the effectiveness of the supervision over the operation of nuclear powered ships?"

Right now the supervision of operations is actually carried out by two organs - the Register of the USSR and the Gosatomenergondzor. The Register looks after the technical side, the Gosatomenergondzor takes care of the personnel, the organization of nuclear safety and of the technology, which directly pertain to questions of safety. It is also responsible for its own inspection of the factories of the Minsudprom of the USSR, which also keeps track of nuclear safety. Nevertheless, it seems to me, that there should be a single supervisory organ, which would be a state organization, and the decisions of which would be final.

At the beginning of 1987 I participated in the work of an impressive committee of the CC CPSS, which analyzed the state of safety in the nuclear fleet. We became acquainted with the organization of the work at the maintenance base in Murmansk and we examined the documentation. The members of the committee had travelled on practically all of the ice-breakers, which were participating in navigation at this time. There were some remarks, certainly, but on the whole the conclusion drawn was that the fleet was operating well. And it was especially emphasized that personnel serving in the nuclear-powered fleet were highly qualified. The main concern expressed was that the continuity of personnel with such qualifications should be ensured.