

While on the whole supporting the position taken by Lesnaya promyshlennost we nevertheless wish to voice our disagreement with one of the statements contained in the article to the effect that the 15-year attempt to develop a model for a domestic papermaking machine ended in failure. As we understand it, this remark refers to the B-15 papermaking machine (No. 9) at the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Mill. We feel that this reproach does not reflect the truth and will try to refute it by referring to documents and facts.

The newspaper Avangard (Vanguard), published by the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Mill, carried the following information in its issue of November 23, 1979: "The B-15 is a unique machine. It is the first domestically built unit able to produce newsprint. Our machine builders strove to develop it according to the best world standards. Our machine is a success in many respects: it is easy to operate and works well in using semi-finished products. It is unlikely that any other machine would be able to use the raw materials presently supplied to us at the 5th paper mill. But our machine does the job".

A certificate dated February 20, 1980 and issued by the Director of the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Mill emphasizes that a complete set of equipment for the B-15 papermaking machine "has been manufactured and is performing at a high technical level".

Granted, the deadline for bringing the B-15 machine into operation was extended. In order to make it operational it was necessary to build production shops and fit them with hundreds of units of equipment, as well as to construct a high-voltage transmission line, build a new boiler room, etc. All these projects took a very long time to complete.