

If we were to decrease textile and clothing imports from the developed capitalist countries by 10% (a drop in the ocean when spread over the country as a whole - less than 14 kopecks per capita), then this would free hard-currency reserves for paper imports for the printing of 18-20 million newspaper copies annually.

Each year the Soviet Union spends almost 3 billion roubles in hard currency to import rolled ferrous metal and pipes. How much of these imports are stored unused for construction projects which never get underway? How much lies rusting in warehouses or in outdoor storage areas waiting to be used? If these imports were reduced by only 1%, paper could be imported for 15 million copies of newspapers per year.

As we have seen, then, there are real ways to overcome the shortages affecting the printing of periodicals which are felt by the reading public at large.

However, remedies after the fact are not always the best solution. Thought should be given to problems in the pulp-and-paper industry itself, since it is responsible for producing the volume of printing paper needed by the Soviet economy. A way must be found to bring it out of its impasse and to provide society with the cultural nourishment it needs.

The pulp-and-paper industry urgently needs restructuring. Only five paper-manufacturing machines meet the industry's current technological standards. According to experts, over 40% of the machinery in the Soviet pulp-and-paper industry needs to be replaced - it cannot be modernized or rebuilt.