

On March 1, during the Moscow television broadcast "In the World of Music", an astonishing fact was revealed. One of the concert artists had "applied" at a Moscow printing plant for permission to operate a machine specialising in the production of expensive artistic albums and was authorised to print on it his mail output during "the announcement - free period". It would seem that besides the shortage of paper, printing workers are also affected by a shortage of accountability. What other explanation can there be for instances in which publications speaking against the Party are being printed on the polygraphic facilities of the CPSU, and newspapers criticizing the army - on printing machines of the Ministry of Defence?

"Alternativa", being only one of the publications of the "samizdat" press, can hardly be called a newspaper for more often than not, the editions run to no more than 30,000 copies. Also included on the samizdat list are "The Ghost of Communism" (Prizrak kommunizma), (the Communist-Democrats faction of the Social Democratic Party), "Express Chronicle" (the SD Party), "The Voice of Anarchy" (The Petersburg Anarchic Revolutionary Union), "Soviet Morality" (Sovetskaya Moral'ka) and a host of others. According to rough estimates, about 700 "independents" are being published in the USSR today. None of them, of course, intends to pay taxes or name the sources from which the paper is obtained. It is pointless to demand this information from the cooperatives. By a decree of USSR Goskomstat (State Committee for Statistics) paper is excluded from the list of raw material for which they submit a report. The Chief of Administration of USSR Goskomstat explains that this is because the cooperatives "have a scarcity of bookkeepers". If this is the case, why does Goskomstat require them to supply data on the use of other types of raw materials?