

symposium entitled 'Problems of the Environment and Navigational Safety in the Arctic' was arranged for the following day.

At the beginning of the symposium the Soviet side was invited to speak. I spoke about the prospects for operations on the Northern Sea Route and about the status of the fleet. V. Shestopalov, Captain of the "Vaigach", spoke about the tactics of ice navigation and the organization of maritime operations in the Arctic. A. Sinyaev, deputy head of the steamship line and responsible for facilities, dealt with technical aspects of the use of nuclear powered ships."

"And what did people think of our nuclear powered fleet, especially the 'Vaigach', of course?"

"A representative of the Atomic Energy Administration emphasized that he had seen a high degree of organization and a technically advanced ship, as regards solutions to the nuclear problem. But other opinions were heard as well, including: 'No matter what, the icebreaker should not be permitted to come here.' But these were emotional opinions rather than expert evaluations.

It should be pointed out that one incident did occur that requires explanation. In a paper presented by some British people it was noted that, according to American intelligence, an accident occurred on the nuclear power icebreaker 'Lenin' in the 1960's with the loss of 30 lives, and that the ship was then taken out of service for several years. Mr. Sinyaev explained what had really happened. It was simply that scientists had by that time developed a more reliable reactor, and this was installed in place of the old one. This did not involve any accidents. A representative of the movement for nuclear free seas, Elsonor O. Handland, remarked that they had now received objective information firsthand and would include the explanation in their report.

And here's another point of view. At the docks where the nuclear powered vessel was moored there was a demonstration organized by local university youth organizations and school children under the banner of environmental protection. In an orderly fashion they chanted 'Go home!' We conferred among ourselves and,