

In connection with this statement one should keep in mind that during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Finland in October of last year an agreement was signed for a 50% reduction in sulfur emissions at the "Pechenganikel" and "Severonikel" combines by the mid-1990's. Very few practical steps have been taken to implement this agreement.

Ten months have passed and still the parties have not been able to reach a final agreement on what type of pollution control technology is best - the Finnish technology, proposed by the firm "Outokumpu", or the Soviet (the so-called Vanyukovskii method).

According to information published in "Helsingin Sanomat", use of the Finnish technology, which has been proven in practice, could reduce emissions by 98%. According to our neighbours' experts, the Vanyukovskii method is cheaper but less efficient.

At the beginning of the summer it seemed that everybody had reached the conclusion that the Finnish technology was preferable. But, on the trip home, our specialists promised once again to weigh all of the pros and cons.

The slowness of the governments of both countries is causing concern among the public. There is a reason why representatives of the Northern Finland communes held a "crisis" conference at the beginning of the year. And one can understand them: the environment in Lapland is dying, and it is the habitat of the aboriginal peoples. In June a Finnish parliamentary group appealed to N. Vorontsov, Chairman of the USSR State Committee on the Environment (Goskompriroda), in the hope that the Soviet government would accelerate decisions aimed at reducing emissions on the Kola Peninsula. The way things now stand, it isn't even possible to look for sources of financing without knowing from which side - Finnish or Soviet - things are to begin.