

"I am in disagreement with the view of those in the USSR who favour a reduction in the opening up of forest lands in the name of their conservation. According to our information, you not only lose on account of excessive fellings and the inefficient use of timber, transportation expenses and the lack of technology for the conversion of waste products. While these losses are heavy, the main reason is the impossibility of accessing our many storehouses in the virtually boundless expanses. Only an ill-informed person would say "Well, thank God! More trees will be left standing". "Quite the reverse is the case. Only scientific technology will permit us, while taking much from the forest, to count on obtaining even more on the morrow. And this will be without prejudice to the forest, precisely by promoting its regeneration.

"In short, our proposals are aimed initially at decreasing and later at eliminating the "discrepancy" in the development of kindred and closely collaborating sectors of two neighbouring countries. Implementation of the plan will enable you to begin to act according to the principle "plant two for every tree that has been felled". In our country this is the underlying basis of the "Forest-2000", plan, developed on the basis of the 'Master Plan' for Finland. But without a developed infrastructure the goal is unattainable. This, by the way, is my response to the proponents of purely prohibitive measures.

"Once you had accomplished such a breakthrough, it may well be that you would be assured of a substantial and rapid influx of the capital and new technologies needed to upgrade the sector to the level of high profitability. You might then be in a position to select any partners you wanted. But I am certain that Finland will continue to safeguard its reputation as the country of "green gold" - the only self-regenerating natural resource."

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

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