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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

Withdrawer

JET 5/16/2005

File Folder USSR: NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: CHERNOBYL APRIL 29,
1986 5/9

FOIA

F06-114/8

Box Number 29

YARHI-MILO

2911

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10427	CABLE	022128Z MAY 86 [1 -4] D 2/22/2008 NLRRF06-114/8	4	5/2/1986	B1
10428	CABLE	021115Z MAY 86 [5 -5]	1	5/2/1986	B1
10441	PAPER	021806Z MAY 86 [6 -6] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/2/1986	B1
10442	PAPER	021746Z MAY 86 [7 -9] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	3	5/2/1986	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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1986 5/9

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10431	CABLE	020447Z MAY 86 [10 - 11] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/2/1986	B1
10429	CABLE	020134Z MAY 86 [15 - 15]	1	5/2/1986	B1
10433	CABLE	031524Z MAY 86 [16 - 19] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	4	5/3/1986	B1
10434	CABLE	032006Z MAY 86 [22 - 23] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/3/1986	B1

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10435	CABLE	031218Z MAY 86 [24 - 24] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/3/1986	B1
10436	CABLE	031140Z MAY 86 [25 - 25] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/3/1986	B1
10437	COVER SHEET	MORNING SUMMARY CURRENT REPORTS [28 - 28] R 2/25/2008 NLRRF06-114/8	1	5/3/1986	B1
10438	PAPER	MORNING SUMMARY CURRENT REPORTS [29 - 29] R 2/25/2008 NLRRF06-114/8	1	5/3/1986	B1

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10430	PAPER	TOKYO SUMMIT; PHILIPPINES, IRAN/IRAQ; FRG/LIBYA; ROK; LEBANON; HAITI [30 - 31]	2	ND	B1
10439	PAPER	MORNING SUMMARY CURRENT REPORTS [32 - 32] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/3/1986	B1
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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7483 DTG: 021806Z MAY 86 PSN: 018161
EOB250 AN003723 TOR: 122/1830Z CSN: HCE069

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4317

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7235
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4570
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0273
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2399
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1460
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2822
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5180
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1117
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2423
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3500
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3699
UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 11,
AS OF 1700 GMT, MAY 2

REF: MOSCOW 7459

1. ON MAY 2 THE ITALIAN POLCOUNS (PROTECT) GAVE
POLCOUNS THE FOLLOWING READOUT ON THE ITALIAN
PRESENCE IN THE UKRAINE:

-- OVERALL: SOME 340 TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS, NOT
COUNTING FAMILIES, HAVE BEEN LIVING AND WORKING IN
KIEV, ZHLOBIN, NOVOPOLSK, MINSK, SUMI AND BELIY
ZARKOV. MOST ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MAJOR FIRMS.

-- ZHLOBIN (ABOUT 150 KM NE OF CHERNOBYL'): ABOUT
40 TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN WORKING THERE FROM THE
DANIELLI FIRM, ON A JOINT CONTRACT WITH THE
AUSTRIANS. AUSTRIA HAS ARRANGED ONGOING CHARTER
FLIGHTS WHICH HAVE EVACUATED FAMILIES, BUT THE
TECHNICIANS REMAINED. ITALIANS HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH
LOCAL SOVIET HEALTH OFFICIALS, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME
MEASUREMENTS OF RADIOACTIVITY, BUT NO NUMBERS WERE
AVAILABLE. ON THE BASIS OF HEALTH CHECKS OF PEOPLE
WHO RETURNED TO AUSTRIA AND ITALY FROM THE AREA,
THE TECHNICIANS WERE STILL CONSIDERING WHAT TO DO.

THE LEVELS FOUND WERE NOT ALARMING. THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE DATA, BUT NOT
ADVISING THE COMPANIES ON WHETHER TO LEAVE OR REMAIN.

-- 40 KM SOUTH OF KIEV: FOUR TECHNICIANS WITH THE
FATA ENTERPRISE HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN.

-- SUMI (350 KM SE OF CHERNOBYL'): THE DANIELLI
ENTERPRISE HAD SOME 200 TECHNICIANS THERE, PLUS A
DOCTOR WHO HAS NOT MADE A REPORT, BUT THERE WAS NO
SENSE OF ALARM AT THE SCENE.

-- MINSK: THE COGOLO ENTERPRISE HAD ABOUT 90 PEOPLE
THERE, WHO WERE STILL EVALUATING WHETHER TO REMAIN.
TWO LEFT AND WERE MEDICALLY EXAMINED; RESULTS
INDICATED THAT EVACUATION WAS NOT JUSTIFIED.
(PETROSYANTS HAD SAID THE MINSK READING WAS 0.04
MILLIREMS; THE SAME AS VILNIUS).

-- BELIY ZARKOV: THE PIRELLI ENTERPRISE HAD THREE
TECHNICIANS THERE.

-- NOVOPOLSK (1000 KM NE OF CHERNOBYL' BUT IN THE
CLOUD PATH): ABOUT 38 TECHNICIANS PLUS 7 DEPENDENTS
REMAINED THERE SO FAR.

2. ITALIAN MEDICAL AID?

ASKED ABOUT RADIO REPORTS OF ITALIAN MEDICAL AID
BEING OFFERED TO THE SOVIETS, THE ITALIAN POLCOUNS
SAID HIS AMBASSADOR WOULD SEE FIRST DEPFOINMIN
KOVALEV LATER IN THE DAY ON THIS SUBJECT. THE
SOVIETS HAD CONTACTED ITALIAN SCIENTISTS UNOFFICIALLY,
THROUGH THE SOVIET SCIENCE ATTACHE IN ROME, CONCERNING
POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. HARTMAN
BT

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NLRR F06-114/84 10441

WJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7482 DTG: 021746Z MAY 86 PSN: 018127
EOB890 AN003610 TOR: 122/1809Z CSN: HCE058

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EC, EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT
SO STATE. THEY SELECTED THE OTHER FOUR (FRANCE, UK,
FINLAND AND AUSTRIA) BECAUSE THEY HAD SHOWN
PARTICULAR NERVOUSNESS, HAD MANY PEOPLE HERE, HAD
EVACUATED PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS (FRANCE AND UK;
FINLAND FROM THE UKRAINE OBLAST); AND WERE OPENLY
DISCUSSING EVACUATION OF TURNKEY PERSONNEL (AUSTRIA).

