

A. "It seems to me that the implementation of a radical reform amongst forest wardens is proving extremely painful on account of the aggravation of contradictions between the old chain of command system of administration that is in the process of dying out and the economic system that has come into being. Today, no one needs dependents. We are even considering a cut in the size of the headquarters staff, which would be especially helpful where there are sawmilling problems. It is too multilayered and gives rise to too many criticisms.

"Think of how much time is lost through the duplication of responsibilities, grandfather's methods of operation, and the lack of computerization? Even the children in the kindergarten at the Solombala Pulp and Paper Combine already have their first five computers. And this while adult uncles are only now being initiated into what has become the norm and a prime necessity throughout the world. I have just paid a visit to West Germany. Certainly the Germans and ourselves are oceans apart with respect to the organization of labour and production. One feels ashamed of our backwardness."

Q. "Incidentally, how are your relations with the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and its services?"

A. "This is a difficult question and one that has been painful to deal with. We do, of course, have a common task and are pulling in the same traces. But ...

"Here is a typical scenario. We are meeting with our sub-contractors and with officials of the Party and local council, shall we say, at the Oblast'