

and appeals by the National Front of Latvia and the Baltoslaviv Society to the Union government. The ecology movement is taking on a political hue.

On the other hand, thousands of Sloka workers and member of their families are calling for a return to common sense and for a sober public assessment of the situation, so that passions are not inflamed and people avoid acting on impulse. After all, they have lived and worked here for many years. However, hardly anyone pays attention to their views.

The following letter was written to the newspaper "Sovetskaya Latvia" by the Chairman of the Workers' Council at the mill.

"We, the workers of the Sloka pulp and paper mill, are concerned about the unrestrained badgering of the workers' collective by the mass information media of the republic and by various special interest groups demanding the closing of our mill. The shortage of accurate information in the press and the lack of a clearly defined position on the part of leadership of the republic with respect to the pulp and paper mill are resulting in the creation of a tendentious public opinion about our enterprise. This is having a disorganizing effect on the collective and is creating fertile soil for various kinds of negative phenomena both at the mill and in attitudes towards it. The time has come to take a final decision."

Yes, of course, the pollution of Yurmala is painful, both for residents of Latvia and for all Soviet citizens. One must therefore weigh carefully the question of who is more correct, and attentively listen to both sides. Otherwise, what is the meaning of this plurality of views?