

clock. I support the intelligent exploitation of Eastern Siberia by methods worthy of a civilized nation. It is a shame we must waste time and energy on proving the obvious. The intelligent exploitation of Eastern Siberia will lead only to outstanding results. Mikhail Gorbachov spoke of this repeatedly during his meetings with working people on his trip through the Krasknoyarsk Krai [Territory].

Question: "An incredible increase in output has been achieved in Siberia. Part of this gas and oil is being exported. As I understand it, the tendency now is to turn the Soviet Union into a supplier of refined products, rather than continuing as an exporter of crude oil."

Answer: "You have put this question very delicately. I would not be as delicate. It is shameful to sell crude oil this way. Refining oil into up-to-date products increases its value 10 times over. When we sell crude oil, we are giving away a large portion of our potential profits to banks in other countries. The level of our refineries is such that their production is rejected on the international market due to its low quality. We export a large quantity - one quarter of our entire output. The solution is to hasten the development of our refining capacity, especially the creation, together with our Comecon partners of up-to-date, of efficient refineries for gas and oil products. There are no obstacles today to establishing such enterprises on a mutually-advantageous basis with capitalist countries."

The approach adopted today forces us to be especially careful of even an apparently cheap form of energy like natural gas. Several years ago we would have sent it without even thinking about it