

matters relating to the fulfilment of the production plan for newsprint and printing paper by enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and to report its findings in the press. This request also applies to progress made in the construction, reconstruction and modernization of papermaking machines.

(Article signed by G. Merkulov, Deputy Chairman of Gossnab)

(2) Goskomizdat (State Committee for Matters Relating to Publishing Houses, the Printing Trade and the Book Trade)

Goskomizdat of the USSR has examined the article "Is the Paper Shortage Severe". We concur with the opinion expressed by the newspaper that the subscription campaign for 1989 could have been handled more efficiently and in a way that was less costly to morale. Consideration should have been given to the fact that unlimited subscriptions to a number of magazines and newspapers were in effect for several years and had "stabilized". Moreover, there was even a decline in subscriptions to some publications. In our view, consideration might have been given to the question of the efficacy of imposing limits on subscriptions to certain sociopolitical and fictional magazines, or alternatively, the Ministry of Communications could have been instructed to keep a close watch on them. Naturally, this would have necessitated additional expenditures of time and materials on the part of the communicators, but such a measure would have made it possible to determine, for specific periods, how rapidly the circulations of the most topical