



# NEWS & VIEWS

from the Soviet Section  
EXPO'74 World's Fair

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## BORIS A. BORISOV: "I AM EXTREMELY GLAD THAT EXPO'74 IS SUCH A BIG SUCCESS"

Boris A. BORISOV, Chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce, has visited Expo'74.

In a talk with Mr. King Cole, President of the World's Fair, Mr. Borisov congratulated him on the success of the first international environmental exposition.

"I am extremely glad that Expo'74 is such a big success," Mr. Borisov said. "I think that for the first time humanity has come to realize the vital importance of environmental protection, as well as the fact that a genuine success in the solution to this problem is possible only through joint actions by all the nations."

Mr. King Cole noted that the Soviet Union substantially contributed to the success of Expo'74.



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BROAD PROSPECTS FOR IMMEDIATE JOINT ACTION

Dr. Ivan T. FROLOV, editor-in-chief of the VOPROSY FILOSOFII journal and professor of Moscow State University (Philosophy), and Dr. Yuri N. SOKOLOV, rector of the Moscow Architectural Institute and a leading Soviet expert in city-planning, have spent a week in Spokane. They took part in the Expo's First International Environmental Symposium, "Dilemma Facing Humanity".

Soviet journalist Oleg Shibko asked the scientists to share their impressions of Expo'74 and the symposium they attended.

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Question: How do you assess the significance of the world's first international exposition devoted to environmental protection?

FROLOV: In my opinion, Expo'74 is an illustration of the nations' efforts to resolve the ecological problem. Simultaneously, the exposition will help change the ecological consciousness of the public at large.

The organizers of Expo'74 and the participating countries have done a great deal of work. We visited all the pavilions at the Fair. Apart from the Soviet section, we were impressed by the exhibits of the United States, and Australia and other states. However, we think that some of the exhibits of other countries do not fully meet the theme of the World's Fair. We believe that it is necessary to elaborate in future most appropriate forms and methods of presenting for the broad public information pertaining to environmental questions. Nevertheless, the success of Expo'74 is unquestionable.

But this is only the beginning. THE SPIRIT OF SPOKANE SHOULD LIVE ON AND PERMEATE ALL THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS in the field of environment.

Question: What are your impressions of the symposium?

SOKOLOV: First of all, I should like to say that it is very significant that this international scientific forum was organized within Expo'74 to discuss pressing issues of our times. This is eloquently borne out by the theme of the symposium, "Dilemma Facing Humanity".

FROLOV: The symposium gave us an opportunity to exchange views on the ecological problem. We respect the opinion of our colleagues, though we cannot agree with them on all instances. We are ready to continue the dialogue started at Gonzaga University and during the subsequent meetings we had. We are ready for the comparison of ideas, for the battle of ideas. Naturally, we shall be forwarding our concept as we believe in its realism and correctness.

The symposium has once again demonstrated that the ecological problem is an urgent scientific problem requiring a comprehensive analysis. We are to avoid hasty actions so as not to do further harm to our environment. This does not mean, however, that we are to delay our actions. On the contrary, WE SHOULD, AND MUST, ACT. With present-day scientific and technological progress, the activity of man is comparable to natural processes.

We are convinced that broad prospects are opening up to STUDY JOINTLY the many-faceted aspects of the environmental problem and START ACTING IMMEDIATELY. Despite differences in philosophical concepts,

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we can co-operate in the solution of these important problems.

SOKOLOV: It is a pity that the participants in the symposium had not received beforehand some information on the contents of the reports to be delivered and other documents. Unfortunately, many prominent environmentalists and other scientists had not participated, including such world-known figures as D. D. Meadows and B. Commoner, with whose works we are well acquainted and whose views we respect very much. This would have made the work of the symposium even more notable and effective.

FROLOV: I would also add to what my colleague Professor Sokolov has said, that the discussion of many questions proceeded in rather general form. We think that it is time to begin the search of concrete ways for the solution of the specific problems of the environment.

