

they are. And look at our special clothing. Why does a smoke-jumper need a greatcoat, when there are the cheap and practical Lesnik jackets?"

Plaksin. "I fully concur and would add that we arrive at a fire wearing clothing that is unsuitable. We have heard rumours of fire-resistant suits, but that is all."

Barsukov. "The criticisms are valid and we will be addressing these problems. As regards technical supplies, I want to say that we are placing orders for the manufacture of equipment at our enterprises, including small tanks and high-pressure pumps."

Shchedrin. "I would like to touch upon another matter. Karelia is one of the first regions where a merging of enterprises in the timber industry and forestry occurred. When the integration took place the danger from forest fires was not great. But what happens if it increases? The financing problem is totally unclear. Minlesprom SSSR is allocating money to us from the fund for development of enterprises. If fires threaten to get out of hand, we shall overspend. This question has still to be resolved at the Ministry. We are paying out over a million for salaries, building maintenance, fuels and lubricants, etc. Yet our contract with the forestry association amounts to no more than 950,000 roubles, which means that we are unable to fly one additional hour, even if the situation demands it."

Pavlinov. "We have had a frank discussion and each of us has touched on the aspects that troubles him the most. I, for instance, am uneasy over the fact that we still haven't resolved the problem of mechanizing the extinguishing of forest