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The USSR Supreme Soviet has confirmed the appointment of N.N. Vonontsov as Chairman of the USSR State Environmental Protection Committee.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
5 August 1989
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Extracts from an Interview with V.I. Mel'nikov,
Minister of the USSR Timber Industry.

V.I. Mel'nikov, newly elected Minister of the USSR Timber Industry, in a recent interview with "Lesnaya promyshlennost'", commented on some of the major problems facing the industry today.

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The Soviet timber industry's contribution to the national economy has dropped from 6.7% forty years ago to the current level of 4.1%. The post-war decision to create timber industry enterprises operating on a temporary basis together with the chronic shortage of funds available for construction of new capacities, have had a detrimental effect on the development of the industry.

Over the past three decades 447 timber industry enterprises and 1,344 logging camps have been closed down. We expect that in the next ten to fifteen years approximately 100 logging enterprises will have completely exhausted their logging resource base and will also have to be closed. The shortage of funds and resources has practically ruled out