

the state of the water in the Gulf of Finland. As before, nuclear power stations are continuing to be built in densely populated areas. The fertility of the soil has started to decline and the chernozems have already begun to be irrigated. In our view, a national Ecofund is essential, since solutions to many of the problems will necessitate funding on a substantial scale. The first thing we should like to do is to begin publishing a special independent journal, in which wide circles of the scientific community will be invited to collaborate. Ecological information often touches on the interests of millions of people. To conceal it is a crime. Our main task today is the engendering and extensive propagation of a modern ecological world outlook."

Doctor of Philosophical Sciences E. Girusov, Doctor of Biological Sciences N. Reimers, Doctor of Juridical Sciences O. Kolbasov and the other Soviet scientists who initiated the setting up of the Ecofund are hoping that the activities of the new voluntary organization will be conducive to the unification of all strata of society in the interests of nature protection.

The scientists envisage its role as the conducting of an independent and highly qualified evaluation of new proposals for parks and park zones, and the assessment of territories where an ecological disaster has occurred. It is not by accident that Yu. Maksimenko, the Deputy-Head of the USSR's Main Ecological Commission of Experts, has been elected to the Board of Governors.

It is the intention of Ecofund to promote the development of ecologically favourable trends in science and technology, primarily of resource-saving technologies and the utilisation of industrial wastes, and to foster searches for alternative sources of energy and ecologically harmless methods of protecting plants and animals.

The Ecological Fund of the USSR will channel a substantial proportion of its funds into the formation of interdisciplinary tactical ecological assistance teams (TEAT). Qualified representatives of various branches of science will serve in them. The teams will travel to sites where ecological problems are arising and make recommendations for their solution.