

entitled "There Are No Boundaries in the Environment" (Izvestiya no. 233) spoke about unacceptable delays in practical implementation of environmental agreements signed during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Finland last year.

Implementation of these agreements will require enormous financial resources. And these resources have now been found. Considering the serious environmental situation in our country and our own interests first of all (the environment truly does not know any boundaries!) Finland, Norway and Sweden will give us credits, as Mr. Holkeri stated, on extremely favourable terms. The premier promised to "open the parentheses" later when specialists begin implementing the decisions adopted at the political level.

One of the enterprises - "Pechenga-Nikel" (whose emissions total 270,000 to 280,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxides per year) - is to undergo radical reconstruction, based on technology developed by the Finnish firm "Outokumpu" which has been adopted in 36 countries, including Japan and the USA. The Soviet concern "Norilsk-Nikel" is a business partner of "Outokumpu". The favourable conditions involve using nickel - the finished product of the renovated combine - to repay the credits.

According to Olaf Urvas, director of the "Outokumpu" combine, there is a feeling of confidence that sulphur emissions at "Pechenga-Nikel" will be reduced by a factor of almost 15 by 1994, as planned.

The Finnish technology will also be implemented for a portion of the production in Monchegorsk, and the emissions there will be greatly reduced as a result.

Mr. Urvas emphasized that the firm used to merely supply equipment to the USSR and supervise installation. Now, reciprocal deliveries will bind the metallurgical workers of the two countries even more closely. The firm actively sought this order. But the dimensions of the work that lies ahead are a little daunting: how will all of this be managed?

"We know the foreign trade organizations of the USSR quite well," Mr. Urvas confided in me. "The negotiations that lie ahead will be very complicated. But we hope that the deal will nevertheless be mutually advantageous and profitable."