

Zyuganov, senior marine engineer of the "Taimyr."
"The residents of this city persistently demanded the removal of this nuclear-powered icebreaker from the roadstead. Only after visits to the ship by news reporters and representatives of the public did passions subside. And now we're faced with Dudinka's protest...

"Are the concerns well-founded?

Unquestionably. A nuclear ship is not a pleasure yacht with sails. But, it seems, things must be viewed realistically. I am convinced that there is a future for atomic energy and that it must not be off handedly rejected.

"As far as the reactor on our icebreaker is concerned, it cannot be compared with those of nuclear power plants. It is fundamentally different, and a catastrophe similar to that which occurred at Chernobyl' could never take place aboard our ship. But even in the event of an emergency situation, our reactor would shut down automatically: this is its salient feature. Besides, automation ensures multiple protection against malfunction. I cannot understand why the public, in objecting to the atom, does not take this into account. Without a doubt, I would not have worked for 30 years on nuclear ships had there been the slightest danger here. Yet families came to Tallinn to live aboard our icebreaker, which had taken on the appearance of a floating kindergarten."

Nor can one fail to heed the opinion of A. Sinyayev, the Murmansk Marine Steamship Line's chief engineer for nuclear power plants. He headed the State Commission which accepted the "Taimyr's" reactor compartment at the Baltic plant in Leningrad. He is convinced that the "Taimyr" conforms to the requirements placed on nuclear-powered ships.