

Residents of the Scandinavian countries are also alarmed. The Norwegians, for example, are speaking about the possibility of a complete break in relations with the Soviet Union if there are more nuclear tests on Novaya Zemlya.

In November, 1989, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR commissioned the Council of Ministers to examine the question of the impact of Novaya Zemlya nuclear tests on neighbouring regions and to produce, by the end of 1990, draft legislation on the Use of Atomic Energy and Nuclear Safety.

Barge Carrier - "The Flying Dutchman". In the summer of last year the residents of Dudinka strongly objected to a visit to their port by the new nuclear powered icebreaker "Taimyr", which was designed for operation on the river portion of the Murmansk - Dudinka line. This came as a complete surprise to the directors of the Murmansk Maritime Steamship Line and the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, who had learned nothing from their recent unpleasant experience with the first nuclear powered transport vessel, the "Sevmorput".

This nuclear powered barge carrier has a triple protective shield around the nuclear reactor which is capable of withstanding direct ramming by a large ship, colliding with submerged rocks, or being struck by a "Boeing" type airplane. It has ingenious "fail-safe devices." The nuclear installation shuts itself off in the event "something" should happen.

None of this was known to the residents of Vladivostok, Nakhodka and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii when early in 1989 the barge carrier, after transporting cargo from Odessa to Vietnam, headed in their direction. Being strongly affected by the Chernobyl tragedy, they demanded that the "Sevmorput" be prohibited from entering their ports. It was also refused entry to the Chukotka port of Egvekinot. The losses, which amounted to hundreds of thousands of rubles, were mounting when they simply invited journalists and representatives of the public to come aboard, who became convinced that the ship was safe and ecologically sound.