

ENVIRONMENT

Dangerous Pollution Levels Reached at the Kotlas and
Volzhsk Pulp and Paper Combines

(Address Given by Deputy V.P. Kuchina, of the Kotlas
Electoral District, Arkhangel'sk Oblast)

"Comrade Deputies! Today the session is considering an extremely important matter. As a member of the preparatory Committee on the Wood-Chemistry Complex I took part in an examination of the USSR draft plan and budget for 1989 and would like to deal with the problems which are troubling the workers' collective of our enterprise.

The need to increase the manufacture of paper products for the national economy is well understood, but the Combine lacks the production capacities for implementing this task under highly mechanized conditions. At present, this is exhausting, monotonous manual work done by women. What we need are automated production lines, but our machine building people are not producing them in sufficient quantities. Is there a way out? The Combine has the necessary hard currency, and in realizing 50 per cent of its output for export, is seeking to establish direct links with foreign firms. But it is not being allowed to do this, even though the need is urgent. The equipment, as already mentioned, is completely worn out. This is adversely affecting both the quality of output and worker morale. The need for technical re-equipping of the shops has been a bone of contention with the Ministry for more than five years.

(All-Union Association for Aerial Photography, Forest