

in Archangel on May 7, was a scientist from Moscow who is Co-Chairman of a public committee to save the Volga. S.A. Shakhotin shared with us the picture he had glimpsed from the window of an aircraft: "Clearly visible in the delta of the Dvina, in all of its branches, on the water and indeed, on the sandy banks and shoals, are the flocculent masses of a sinister, whitish film, a dirty foam". Even visitors to the health resort at Sol'vychevodsk, situated on the Vychegda some 1,500 kilometres away from Archangel, often find themselves in this turbid zone when bathing. That is not to be wondered at, for two wood chemistry giants: the Syktyvkar Timber Industry Complex and the Kotlas Pulp and Paper Combine, are in operation there.

The waters of another major tributary of the Dvina - the Sukhona - are subject to the influence of the Sokol Pulp and Paper Combine. And in the estuary of the great northern river, on a line joining Novodvinsk, Severodvinsk and Archangel, where in all, about 800,000 people live, almost a million cubic metres of water pass through the Archangel Pulp and Paper Combine and the Solombala Pulp and Paper Combine every day.

The latter's mills have almost ruined the Puksa, Voloshka, Kodino and other rivers. This is readily understandable, for there are no efficient purification plants there. A total of almost 300 million cubic metres of effluents are discharged into the small rivers of the basin. Some 34 per cent of these are classed as inadequately purified.

The environment is not only being attacked by mills of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry but also by enterprises of other departments. Workers of the Kuznechevskii sawmill recently had an