

subsequent ice-breakers has demonstrated that the reactors are absolutely safe for the ecology and generally for the environment. This has been confirmed by experience and by many years of practical application. The ship is full of automatic equipment, which monitors all parameters and registers the most minute variations. Thus, protection is very "dependable."

There is no danger for the people working there. I was convinced of this when I visited the central point of the reactor. In order to enter or leave the area, it was necessary to comply with extensive safety procedures: it was mandatory to take a shower, to pass through radiation detectors and to wear two radiation monitors.

"Dmitriy Kirillovich, the reason I inquired about the reactor is because recently the nuclear ice-breaker "Sevmorput'" went into operation. In certain ports people were anxious and alarmed, they wonder whether the vessel presents a danger?"

"I am confident that there is no danger, not even the slightest. The hull of the "Sevmorput'" is of the classic ice-breaker type and incorporates design standards 200 times stronger than the minimum requirements. The double sides, the triple bottom and the protective shell protect the reactor in the case of the most severe emergency. As is known, the effectiveness of its biological protection has also been checked. Running tests under diverse loads have shown that: the level of emissions outside of the room does not exceed the readings of the normal earth background. Thus, the requirements imposed on the "Sevmorput'" are in conformity with the International Code of Safety for nuclear merchant vessels.