

"The creation of the new district of Muisak with the administrative center in Taksimo, and the transfer to this area of subdivisions of the ministries of nonferrous metallurgy, power engineering, geology, mining and others, have put us in a very difficult situation. The settlement's population is growing. To provide medical care, we shall soon need a hospital with 280 beds and a polyclinic capable of handling 400 patients per shift, with a chance for further expansion. Meanwhile, the local health-care agencies here have not completed a single project and, realistically, will be unable to do it before 1993-1995. Consequently, the onus will be on the railroad hospital of Taksimo. The latter, however, will have only 50 beds, a polyclinic capable of attending to 150 patients, and a maternity ward with 8 beds..."

The situation at the Taksimo hospital is a graphic illustration of the deplorable results of the lack of co-ordination between the various departments. It seems that the Ministry of Transport and the local health-care agencies are each defending their own interests, and the patients will be the chief losers. It is unfortunate when disagreements appear between builders and railroad men but it is worse when those responsible for public health heap accusations on each other. The damage done can be unpredictable.

I agree with you. In our railroad hospital in Tynda, the newest equipment stands unused: the Soviet-made thermovisor and the four Hungarian therapeutic diagnostic complexes do not work, the "artificial kidney", the cardio-complex, and the x-ray equipment are often out of order. The specialists from the Department of Medical Technology barely do any preventive maintenance, they work like