

always effective. Last year we issued instructions to the effect that the chemical fire control stations were to be subordinated to aviation, but at the sites this was not always done."

G. Korovin (Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Forestry). "Our financial situation will not improve until our forests are protected by economic and legislative means. We tried to introduce cadastral evaluations ten years ago, but Gosplan (State Planning Commission) did not accept them. If we introduce them now and calculate the value of the forests, the sum will be greater than the national revenue generated during all the years of Soviet rule. Decisions are needed on both leasing and insurance matters. The sooner the government and the legislative bodies take these decisions the better it will be for all. I have already spoken about the State order (goszakaz). We have been notified of the State order and the area has been indicated but no money has been provided. What sort of State order is this, if there is no financial backing or supplies of materials and machinery? If we turn our attention now to aerial protection, we see a paradoxical situation: those republics in which aerial protection of forests is not of fundamental importance are given more money for this purpose. Take Kazakhstan and the Ukraine. There, expenditures per hectare are ten times greater than in Russia, where aviation is an essential service. Since we are transferring natural resources to the local Soviets, let them play a more active part in protecting the forests, rather than waiting until laws are enacted, compelling them to do this.

"We have talked at length about aircraft, tankers, tanks and heavy machinery. All these things are certainly needed, for large forest fires will always be with us. But our principal task is to eliminate fires in the incipient stage. What are our actual capabilities? I am not going to talk about prevention. We have already said a lot about that. But as regards promptness of detection, half of our land areas are not covered by spotting towers. In