

could be published. Smoothly written articles and broadcasts presented such one-sided "pictures from outer space" that in broad segments of the public the impression was formed that space is above all else, prestige. Prestige is fine, but a balanced budget is better. While the next success is assured, the shortage of consumer goods continues. The articles in the special journals which somehow contain a sprinkling of economic information on space matters have only a limited readership. Yet even though the message is late, it has, it would appear, found its way to the Main Space Administration (Glavkosmos). For at last we have managed to get some figures. And what do they tell us? That space is bringing in revenue. Last year the disbursements on the entire programme of space research for non-military purposes amounted to 1.3 billion roubles, but the income from the same programme exceeded the disbursements and reached two billion roubles. Glasnost', disliked by the bureaucrats, is becoming an ally of the researchers.

While the non-military space programme is vast and multisided, there is also a place in it for research in support of forestry. It is on this question that, at our request, the Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Forestry (Goskomles), Doctor of Agricultural Sciences V.I. Sukhikh, has prepared the following article.

* * *

(Article)

Because of the sharp intensification of man's multiple impact on the environment and the shrinking of the forested areas on the Earth's