PETROSYANTS REVISITED

OP IMMED

STU3766
DE RUEHMO #7482/01 1221755
O 021746Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4314

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7232
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4567
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0270
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2396
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1457
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2819
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5177
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1114
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2420
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3497
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3696
UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 07482

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 10,
AS OF 1600 GMT, MAY 2

SUMMARY

1. THE AUSTRIAN CHARGE REPORTS STRONG SOVIET
INTEREST IN AVOIDING A DEPARTURE OF AUSTRIAN
TECHNICIANS. PETROSYANTS SAID THE NUCLEAR
ACCIDENT OCCURRED APRIL 26, AND WAS A BLOW TO
THE SOVIET PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM.
IAEA INSPECTION OF CHERNOBYL' WILL NOT OCCUR SOON,
IF AT ALL. THE SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MEDICAL
LIABILITY CLAIMS. SPECIAL MINSK-VIENNA EXVUCATION
FLIGHTS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SUNDAY, MAINLY FOR
FOREIGN DEPENDENTS.
END SUMMARY

2. ON MAY 2 THE AUSTRIAN CHARGE (PROTECT) GAVE
POLCOUNS THE FOLLOWING READOUT ON RECENT CONTACTS
WITH THE SOVIETS ON CHERNOBYL':

TARGETS OF SOVIET DEMARCHES

3. THE SOVIETS HAD CALLED IN THE DUTCH (SEPTEL) AS

4. STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC
ENERGY CHAIRMAN A. M. PETROSYANTS AGAIN CALLED IN
THE AUSTRIAN CHARGE MAY 2 TO FURTHER URGE AGAINST
DEPARTURE OF AUSTRIAN PERSONNEL (SOME 700 PERSONNEL)
FROM ZHLOBIN. PETROSYANTS SAID THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS
WITH THE COOLING SYSTEM, WHICH LED TO A MELTING DOWN
OF THE REACTOR CORE, WHICH IN TURN LED TO A BLAZE
(HE DID NOT SAY EXPLOSION). ALL THESE PROBLEMS COULD
BE MANAGED WITH SOVIET TECHNICAL MEANS.

IAEA INSPECTION? NOT JUST YET

5. THE AUSTRIAN CHARGE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF
IAEA INSPECTION OF THE DAMAGE, NOTING PRIOR SOVIET
STATEMENTS INDICATING SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN APPROACH.
PETROSYANTS AT FIRST SAID YES IN PRINCIPLE, BUT
ADDED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING IT WOULD BE OUT OF
THE QUESTION SINCE THERE WERE SO MANY SOVIET EXPERTS
CROWDING INTO THE AREA. THEN A "RYZHKOV", EVIDENTLY
A SECURITY OFFICIAL SITTING IN, INTERJECTED THAT SUCH
AN INSPECTION WOULD NOT OCCUR; IT WAS NOT A USUAL
PROCEDURE, AND THE US HAD NOT ACCEPTED INSPECTION
AFTER THE THREE MILE ISLAND ACCIDENT.

TIMING AND SIGNIFICANCE

6. PETROSYANTS SAID THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED ON APRIL 26.
HE DESCRIBED IT AS THE WORST INCIDENT IN THE HISTORY
OF PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND WAS A HARD
BLOW FOR SOVIET USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS WELL AS FOR
NUCLEAR ENERGY WORLDWIDE. THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO
CHECK MANY OTHER POWER STATIONS WITHIN THE USSR
(ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY THEY WOULD BE CLOSED DOWN).

THE FIRST MEETING

7. IN THE NIGHT OF APRIL 30/MAY 1, WHEN DEPFONMIN
KOVALEV, AMBASSADOR PETROVSKIY (MFA) AND PETROSYANTS
FIRST CALLED THE AUSTRIAN CHARGE IN, THEY NOTED THE
BT

*And
Maklode*

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NLRR F06-114/8#10442

LOS NARA DATE 9/30/08

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8

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SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7482 DTG: 021746Z MAY 86 PSN: 018130
EOB891 AN003609 TOR: 122/1811Z CSN: HCE059

CLEAR EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THEIR TECHNICIANS TO REMAIN).

DISTRIBUTION: COBB-01 MAN-01 DOBR-01 WRIT-01 SOMM-01 RODM-01
LENC-01 MAT-01 /008 A1

MEDICAL LIABILITY ISSUE?

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: VP SIT
EOB:

8. AS IN THE UK DEMARCHE (SEPTEL), THE SOVIETS TOLD THE AUSTRIANS APRIL 30 THAT UKRAINIAN AND BYLEORUSSIAN MEDICAL FACILITIES WOULD PROVIDE SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS TO FOREIGNERS. IN ADDITION, A SPECIAL OUTLET WAS ESTABLISHED IN MOSCOW AT HOSPITAL NO. 7, KOLOMENSKIY PRO'EZD NO 4, IN THE KRASNOGVARDEISKIY RAION. THEY ALSO SAID THAT DEPARTING FOREIGNERS WERE EXPECTED EITHER TO HAVE HAD MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AT THESE OUTLETS AND SHOW APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION, OR TO SIGN A DECLARATION STATING THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE, AND WOULD NOT HAVE, CLAIMS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. SOME AUSTRIAN TECHNICIANS WERE RESISTING BOTH OPTIONS, AND THE AUSTRIAN LEGAL AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING THE ISSUE IN VIENNA.

OP IMMED
UTS1949
DE RUEHMO #7482/02 1221755
O 021746Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

OTHER QUESTIONS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4315

9. AT THE APRIL 30 MEETING THE AUSTRIANS ASKED:

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7233
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4568
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0271
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2397
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1458
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2820
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5178
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1115
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2421
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3498
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3697
UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

-- WHEN THE SOVIETS WOULD RESPOND TO THEIR LONG LIST OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. PETROSYANTS AND KOVALEV SAID NOT NOW, BUT IN DUE TIME. THEY ADDED THAT AUSTRIAN CONCERNS OF WINDS CARRYING POLLUTION TO AUSTRIA WERE EXAGGERATED. THE SWEDES HAD ERRONEOUSLY STATED THAT THEY DETECTED A 20-FOLD INCREASE IN RADIATION, WHEN IN FACT IT WAS ONLY 5 PERCENT. EVEN THIS WAS WITHIN TOLERABLE RANGES. AUSTRIA HAD EVEN LESS TO FEAR THAN SWEDEN DID TWO DAYS EARLIER.

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-- WHAT KIND OF POLLUTANTS WERE INVOLVED. THE SOVIETS SAID THAT MOST WERE OF SHORT DURATION. SOME WERE OF LONGER DURATION, E.G., STONTIUM 90 AND CESIUM 137, BUT THEY DID NOT GIVE PROPORTIONS OR NUMBERS.

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-- WHAT ABOUT THE POLISH REACTION? PETROSYANTS SAID HE "SIMPLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE POLISH MEASURES." HE SAID SOVIET MEASUREMENTS WERE:

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

- KIEV: 0.000075 ROENTGENS/HOUR;
- MINSK: 0.00008 ROENTGENS/HOUR;
- VILNIUS: 0.00004 ROENTGENS/HOUR.

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 10,

BT

FOLLOWING:

-- THE REACTOR HAD BEEN EXTINGUISHED; NO OTHER BLOCK WAS AFFECTED AND RUMORS THAT A SECOND PROBLEM EXISTED WERE UNTRUE;

-- THE STAFF, OTHER THAN THOSE EVACUATED, COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM;

-- NO OTHER MEASURES WERE NEEDED EXCEPT FOR EVACUATION OF THE "PROTECTED AREA" NEAR THE SITE;

-- THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH FOODSTUFFS IN THE USSR; PEOPLE COULD EAT WHAT THEY GOT. THE CHERNOBYL' AREA PRODUCED LITTLE AGRICULTURALLY, AND EVEN THE MILK IN THAT AREA WAS CONSIDERED "CLEAN", ALTHOUGH NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON WHETHER PEOPLE SHOULD DRINK IT.

