

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Soviet Logging Industry: Measures to Correct for First Quarter Arrears in Production

On April 19th a meeting of the Board of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry was convened to consider the question "Increasing the Operating Efficiency of the Logging Industry in 1990." Among those participating was Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers V.k. Gusev.

Deputy Minister of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry N.S. Lyashuk analysed the reasons for the arrears in production that occurred during the first quarter. He noted that the Ministry's associations and enterprises had permitted the volumes to drop from the corresponding level in 1989 to the extent of 6.5 million cubic metres of timber extracted and 5.4 million cu. m. of marketable wood produced. This had had a highly aggravating effect on the country's timber supply situation.

Entities that performed particularly poorly during the winter were "Arkhangel'sklesprom", "Primorsklesprom", "Komilesprom", "Krasnoyarsklesprom", "Amurlesprom", "Estonskiilesprom" and the Belorussian Minlesprom.

Was the weather to blame? In some respects yes, but then why was it that under no less difficult conditions a number of elements performed consistently well, namely those in "Karellesprom", "Tyumen'lesprom", "Kemerovoles", "Omsklesprom", "Udmurtles" and Minlesprom of the Ukrainian SSR? In their case, no attempt was made to cite the vagaries of the weather, but rather to counter the latter with better engineering expertise, entrepreneurship and accurate accounting.