Unfortunately, we have not discussed the question of what is the ecological problem. Sometimes, I had an impression that we imparted different meaning to one and the same notion. As we understood, there exist at least five views on the ecological problem. We are, therefore, to agree upon unique terminology of our concepts, and this should be done as early as possible.

SOKOLOV: The symposium has shown once again that the United States is paying most serious attention to the environmental problems. US scientists have scored interesting and substantial results. Though we regard some of their ideas as controversial.

We were very much pleased to become acquainted Robert THEOBALD. Previously, we had not read much of his works. We now bought some more, and these leave quite an impression.

And especially, we should like to remark that the participation of Dr. Beatrice E. WILLARD rendered the symposium even more prominent and notable.

FROLOV: I should also like to note that the Spokane press has given enough coverage to our concept. Major aspects of the report I have read and some of my basic ideas have been reproduced by the papers with precision.

#### BYELORUSSIA: ECOLOGISTS WORKING ON FACTORY'S ORDERS

By Porfiri Chuvayev,  
Doctor of Chemical Sciences

For a number of years now the Laboratory of Introducents' Resistance Physiology, Byelorussian Academy of Sciences' Botanical Garden (Byelorussia is one of the 15 constituent republics in the west of the USSR), has been doing work by contrast with the Polotsk Oil Refinery, one of Europe's biggest. The principal pollutant of this production happens to be sulphuric anhydride which, despite the presence of purification setups, still continues to get into the atmosphere also at the sites of large thermal power stations, as well as metallurgical establishments.



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An ideal solution to the problem would, of course, be a complete elimination of the toxicants discharges into the atmosphere, but it is a technological task to be dealt with in the near future. As yet the Byelorussian scientists are using plants for air-purification.

A question was raised at the laboratory, why sulphuric anhydrite was harmful to plants. Sulphur in itself is necessary as nutrition to them. Does not this mean, the scientists deliberated, that until the plant obtains sulphur in sufficient quantity from the soil it will continue to be harmfully affected by it coming in from the air?

Making experiments with the soil poor in sulphurous compounds and, moreover, removing super-phosphate from the fertilizers, (by substituting it with ammophos), the laboratory derived an excellent result: the plants started to extract sulphur from the air, thereby considerably decontaminating it.

At present, the Byelorussian scientists are making interesting experiments with Kamchatka vegetation which, on their assumption, must possess some peculiar properties since it abides in the area of high volcanism.

Another problem being dealt with by the laboratory's staff is extraction of carbon dioxide from the air. As is known, this can be done solely by green plants. Building industrial enterprises involves the use of large areas previously occupied by vegetation. The contradiction has, however, been solved: use should be made of vertical green plantation by means of plants notable for their maximum photosynthesis efficiency. Vertical green plantation with the use of hanging and creeping plants yields a great voluminal economy, the surface of rooms being much greater than the area occupied by them. Green plantation contributes, besides, to the elimination of noise and solar overheating of the buildings.

As a result of the five-year research, the laboratory recommended to the Polotsk Oil Refinery the use of over 80 species and forms of trees and shrubs, 150 flower species and 6 lawn grass varieties. As for shopwork interior, the factory is making use of three hundred species of room and greenhouse plants. This will not only add health to the atmosphere at the factory's territory, but it will also create a protective green zone around the factory.

Novosti Press Agency

More than 700 thousand people have visited the Soviet section at Expo'74.

#### OUR VISITORS SAY...

"I was impressed by everything in general. However, the effective use of lighting and the organization of various exhibits is especially impressive. Your personnel are very nice." - Sue Eickmeyer, Spokane

"My husband and I think your pavilion is extremely beautiful in every way. We were very much impressed with all the exhibits, lighting and feeling displayed." - Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tidrington

"I was especially impressed by your personnel with their first-hand information of Russia." - Frank Gordon, Arizona