

"Quite simply, we got caught between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, it was caused by the fact that they started taking students at LVIMU into the army. And today our fourth and fifth-year courses are stripped bare. They literally "allow" us individual specialists on leave. But now, the second and third-year courses are overflowing - the students have come back from the army - and the problem, with characteristic contradiction, will soon be the opposite: the "Makarovka" will flood us with specialists who will need to be placed in jobs and given some level of social amenities. After all, we are the only ones with a nuclear powered fleet, and the problems will be ours!

"On the other hand, the muddle in planning the development of the atomic fleet has also had its impact. Thirty years ago we built the nuclear powered icebreaker "Lenin" and thought to ourselves: we'll build three more and that will be all. And we built service facilities for three atomic ships. Then they announced: we're going to build 20 nuclear powered ships. And then came the retraction: we're going to build ten. As you can see - total chaos. What happened next was that specialists from the "Lenin", at least for a while "plugged holes" in the nuclear powered "Arktika" and "Sibir", but then along came the "Rossiya", which had not even been planned in the 70s. The "Sibir" came in in '78, and the "Rossiya" in '85! A gap, and nothing to plug it with. Then we started to think quickly: where do we get the specialists? A special course was created. Specialists are being trained for us for 1993, but in 1992 we will be getting the nuclear powered "Oktyabrskaya revolyutsiya", in 1995 the "Ural"... Further growth is not expected."

"The participants in the round table talks also noted that the skills of nuclear ships' specialists are declining. Many spoke in favor of tightening the requirements for nuclear vessel personnel and simplifying the procedures for dismissal for professional ineptitude. These procedures have become extremely bureaucratic."