-- IN THE PREVIOUS 24 HOURS, NO MORE POLLUTANTS OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL HAD COME FROM THE REACTOR. RADIATION LEVELS IN THE AREA WERE DROPPING.

-- THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FERROUS METALLURGY AND A KEY METALURGIMPORT OFFICIAL HAD VISITED ZHLOBIN THE DAY BEFORE (APRIL 29). (THE AUSTRIANS READ THIS AS A

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9

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7482 DTG: 021746Z MAY 86 PSN: 018131
EOB892 AN003608 TOR: 122/1812Z CSN: HCE060

BETA: 100-150 IMP/MIN
GAMMA: 0.01-0.1 MR/HOUR

DISTRIBUTION: COBB-01 MAN-01 DOBR-01 WRIT-01 SOMM-01 RODM-01
LENC-01 MAT-01 /008 A1

-- IN OPEN AIR: ALPHA: 20-30 IMP/MIN
BETA: 50-100 IMP/MIN
GAMMA: 0.01 MR/HR

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: VP SIT
EOB:

-- TAP WATER: ALPHA: 10-20 IMP/MIN
BETA: 50-80 IMP/MIN
GAMMA: 0.05 MR/HR

OP IMMEDIATE
STU3774
DE RUEHMO #7482/03 1221757
O 021746Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

THE TELEX ADDED THAT THESE LEVELS WERE CONSISTENT WITH
FINDINGS OF FRG AND US DEFENSE ATTACHE REPORTS, AND
WERE WITHIN NORMAL RADIATION RANGES. (N.R. WE
INTERPRET "IMP/MIN" AS "COUNTS PER MINUTE.")
HARTMAN
BT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4316

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7234
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4569
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0272
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2398
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1459
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2821
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5179
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1116
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2422
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3499
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3698
UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 MOSCOW 07482

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 10,

SPECIAL FLIGHTS

10. THE AUSTRIANS REPORTED THAT BY SUNDAY A TOTAL OF
FOUR SPECIAL FLIGHTS FROM MINSK TO VIENNA WILL HAVE
BEEN COMPLETED. THE INITIAL FLIGHT CONCENTRATED ON
FAMILIES OF AUSTRIAN WORKERS, BUT SUBSEQUENT FLIGHTS
ARE TAKING MORE GERMANS AND ITALIANS.

RADIATION EXPERT IN ZHLOBIN

11. A RADIATION EXPERT HAD BEEN IN ZHLOBIN MAY 2 TO
TAKE EARTH, WATER AND OTHER SAMPLES, AND DEPARTED THE
SAME DAY. ANALYSIS OF HIS WORK WOULD HELP THE
AUSTRIANS DECIDE QUITE SOON WHETHER TO RESUME WORKING
IN THE OPEN AIR, STAY INDOORS, OR EVEN EVACUATE IF
NECESSARY.

LOCAL MOSCOW READING

12. THE AUSTRIANS HAVE REPORTED BY TELEX TO VIENNA
THE FOLLOWING LOCAL MOSCOW READINGS TAKEN TODAY:

-- INDOORS: ALPHA: 30-50 IMP/MIN

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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File
10

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7459 DTG: 020447Z MAY 86 PSN: 016895
EOB193 AN003290 TOR: 122/0508Z CSN: HCE734

DISTRIBUTION: MAN-01 DOBR-01 KRAM-01 SOMM-01 ROOM-01 LENC-01
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O 020447Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4295

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7225
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4564
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2393
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1454
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0263
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2816
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5172
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1110
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2417
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3493
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3693
UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 07459

PASS S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 8,
AS 1730 GHT MAY 1
REF: MOSCOW 7427

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR MET TWICE ON APRIL 30 WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS AT THE MFA IN WHAT HE HOPED WOULD BE USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE CHERNOBYL' DISASTER. THE TALKS WERE NOTABLE ONLY FOR THE SPECTACLE OF SENIOR SOVIETS PUSHING STALE STATEMENTS IN A VAIN ATTEMPT AT PUBLIC RELATIONS. THE BEHAVIOR OF A.M. PETROSYANTS, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, WAS PARTICULARLY UNPLEASANT. END SUMMARY.

3. ON APRIL 30, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON VLADIMIR SUSLOV, HEAD OF THE SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, MFA, TO PRESENT AN OFFICIAL OFFER OF ASSISTANCE AND CONVEY THE CONCERN OF BRITISH CITIZENS OVER THE CHERNOBYL' ACCIDENT. CITING THE ABSENCE OF INFORMATION, THE AMBASSADOR TRIED TO BRING HOME TO SUSLOV THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A SHORTSIGHTED POLICY BY NOTING THAT THE

THREAT OF CANCELLATION OF THE UPCOMING VISIT OF A TOP BRITISH BALLET COMPANY. TURNING TO THE IAEA GUIDELINES FOR MUTUAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN A TRANSBOUNDARY RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, THE U.K. AMBASSADOR STATED HOW SUCCESSFUL THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THESE GUIDELINES HAD BEEN AND NOW WHEN THEY WERE REALLY NEEDED, THE SOVIETS WERE FLAGRANTLY IGNORING THEM. HE THEN PRESENTED TWO PAGES OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND ADDED THAT THE WINDSCALE ACCIDENT WAS IN NO WAY PARALLEL TO THE PRESENT CATASTROPHE. BRITISH STUDENTS WOULD SOON BE LEAVING THE KIEV AREA, OPINED THE AMBASSADOR, AND HE DID NOT WANT ANY DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR DEPARTURE.

4. SUSLOV RESPONDED BY AGREEING THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE OF THE STUDENTS BUT THAT THEY WOULD FIRST NEED TO TAKE A PHYSICAL EXAM. (N.B.: THE STUDENTS FLEW OUT ON BRITISH AIRWAYS ON SCHEDULE, WITHOUT PROBLEMS, AND AFTER AN EXAM. THE PHYSICAL ONLY REGISTERED ONE ODD READING -- A PAIR OF SHOES -- WHICH SHOWED 0.0075 MILLIREMS PER HOUR. OTHERWISE, THE READINGS WERE ZERO.)

5. LATE THAT NIGHT, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED INTO THE MFA TO MEET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV, A.M. PETROSYANTS (CHAIRMAN, STATE COMMITTEE FOR UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY), AND G.A. YAGODIN (MINISTER OF HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED SECONDARY EDUCATION). KOVALEV READ WHAT SOUNDED TO BE THE TASS RELEASE AND PRESENTED IT AS A STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, TRYING TO PALM IT OFF AS

SOMETHING NEW AND INFORMATIVE. PETROSYANTS THEN STATED THAT THE REPROACHES IN THE WESTERN MEDIA WERE UNJUSTIFIED, EXAGGERATED, AND BASED ON RUMOR. FURTHERMORE, SOVIET HANDLING OF THE ACCIDENT IS SOUND AND WITHIN THE IAEA GUIDELINES. CHAIRMAN PETROSYANTS, WHO ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY UNCTUOUS THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, ATTACKED THE U.S. FOR WAITING AN ENTIRE MONTH BEFORE RELEASING ANY INFORMATION ON THE THREE MILE ISLAND INCIDENT AND ADDED THAT THE USSR COULD NOT GET ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE WINDSCALE ACCIDENT OUT OF THE BRITISH FOR A LONG TIME FOLLOWING THAT FIRE. HE CLOSED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT THE SOVIET UNION NEEDED NO HELP ON CHERNOBYL'. YAGODIN, THE ONLY
BT

