

not something strange to man, something with which he has never come into contact. All this information must be made available to the public, then situations similar to the one that took place in the Far East will not arise.

"Does this mean that advisability of nuclear-powered vessels should not be discussed?"

"I do not want to say that nuclear energy should consider itself above all the technologies. It has its place, where it is economical and justified. Let us take the power-plants on nuclear-powered ships. They are quite heavy because they are surrounded with biological protection in order to remove any effect of radiation on personnel and the environment. This weight results in a significant displacement of such ships. Therefore they are best-suited for ice-breakers and transport ships used on long voyages. In what way is nuclear energy good for the fleet? It eliminates the need for the frequent bunkering of fuel. And as is known, it is expensive and complicated to deliver fuel to the Arctic. Thus, only nuclear ships can provide year around navigation in the Western sector of the Arctic. Now shallow-draft nuclear-powered ice-breakers, such as those of the "Taymyr" and the "Vaygach" type, are coming into service. They are needed for the early freeing of the estuaries of the Yenisey from ice."

"All of this, certainly, is true. But what if you look at it from the point of view of biological danger?"

"The ecological threat of nuclear-ships is practically zero. Let us take the first ship of the nuclear-powered fleet - the ice-breaker "lenin".