

seen a decline in the activity of the pure sciences in this industry. Leningrad possesses an excellent scientific base which could well serve to revive the old traditions.

Generally speaking, there is a vast field of activity confronting science. Many elements of the biosphere don't stop at national borders. Rivers often flow through several countries which leads to development of mutual interests."

Q. "Atmospheric currents also know no boundaries?"

A. "True. Acid rain doesn't always fall in its country of origin. Expenditures on gas purification would be fully justified, even if they were substantial."

Q. "The fact that the pulp-and-paper industry will be spending 23% of its allocated capital investment on purification equipment during the current Five-Year Plan is a serious step. Surely it should be assessed as to merit?"

A. "It is a serious step, yes, but our main task is to use our financial and other resources in a rational way, so as not to spend them wastefully on expensive mechanical and biological purification systems. We must also remember that existing technology can be improved, with local purification at the point of origin used to protect the environment from pollution, and thereby preserve both it and life itself."

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