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NLRR F06-114/8#10431

BY LS NARA DATE 9/30/08

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01
EOB194

MOSCOW 7459
AN003289

DTG: 020447Z MAY 86 PSN: 016899
TOR: 122/0509Z CSN: HCE735

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4296

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7226
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4565
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2394
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1455
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0264
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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1111
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2418
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UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 07459

PASS S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 8,

ONE WHO SEEMED EVEN A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS APPROACH TO THE MATTER, MAINTAINED THAT THE SITUATION AT THE REACTOR IS STABLE, THEY ARE MONITORING THE RADIATION LEVELS, AND WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY MEDICAL CHECKS. HE ASSURED THE U. K. AMBASSADOR THAT "THE RATES THAT ARE BEING TAKEN FROM LOCAL INSTRUMENTS GIVE READINGS BELOW PROFESSIONAL NORMS. BY APRIL 29, THE RADIATION LEVEL HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL." ACCORDING TO YAGODIN, A NORMAL RADIATION WOULD BE 0.001 MILLIREMS PER HOUR.

6. IN HIS RESPONSE, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED PETROSYANTS WHETHER THE FIRE IN THE REACTOR HAD BEEN PUT OUT? YES, REPLIED THE CHAIRMAN. POINTING OUT THAT THERE IS NO PARALLEL BETWEEN THREE MILE ISLAND AND WINDSCALE, HE NOTED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE PROCEDURE CALLED FOR IN THE IAEA GUIDELINES, THE WORLD HAD TO WAIT FOR THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE THAT A NUCLEAR DISASTER HAD OCCURRED IN THE SOVIET UNION. COMMENT: THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR COULD NOT BUT WONDER WHY PETROSYANTS WAS STILL IN MOSCOW IN THE MIDST OF THE CRISIS AND NOT AT CHERNOBYL'. END COMMENT. HARTMAN
BT

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✓ 12

PAGE 01
EOB600

STOCKHOLM 3453
AN003703

DTG: 021608Z MAY 86
TOR: 122/1621Z

PSN: 017911
CSN: HCE979

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STU3464
DE RUFHSK #3453 1221609
O 021608Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2258

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 3389
AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE 0155
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 0509
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE 3555
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 7343
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 0761

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 03453
MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

AS 4/10/02

FRANKFURT, BRUSSELS AND LONDON FOR FAA

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, TRGY, UR, SW
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT AND CIVILIAN AVIATION

REF: MOSCOW 7460

THE EMBASSY CONTACTED SAS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER KNUT LOVSTUHAGEN ON ANY EFFECTS OF RADIATION ON ITS FLIGHTS INTO AND OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION. LOVSTUHAGEN INDICATED THAT SAS HAS BEEN MONITORING ITS FLIGHTS CONTINUOUSLY SINCE APRIL 29 BUT TESTS HAVE SHOWN NO INCREASE IN RADIATION LEVELS. SAS ALSO CHECKED THE EQUIPMENT IN USE TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE SOVIET PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ACCIDENT ON APRIL 28, BUT AGAIN NO HIGHER THAN NORMAL RADIATION INDICATIONS WERE FOUND. NEWELL
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

File 13

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7460 DTG: 020741Z MAY 86 PSN: 017112
EOB225 AN003256 TOR: 122/0751Z CSN: HCE755

KNOW WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION WAS PLAYING IN THE COMMISSION'S WORK.

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/006 A2

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3. SENIOR SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS TOOK THE SAME LINE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS DURING THE APRIL 30 RECEPTION HOSTED BY PAN AM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS RESUMPTION OF AIR SERVICE TO THE SOVIET UNION. DEPUTY MINISTRY SMIRNOV SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT AEROFLOT SERVICE TO AND FROM KIEV HAD NOT BEEN AFFECTED IN THE LEAST BY THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT. ASKED WHETHER AEROFLOT HAD BEEN FORCED TO CHANGE THE ROUTINGS OF SOME FLIGHTS TO AVOID RADIOACTIVITY, HE SAID IT HAD NOT. A DEPUTY OF AN AEROFLOT DEPARTMENT, ALSO AT THE RECEPTION, GAVE SIMILAR RESPONSES TO THE SAME QUESTIONS.

OP IMMED
STU1870
DE RUEHMO #7460 1220742
O 020741Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

4. WHETHER THESE RESPONSES REFLECT THE TRUE SITUATION OR NOT, IT IS OBVIOUS THE SOVIETS WANT TO CONVEY TO WESTERNERS AN AIR OF TOTAL NORMALITY IN AEROFLOT OPERATIONS. WITH MOST WESTERN AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES OUT OF TOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS, WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE AEROFLOT STATEMENTS REGARDING AVIATION CONDITIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT.

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4299

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE 0837
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 0597
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 5174
AMEMBASSY LONDON 1112
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 3495
AMEMBASSY VIENNA 2330
EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS

5. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH LOCAL CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS AND AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF RADIATION ON NATIONAL AIRLINE FLIGHTS TO THE SOVIET UNION SINCE APRIL 26, THE LIKELY DATE OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT. HARTMAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 07460

OAS 6/10/82

MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

BT

FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT AND CIVIL AVIATION

REF: STATE 135322 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE A DIRECT MEETING WITH SOVIET MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS BECAUSE THE MINISTRY IS CLOSED MAY 1-4 FOR THE EXTENDED MAY DAY HOLIDAY, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH MINISTRY DUTY PERSONNEL AND HAVE SENT OVER A LETTER WITH REFTEL QUESTIONS.

2. ON MAY 2, THE MINISTRY'S DUTY OFFICER (FRANTSEV) INFORMED US BY TELEPHONE THAT:

-- THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION HAD ISSUED NO NOTICES OR ADVISORIES CONCERNING CIVIL AVIATION OPERATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT.

-- THE MINISTRY WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY THREAT TO PASSENGERS FROM POSSIBLE RADIATION OR FALLOUT. OPERATIONS IN AND OUT OF KIEV SUFFERED NO INTERRUPTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT. AN AEROFLOT PLANE HAD FLOWN FROM KIEV TO LONDON ON MAY 1 AND HAD BEEN FOUND FREE OF RADIATION WHEN CHECKED AT LONDON HEATHROW.

-- A SENIOR-LEVEL SOVIET GOVERNMENT COMMISSION WAS DEALING WITH THE ACCIDENT. THE OFFICIAL DID NOT

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PAGE 01 SECSTATE WASHDC 7560 DTG: 020034Z MAY 86 PSN: 016506
EOB133 AN003210 TOR: 122/0054Z CSN: HCE656

THE ACCIDENT.

