

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

More Harm Than Good

Every morning the people of Tagil look up uneasily at the sky to see what direction will be taken by the plumes of multi-coloured smoke, which that industrial giant, the Nizhnii Tagil Metallurgical Combine, so generously bestows upon the town. The citizens of Tagil became much more concerned after the start-up of the ninth coking battery, which adds even more pollution to the already poisoned air.

The people have not calmed down. There have been demonstrations and meetings in favour of protecting the environment. The May appeal to the Bureau of the Municipal Committee of the Communist Party, to the executive committee of the town Council of National Deputies and to the Bureau of the Municipal Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League, was received with understanding. The appeal was addressed to the need for them to come out in favour of clean air and clean water, not just in word, but in deed.

What sort of example are the Nizhnii Tagil railway workers offering? You know, unlike, for example, the metallurgical industry, electrified transport is clean from the ecological point of view and we could spearhead a movement in the town in favour of a healthy environment. Alas, that is only a well-meaning wish. Today, it is as if we, too, are engaged in some sort of competition with the other enterprises of the town, to see which will be the first to foul its own section of the environment.

The Nizhnii Tagil locomotive depot is located right in the centre of the town. Last year, one analysis in six showed considerable oil content