

It would be better if the design offices were not under ministerial jurisdiction. They should be run by scientists, and then almost any problem could be solved quickly. No capital investment is needed here, only the full utilization of what already exists. The "applied science zone", created in this way, could attempt to solve ecological problems, for instance, creating technology to purify the atmosphere of harmful compounds, a very acute problem for Krasnoyarsk today. A full-scale attack on the problem of improving the technology for purifying water discharged from industrial plants could be made. If the ministries are involved, however, nothing short of a war would be needed to push these projects through. Very little outside support would be available for such a battle because everyone would be protecting their own interests.

I believe this approach will continue as long as the ministries exist for the purpose of issuing directives. It is time for their executive staff, at least the ministers and their deputies, to be chosen by the relevant industries. The ministries should be transformed into business firms operating on a profit and loss basis. Then they would adopt a sane approach to problems in their industries, acquire far-sightedness, even patriotism and a civic spirit."

### Is There an Alternative Form of Energy?

Question: "You have stubbornly defended hydrocarbon-based forms of energy and linked the development of the Soviet economy to these forms. Today they are being discussed increasingly frequently as partial, or even total replacements, as alternative, ecologically harmless forms of energy."