

The nature of the mail received by Soviet law protection agencies is such that the writers are usually unhappy about the subject matter of their letters. It is therefore highly satisfying to read that justice has been restored. The measures taken to curb the pollution of Lake Baikal and Lake Ladoga have met with universal approval. However, if we take the general nature of the ecological mail received by the USSR Procurator's office, the tone of the letters is anxious. People write about the laziness and irresponsibility of those in important positions, about the savage destruction of forests, about the emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere, and about the large-scale pollution threatening our country's bodies of water. A letter from N. Makarov of Perm' to the Procurator General is typical: "Please help our city with its population of one million to preserve its greatest treasure - our people's health." "There is no way to gauge the harm caused to our river by free-floating logs," writes M. Kuprik, a pensioner from Kemerovo. "The law enforcement agencies must increase their efforts to ensure that laws aimed at protecting the environment are observed," writes I. Gashichev from Moscow. "Protection of the forests should rank in importance alongside protection of our country."

The problem has been stated unequivocally and, it must be admitted, in most respects, equitably. This was the way it was viewed at a recent All-Union Seminar-Conference on Environmental Protection held in Ulyanovsk by the Procurator's Office.

The conference was marked by intense and constructive discussions. We studied in detail the positive experience which had accumulated and