

millions of roubles and several years would be required to reinstate the output of the paper which the country needs so badly. Today, the country has neither the resources nor the time for this. But there are alternatives. We must take a broader more objective view of the situation in Yurmala - not only from departmental or regional perspectives - and avoid making rash decisions.

I should note that not a single neighbouring country in the Baltic basin can do without its own pulp and paper production. Take Denmark, for example, which occupies a much smaller area than Latvia. Three pulp and paper mills and six paper mills are operating there. There are many more such enterprises in Finland, Sweden and Norway. They are by no means getting ready to shut them down after every demonstration.

Moving on then, is it only the pulp and paper mill on the Lielupe that is now "the source of all evil"? After all, dozens of enterprises, beginning with the Elgava "RAF" and the "Latbiofarm" production association at Olaine are situated on the banks of this river and its tributaries. And what of the thousands of tonnes of artificial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides used by collective and state farms, as well as the other toxins that wash out into the Lielupe from fields and farms? Yes, what are we to say of these, since there are no purification plants in the resort zone or even in Riga itself! Even so eminent an authority as R. Kukaine, Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Academician, and Director of the A. Kirkhinshtein Institute of Microbiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR, who headed a commission to determine the environmental pollution hazard posed by the Sloka mill, has acknowledged that the mill alone