

industry has been squeezed dry for many years now with their blessing, while the funds provided for developing it are far less than what is needed."

"Your newspaper should not have an easy conscience about this, either. It has not been consistent in its attitude towards environmental protection.

Q. "So we are all guilty, then? I suppose that's true, but let me ask you this: does the Ministry have a program of action aimed at reducing environmental damage? Will the time ever come when a harmonious relationship exists between our industries and the environment?"

A. "Yes, there is such a program. But I might point out that we have always had a lot of programs. They have not always produced any real action. Over the past 30 years very little has been accomplished. Some changes for the better have been set out for the next 3 years. The problems inherited, however, are enormous. Suffice it to say that most of the pulp-and-paper plants are at least 50% worn out. The easiest solution would be to simply close these plants, but paper manufacturing is very necessary to the country. What should we do, then?"

"Instead of building new factories, old ones should be rebuilt and reequipped. This is a faster and much cheaper solution. Of course this would require replacing outdated technology with new, advanced machinery and processes. Incidentally, we shall be getting industrial plants which, in terms of water usage, the level of purification of run-off water and atmospheric pollution, will meet or even surpass world standards. Greater funding is