DISTRIBUTION: COBB-01 KRAM-01 SOMM-01 MAT-01 /004 A2

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: VP PUBS SIT
EOB:

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS NOT ADVISING AGAINST TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION, SCANDINAVIA AND EASTERN EUROPE. AS A RESULT OF THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A TRAVEL ADVISORY RECOMMENDING AGAINST TRAVEL TO KIEV AND ADJACENT AREAS. WE ARE LARGELY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIETS FOR INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS WITHIN THE USSR AND WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES. AMERICANS PLANNING TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES SHOULD CAREFULLY MONITOR PRESS REPORTS ON THIS RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION TO MAKE AS FULLY INFORMED A DECISION AS POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT TO THEIR TRAVEL PLANS. THEY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE REPORTED INCREASED LEVELS OF RADIATION IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

OP IMMED
DE RUEHC #7560 1220034
O 020034Z MAY 86 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (SIC) HAS COMMENTED THAT CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW REQUIRES THE SOVIET UNION TO NOTIFY OTHER STATES/COUNTRIES OF THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF THE INCIDENT AND TO FURNISH THEM WITH THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THOSE EFFECTS.

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE 5743

THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO COORDINATE THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT IN CHERNOBYL. THE TASK FORCE IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LEE M. THOMAS, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, EPA, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AIR FORCE, DEPARTMENT OF

UNCLAS STATE 137560 TOSEC 080316

INFORM CONSULS ZFF SECRETARY ONLY

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, AND OTHER AGENCIES. END TEXT. WHITEHEAD
BT

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL REACTOR ACCIDENT: TASK FORCE STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED 1900Z MAY 1 BY INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE COORDINATING USG RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT IN SOVIET UNION.

BEGIN TEXT. ON TUESDAY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WHICH MAINTAINS THE NATION'S RADIATION MONITORING NETWORK, INCREASED ITS SAMPLING FREQUENCY FOR AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY TO DAILY. RESULTS OBTAINED THUS FAR SHOW NO INCREASE IN RADIOACTIVITY ABOVE NORMAL BACKGROUND LEVELS. THE CANADIAN AIR MONITORING NETWORK HAS ALSO INCREASED ITS SAMPLING FREQUENCY TO DAILY. RESULTS THERE SHOW NO INCREASE IN RADIOACTIVITY.

THE AIR MASS CONTAINING THE RADIOACTIVITY FROM THE INITIAL CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR EVENT IS NOW WIDELY DISPERSED THROUGHOUT NORTHERN EUROPE AND POLAR REGIONS. PORTIONS OF RADIOACTIVITY OFF THE NORTHWEST NORWEGIAN COAST YESTERDAY MORNING SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISPERSE WITH POSSIBLE MOVEMENT TOWARD THE EAST IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. OTHER PORTIONS OF THE RADIOACTIVE AIR MASS MAY MOVE EASTWARD THROUGH THE SOVIET UNION AND THROUGH THE POLAR REGIONS OVER THE COMING WEEK.

THE SOVIETS HAVE REPORTED THEY HAVE SMOTHERED THE FIRE. FROM OUR INFORMATION IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE FIRE IS OUT OR NOT. WE ALSO CANNOT CONFIRM NEWS REPORTS OF DAMAGE AT A SECOND REACTOR, BUT THE SECOND HOT SPOT SEEN IN THE LANDSAT PHOTOS IS NOT A REACTOR. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE ACCIDENT. ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DELIVERED A NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR OUR OFFER OF ASSISTANCE AND STATING THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, ASSISTANCE IS NOT NEEDED.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NO DATA ON RADIATION LEVELS OR CONTAMINATION LEVELS AT ANY LOCATION WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION. WE ALSO HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES FROM

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

JP

16

PAGE 01 OF 04 MOSCOW 7487
SIT497

DTG: 031524Z MAY 86 PSN: 020224
TOR: 123/2003Z

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OP IMMED
STU5652
DE RUEHMO #7487 1231525
O 031524Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4321

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 7239
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4571
USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0274
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 2400
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE 1461
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2823
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5181
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1118
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2424
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3501
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3700
UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 07487

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO 12,
AS OF 1200 GMT, MAY 3

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NLRR F06-114/84-10433

BY LOT NARA DATE 9/30/08

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 04 MOSCOW 7487

DTG: 031524Z MAY 86 PSN: 020224

REF: MOSCOW 7483

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CHECK THE NOVEMBER 1984 ISSUE OF THE SOVIET JOURNAL "ENERGY CONSTRUCTION" WHICH CONTAINS A VERY THOROUGH TECHNICAL ARTICLE ON THE ENTIRE CHERNOBYL' FACILITY AND THE NEIGHBORING SETTLEMENT OF PRIPYAT. WHAT WAS NO DOUBT INTENDED AS A BLAND, STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF PRIPYAT BECOMES RATHER CHILLING ON HINDSIGHT: "DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, THE WORKERS WERE GIVEN OVER 573.4 SQUARE METERS OF HOUSING, ELEVEN KINDERGARTENS WITH PLACES FOR 3,660 CHILDREN, THREE SCHOOLS WITH 4,052 PLACES, SEVEN CAFETERIAS WITH 1,160 SEATS, A MOVIE THEATER WITH 420 SEATS, A CLUB WITH A 800 PERSON CAPACITY AND A MEDICAL COMPLEX AND SERIES OF OTHER SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CENTERS." PRIPYAT WOULD HAVE HELD ABOUT 25-30,000 PEOPLE IN WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A TYPICAL "NEW TOWN" IN THE PLACID UKRAINIAN COUNTRYSIDE: ACCORDING TO A DIAGRAM ACCOMPANYING THE ARTICLE, THE TOWN CENTER WAS ABOUT 5 KM FROM REACTOR NO. 4.

3. THE INTOURIST DUTY OFFICER TOLD ONE OF OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS LAST NIGHT THAT HE SIMPLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER CHERNOBYL' SINCE, "AFTER ALL, YOUR CHALLENGER ACCIDENT WAS A FAR MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM THAN THIS." WE REPORT THE COMMENT ONLY AS AN INDICATION OF THE TYPE OF LINE THE SOVIETS ARE TAKING ON CHERNOBYL'.

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 04 MOSCOW 7487

DTG: 031524Z MAY 86 PSN: 020224

4. IN CHECKING THE LOCAL MARKETS TODAY FOR LETTUCE, EMBOFF HAS FOUND THAT, AS WE HAD HOPED, MUCH OF THIS PRODUCE IS GROWN IN GREENHOUSES IN THE MOSCOW OBLAST.

5. THE SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE WILL HOLD A COMMUNITY-WIDE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO DECIDE THEIR POLICY ON EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS. AT THIS TIME, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE SWEDES WILL OFFER EVACUATION FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING AGE, AND SMALL CHILDREN BUT AT THE PERSONAL EXPENSE OF THOSE REQUESTING IT; I.E., IF YOU HAVE THE MONEY AND VACATION TIME, YOU CAN GO.

6. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A BRITISH EMBASSY MESSAGE PROVIDED ADMINCOUNS ON MAY 3. IT WAS SENT MAY 2 AND PROVIDES READINGS TAKEN MAY 1.

