

More on Pollution: State Procurator's Office

Flexes Its Muscles

An interview with A. Boretsky, Head of the Directorate of General Supervision, Board Member of the USSR Procurator's Office, State Counsel 2nd Class.

Among the top-priority tasks linked to the social reorientation of the Soviet economy are "energetic efforts to protect the natural environment and achieve a radical improvement in the country's ecological situation" - a goal that was voiced at the 19th All-Union Party Conference.

If a 'radical improvement' is needed, this means that the situation is so critical that it requires an immediate and effective response. In general, the fact that the environment - water, air, and forest - needs public protection is not news. It is also not news that the USSR Ministry for the Timber Industry is among the government departments especially in conflict with nature.

All the arguments have been heard and there are no serious objections to them. There is no shortage of righteous indignation, but action is another matter. Yet, action is needed to reduce the harmful influence of logging and the timber processing industry on the environment. The damage to the environment grows year by year.

What is the reason for this gap between words and deeds? Can there be harmony between our industries and nature? We put these questions to top policy makers at the State Procurator's Office and at the USSR Ministry for the Timber Industry.