

PULP AND PAPER

Interruption in the Supply of Wood Pulp
to Lithuanian Paper Mills

What is the present state of affairs in the pulp and paper industry in Lithuania, given the economic measures being directed against the republic? This was the topic of discussion with R. Yadenkus, the first deputy minister of the republic's timber industry.

Q. Romaldas Ionovich, just a few days ago I visited the "Grigishkes" Production Association. They claim there that the enterprise has not been receiving any pulp and that the existing supply will last for only a few days after which the production of paper and paperboard may have to be stopped. Yet, as far as I know, there has been no announcement about cutting the supplies of wood pulp to Lithuania?

A. True. Nobody officially notified us about such sanctions. Yet since April 25 the pulp and paper mills of our republic have not been receiving any raw material. Bratsk, Ust-Ulimsk, Kaliningrad and Archangel have suspended their deliveries. It is difficult to say what has caused this. We would like to retain good relations with our partners of many years and we are striving to fulfil our contractual obligations. It is appropriate to mention here that all our contracts have been 100 percent fulfilled for the first quarter. It is clear now that our own shipments will also have to be terminated because of the lack of raw material. That was the news we had to break to our customers.