QUOTE

CHERNOBYL: RADIOLOGICAL TESTS AT EMBASSY ON 1 MAY

(1) STIVEN CARRIED OUT TESTS ON THE EVENING OF 1 MAY ON TWO MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY, TWO TEACHERS FROM MINSK AND KIEV, MARGOT LIGHT (RLUSC) AND A REUTERS JOURNALIST (THE SAME AS IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF MY TELNO 514). STIVEN USED MINI-MONITOR EQUIPMENT TYPE 510 SERIAL NOS. 8508 AND 8509.

(2) WITH THE EXCEPTIONS BELOW (REFERENCES TAKEN FROM MY TELNO 514) ALL SUBJECTS AND THEIR CLOTHING REGISTERED BETWEEN 10 AND 20 MICRORADS REPEAT MICRORADS (WHICH, FROM PREVIOUS TESTS CARRIED OUT BY STIVEN IN MOSCOW, IS NORMAL). THIS INCLUDED MARGOT LIGHT WHO HAD BEEN IN MINSK FOR 24 HOURS UNTIL 2200 HOURS ON 28 APRIL.

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

19

PAGE 04 OF 04 MOSCOW 7487

DTG: 031524Z MAY 86 PSN: 020224

(3) THE SHOES AND HANDBAG FROM KIEV REGISTERED 50
EACH. THE MINSK BLOUSE REGISTERED 200 AND THE
TROUSERS OF THE JOURNALIST WHO HAD BEEN IN KIEV
REGISTERED 50. THESE ITEMS OF CLOTHING HAD NOT
BEEN WASHED.

END QUOTE

HARTMAN

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PAGE 01 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 3465
SIT496

DTG: 031349Z MAY 86 PSN: 020217
TOR: 123/2001Z

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OP IMMED
STU5579
DE RUFHSK #3465 1231349
O 031349Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2270

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 03465

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TRGY, PARM, AMED, SW
SUBJECT: RADIOLOGICAL DATA FROM CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT:
SWEDEN

REF: A) STATE 138834, B) STATE 138440

1. THE SWEDISH RADIATION PROTECTION INSTITUTE (SSI) HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY RADIOLOGICAL DATA PER REFTEL'S REQUEST. THE DATA IS BASED ON MEASUREMENTS AS OF MAY 3.

2. BACKGROUND RADIATION. THE NORMAL BACKGROUND RADIATION IN SWEDEN IS 10 TO 15 MICRORADS PER HOUR. RADIATION IN STOCKHOLM AND SOUTHERN SWEDEN IS NOW ONLY SLIGHTLY (30 PERCENT) ABOVE NORMAL. IN AN AREA NORTH OF CENTRAL SWEDEN, ALONG THE COAST BETWEEN UPPSALA AND

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21

PAGE 02 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 3465

DTG: 031349Z MAY 86 PSN: 020217

UMEA, READINGS ARE HIGHER AT ABOUT 10 TO 50 TIMES NORMAL LEVELS.

3. MILK. IODINE 131 READINGS THROUGH MOST OF SWEDEN ARE NOW SHOWING 1-2 BCQ PER LITER OF MILK. THEY WERE GENERALLY HIGHER THROUGHOUT SWEDEN EARLIER IN THE WEEK. THE HIGHEST READINGS FOR MILK CONTAMINATION ARE BEING REGISTERED ON THE BALTIC ISLAND OF GOTLAND WHERE MEASUREMENTS HAVE SHOWN 400 BCQ PER LITER.

4. DRINKING WATER. THERE ARE NO INCREASED RADIATION LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER BUT SSI EXPECTS SIGNS OF HIGHER RADIATION TO SHOW UP BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. NEWELL
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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

JP 22

PAGE 01 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 0148
SIT500

DTG: 032006Z MAY 86 PSN: 020235
TOR: 123/2013Z

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DE RUEHC #0148 1232005
O 032006Z MAY 86 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 7821

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE 5947

~~SECRET~~ STATE 140148 TOSEC 080423

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, SENV, URUS
SUBJECT: THOMAS LETTER TO ISRAEL ON CHERNOBYL

1. EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE LETTER IN PARA 2 BELOW FROM
EPA ADMINISTRATOR LEE THOMAS TO YURIY IZRAEL. EMBASSY
SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE THOMAS LETTER TO MFA.

2. TEXT OF LETTER

DEAR DR. IZRAEL:

MAY I EXPRESS MY OWN DEEP SYMPATHIES OVER THE TRAGIC
ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER STATION. I
UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE US
GOVERNMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THAT IT DOES NOT

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR Feb-114/8#10435

~~SECRET~~ BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

~~SECRET~~

23

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 0148 DTG: 032006Z MAY 86 PSN: 020235

REQUIRE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME. I ASSURE YOU THAT OUR OFFER REMAINS OPEN. SHOULD YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION CHANGE, WE WILL BE READY TO RENDER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO LEAD THE INTER-AGENCY EFFORT WITHIN THE US GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS AND, AS

NECESSARY, RESPOND TO THE TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AS A RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT.

AS THE SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE USSR, AND WITH YOUR BROAD EXPERIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, I AM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE ACCIDENT. I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR HELP IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE ACCIDENT, THE AMOUNT OF RADIATION RELEASED OVER TIME AND THE PATTERN OF THE SPREAD OF THE RADIATION, TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER RELEVANT DATA. OUR EMBASSY HAS ALREADY PROVIDED YOUR AUTHORITIES WITH THE TYPES OF INFORMATION AND DATA WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO US.

IN CLOSING, I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH THIS MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION. AGAIN, IF THERE IS ANY ASSISTANCE YOU FEEL WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CABLE OR TELEPHONE ME PERSONALLY.

WARM REGARDS.

SINCERELY,

LEE M. THOMAS WHITEHEAD
BT

~~SECRET~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

24 ✓

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01
EOB582

MOSCOW 7486
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 07486

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, UR, US
SUBJECT: RADIOLOGICAL INFORMATION FROM CHERNOBYL'

REF: STATE 139127

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON MAY 3, ACTING POLCOUNS AND SCICOUNS DELIVERED NON-PAPER CONTAINED IN REFTEL TO VITALIY A. MIKOL' CHAK, DEPUTY CHIEF, USA DIVISION, MFA. AFTER NOTING HIS APPRECIATION OF OUR CONDOLENCES AND THE OFFICIAL USG OFFER OF ASSISTANCE, MIKOL' CHAK STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY RELEASED INFORMATION ON THE CHERNOBYL' ACCIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED TO INVESTIGATE IT WILL EVENTUALLY ISSUE AN OFFICIAL REPORT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO FORWARD INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

3. WHEN ACTING POLCOUNS TURNED TO OUR CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH OF AMERICANS RESIDENT IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD, MIKOL' CHAK REPLIED THAT HE WAS NO LESS CONCERNED BUT THAT TO SPECULATE ON THE TRAGEDY WOULD BE TO Demean IT. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACCIDENT MIGHT TAKE TIME TO ANALYZE BEFORE RELEASE, VERY USEFUL INFORMATION COULD BE PRESENTED NOW, MIKOL' CHAK RESPONDED BY COMPLAINING THAT WESTERN SPECIALISTS WERE ASKING FOR DATA THAT DID NOT RELATE TO THE CHERNOBYL' ACCIDENT. MIKOL' CHAK'S CLOSING COMMENTS ONCE AGAIN FOCUSED ON THE TASS STATEMENTS, BUT HE DID AGREE TO TRANSMIT THE LIST OF U. S. QUESTIONS TO THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
HARTMAN
BT

