

"Aleksandr Mikhaylovich, after the tragedy at the Chernobyl AES the attitude of the public has become negative toward the use of the atom for peaceful purposes, including its use in the commercial fleet. Confirmation of this is the protest of the public in the Far East against the arrival of the nuclear-powered lighter-tug "Sevmorput'" ("Vodnyy Transport told about this in its 9 Feb. issue of this year). How do you evaluate this situation?

"Earlier, all questions, related to the use of nuclear energy were of interest only to professional people. Now they are disturbing to the general public. We ourselves have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to work more closely with the public.

Not long ago a conference, dedicated to the problems of interacting with public opinion, took place abroad. There the question, "What are we actually afraid of?" was posed. It turned out that the majority is simply afraid of the word "radiation" itself, and when it is mentioned people literally begin to "tremble". This is a result of a lack of information. Actually, what we use as food is radioactive. We live in houses constructed from materials in which there are also radioactive elements. Americans began to check the level of radioactivity in their houses and detected that in certain buildings, where materials from bad quarries or mines were used, the radiation dose was 10 Rem. This is a great deal when compared to the exposure with the dose of professionals who might receive 5 Rem per year.

Radiation follows man everywhere. Whether he has an X-ray or whether he watches color television, he is exposed to radiation. Radiation is