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06-114/8#10435

BY LOS NARA DATE 9/30/08

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01 AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 1012 DTG: 031140Z MAY 86 PSN: 019638
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 5898

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LENINGRAD 01012

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: STATUS OF
LENINGRAD NUCLEAR POWER STATION

REF: A) STATE 139321 B) LENINGRAD 1011

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DPO CONTACTED THE DUTY OFFICER FOR THE LENINGRAD NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT 1530 L ON MAY 3. THE DUTY OFFICER, YURIY AFANAS' YEVICH ZDOROV (PHONETIC) TEL - 611-93, SAID THAT THREE OF THE LENINGRAD AES REACTORS WERE CURRENTLY OPERATING IN "NOMINAL CONDITION" (I. E. AT FULL POWER). REACTOR NUMBER 2 WAS CURRENTLY OFF-LINE UNDERGOING PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, BUT WOULD BE RESTORED TO SERVICE IN 18 HOURS. ZDOROV EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT THE LENINGRAD REACTORS WERE DOWN, AND SAID THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO DO THIS.

3. COMMENT: IN ORDER TO PLACE CALLS TO THE LENINGRAD AES, THE CONSULATE MUST ORDER CALLS THROUGH THE OBLAST' SWITCHBOARD, AND CANNOT CALL DIRECTLY. WE THEREFORE ARE DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR THE ROUTING OF THE CALL. AS STATED REF B, LENINGRAD AES IS LOCATED IN A CLOSED AREA (SOSNOVIY BOR) AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL ALLOW US TO TRAVEL TO THE AES TO VERIFY WHAT THE DUTY OFFICER TOLD US OVER THE PHONE.
MAGEE
BT

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NLRR F06-114/8# 10436

BY L05 NARA DATE 9/30/08

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Soviet Nuclear Accident

JP

Saturday, May 3, 1986

A Task Force Report

FOR INTERNAL USE:

The Task Force information as of today remains much the same as that cited in yesterday's report. Regarding new questions that may arise:

A Soviet official was reported to have appeared on W. German television. His claims of high radioactive exposure levels at the Chernobyl plant are entirely plausible, given the information announced by the Interagency Task Force in Washington yesterday. The Task Force was able to "back calculate" from monitoring data from the Stockholm area provided by the Swedish government. (Task force calculations were that exposure levels at the site would have been in a range from 20 rems to hundreds of rem whole-body for the two-day period over which most of the radiation release probably took place.)

New information has been received from the Swedish government regarding isotopes in rain, but it will be at least another day or two before an analysis of that data can be completed and any meaning ascribed to it. The U.S. is making efforts to gather data from several countries surrounding the Soviet Union that could prove essential to evaluating the accident in the absence of information from the Soviets.

As of 11 a.m. EDT, no increases in radioactivity above normal background levels have been reported by the radiation monitoring networks in the United States or Canada.

The air mass containing radioactivity continues in its present location over much of Europe and a large part of the Soviet Union. A map of the present dispersion of radioactivity is available from the EPA press office.

The air mass containing radioactivity is not expected to enter any part of the United States for several days, and is not expected to pose any threat to human health or the environment in this country.

The State Department is continuing efforts to obtain relevant information from Soviet authorities on the accident and the potential health dangers that might be posed to individuals in the Soviet Union and adjacent countries.

PLEASE REFER QUESTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS TO THE
STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE: 202 647-2492.

The cause of the accident leading to the explosion at the Chernobyl site is still unknown. The Soviets have claimed that they used helicopters to drop sand, lead shot and boron on the fire in unit four in order to reduce the activity level. Apparent damage to the building and detected radioactivity levels in nearby countries suggest that massive core damage must have occurred. We are unable to confirm the Soviet claim that the fire in unit four has been extinguished. There is still no evidence that unit three was involved in the accident.

The Soviets have claimed that they evacuated the three towns closest to the Chernobyl reactors. This and other alleged claims of evacuation up to 30 km from the site are consistent with an accident of this magnitude.

NRC has notified its licensed facilities to provide monitoring data to the Task Force to augment EPA's nationwide radiation monitoring system.

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MORNING SUMMARY

May 3, 1986

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28

Current Reports

1. USSR
 - A. Chernobyl Still Smoking
 - B. Gorbachev Issues New Appeal on Nuclear Testing
2. Tunisia: Mestiri under House Arrest Pending his Appeal
3. Tokyo Summit: Moscow Attempts To Fuel Allied Disagreements
4. Philippines: Aquino Orders Labor Law Reforms
5. Iran/Iraq: Iraq Claims More Successes on Central Front
6. FRG/Libya: Genscher Sends Secret Warning to Libya
7. ROK: Anti-US Themes in Student Protests
8. Lebanon: Syria May Attack Christians Soon
9. Haiti: Proposed Election Timetable

Analysis

1. Sudan: Sadiq's Slow Start
2. Japan: Nakasone's Challengers--Foreign Minister Abe
3. Anti-US Terrorism in 1986

Special Trip Analysis

Tokyo Summit: Moscow's Perspective

Classified by: Nicholas Platt and
Morton I. Abramowitz
Declassify on: Originating Agency's
Determination Required

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NLRR FOI-114/8#10437

~~TOP SECRET/EXDIS/CODEWORD~~

BY CW NARA DATE 2/25/08

CURRENT REPORTS

29

May 3, 1986

1. USSRA. Chernobyl Still Smoking

Reactor 4 continued to emit smoke and vapor as of May 2, according to imagery. Turbulence was visible in one of the plant's cooling ponds, and vehicles had moved within 500 meters of the destroyed reactor. Moscow party boss Yeltsin told West German media that reservoirs in the area were contaminated.

INR Comment: We cannot determine if the smoke and vapor result from a continuing fire or from the remaining heat in the reactor. In either case, radioactive material in decreasing amounts is still being emitted. The turbulence indicates pumping has resumed to cool reactor 3. The vehicles may have brought in workers to resume pumping. (See May 2 INR Spot Report for details.) (~~SECRET/NOFORN~~)

B. Gorbachev Issues New Appeal on Nuclear Testing

Gorbachev said in a May 2 reply to a New Delhi Six letter that although the USSR was "compelled" to end its unilateral moratorium, there is "no hurry" to resume testing, and the USSR favors a mutual moratorium until the summit, according to TASS. He called for a summit to reach agreement "in principle," but firmly rejected the US invitation to observe a test, calling it "an outrage." He warned that recent US actions had damaged the US-Soviet dialogue.

INR Comment: Nuclear testing remains the one constant item Gorbachev pushes in a summit context. He may hope the Chernobyl disaster will rebound in his favor by raising western public sensitivity about nuclear testing. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

2. TUNISIA: MESTIRI UNDER HOUSE ARREST PENDING HIS APPEAL

Opposition leader Ahmed Mestiri, sentenced for organizing an illegal protest against the US bombing of Libya, received an unofficial reprieve, Embassy Tunis reports. After Prime Minister Mazli interceded with President Bourguiba, Mestiri was removed from jail and placed under de facto house arrest pending appeal.

Embassy Tunis Comment: While Mestiri's release from prison is a positive development, Bourguiba's next move is hard to predict. The reprieve could be temporary and Mestiri could return to prison. Alternatively, the sentencing formula could effectively take Mestiri out of the electoral campaign, thus probably nullifying any chance of opposition participation. Interestingly, Mestiri's party is still focusing on the elections in terms which seem to leave open the possibility of participation. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

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TOP SECRET/EXDIS/KEYWORD

NLRR F06-114/8 # 10438

BY Cd NARA DATE 2/25/08

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS - MAY 3, 1986

1. SUDAN: SADIQ'S SLOW START

Major party leaders continue to bargain over positions and policies as they approach the May 6 deadline for installing a civilian government. Sadiq al-Mahdi, expected to be the new prime minister, has displayed greater flexibility than the Transitional Military Council (TMC) on negotiating with southern rebels. But his problems in forming a new government raise questions about his ability to deliver. Continued disagreement among party leaders eventually would invite a military coup, though the odds at present are heavily against one.

* * *

Current election results show Sadiq's Umma party with 99 seats, followed by the equally centrist Democratic Unionist party (DUP), with 63, and the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF), 51. Of 51 remaining seats, 44 are divided among seven (principally southern) parties and independents, while seven are southern constituencies that have not yet reported. (The insurgency blocked elections in an additional 37 southern constituencies.)

Sadiq began trying in mid-April to form a government that would exclude only the NIF, but he soon ran afoul of DUP efforts to win concessions by using the threat of a DUP-NIF coalition. Although he has made progress on allocating ministerial portfolios, Sadiq's desire to name the speaker of the assembly is opposed by DUP, NIF, and southern representatives who support an NIF candidate in order to reduce Sadiq's power. The degree of Umma control of the potentially powerful five-man sovereignty council also remains in dispute.

The bargaining process has weakened Sadiq's ability to meet Garang's demands. Talks in Addis Ababa between an Umma delegation and Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) ended with positive atmospherics but also an SPLA reiteration of demands for the repeal of Islamic law (sharia).

Sadiq had made an election pledge to scrap Nimeiri's version of sharia even before devising a more acceptable but still Islamic alternative. DUP insistence that the NIF be included in Sadiq's government probably will prevent him from honoring that pledge. The NIF is willing to modify the present laws but insists they remain on the books while changes are being studied.

To reach Garang, Sadiq also must convince Mengistu that he will cooperate on blocking access to Sudan by Ethiopian rebels. Sadiq's first task in this regard may be to persuade Mengistu he had nothing to do with a recent TMC decision to hand over confiscated weapons and ammunition to four Ethiopian insurgent groups.

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NLRR Feb-114/8 #10439
BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

2. JAPAN: NAKASONE'S CHALLENGERS--FOREIGN MINISTER ABE

Abe's long and successful tenure as foreign minister has made him the most popular of the LDP's hopefuls to succeed Nakasone in the fall party election. Abe's chances for the prime ministership may ultimately depend on being able to enlist Nakasone's support, but Nakasone, interested himself in staying on, has given Abe little encouragement,

* * *

Abe is a master of the traditional Japanese style of leadership, which aims at building an effective consensus before acting. He would continue that approach as prime minister but would also likely emulate Nakasone's higher public profile and continue the major policies and reform programs of his predecessor.

The son-in-law of former Prime Minister Kishi and "prince" of the Fukuda faction, Abe has been groomed to be prime minister and has held a number of key cabinet and party portfolios. But like the other "new leaders," he lacks the stature and vision of Japan's first post-war generation of leaders--the last of whom is Nakasone.

Aware of such comparisons, Abe has worked vigorously to expand his horizons. He became Japan's most-traveled foreign minister, built close personal ties with foreign counterparts, and embarked on several diplomatic initiatives during his tenure. He is reportedly preparing his own "line" on economic policy, somewhat distinct from Nakasone's, for the election campaign.

Abe's main political weakness is his lack of the solid backing that would give him an edge over his rivals. Former Prime Minister Fukuda is still unwilling to relinquish political power and turn over his faction to designated-heir Abe or even to promote his candidacy for prime minister. Fukuda, moreover, has been a bitter enemy of Nakasone for 30 years--they are rivals for Diet seats in the same rural district--and Nakasone probably would hesitate to form an alliance with Abe as long as Fukuda controlled Abe's faction.

LDP Executive Council Chairman Miyazawa and LDP Vice President Nikaido, both Nakasone rivals, have begun to attack Nakasone on economic policy, but Abe has remained aloof from the fray. Although he has been piqued at Nakasone for upstaging him recently on foreign policy, which Abe considers his own turf, the two have squabbled before yet continue to work well together. Abe is likely to remain basically supportive in the cabinet beyond the summit, if only to set the stage for a possible factional alliance that would make him prime minister.

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR Feb-11/8 #10440

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN~~

LOS NARA DATE 9/30/08

3. ANTI-US TERRORISM IN 1986

Terrorist threats against US targets have increased sharply, but the number of anti-US incidents is somewhat lower than during the first third of last year. Casualties are not significantly out of line with previous trends. Nevertheless, a number of close calls in the last four months could easily have caused hundreds of indiscriminate US deaths.

* * *

About 45 attacks on US targets worldwide have taken place thus far in 1986, accounting for nearly 25 percent of all international attacks. This pace is behind last year's, when we recorded a final total of roughly 180 anti-US incidents.

Six have been left dead and more than 50 wounded in this year's attacks. In 1985 the United States suffered a total of 23 dead and 160 injured. This year's dead include four killed in the bombing of TWA 840 over Greece, a serviceman at La Belle disco in West Berlin, and Lebanon hostage Peter Kilburn. The disco bombing accounts for most of the wounded.

US casualties could easily have numbered well into the hundreds, however, had it not been for excellent security work and a little luck. Included among the near misses are the foiled attack on a New York-London-Tel Aviv El Al flight; the attempt on the US Air Force officers' club in Ankara, occupied by many dependent wives and children; and the bomb on TWA 840 that, had it exploded at a higher altitude, as was apparently intended, probably would have killed all passengers aboard, including many Americans.

All the US dead and wounded this year have been at the hands of Middle Eastern terrorists--mainly Libyan sponsored. Qadhafi has now catapulted past Assad and Khomeini as the premier state sponsor of anti-US terrorism, although Syria and Iran continue to pose serious threats. Qadhafi probably still prefers to hide his hand through surrogates, but a new wrinkle in Libyan terrorism is the increasing involvement of Libyans themselves in the planning and execution of anti-US operations.

Western Europe remains a popular venue for anti-US attacks, although many are conducted by Middle Easterners operating out of area. The United States has suffered no casualties thus far in Latin America, but the region remains an important arena for anti-US acts, particularly against business-related targets. Africa and Asia have been slightly more active, witness the shooting in Khartoum and recent attacks by Japanese radicals.

Anti-US terrorism in 1986 shows a growing trend toward indiscriminate attacks. Most of the actual or intended US victims have been civilians chosen at random, or innocent bystanders.

--SPECIAL TRIP ANALYSIS--

TOKYO SUMMIT: MOSCOW'S PERSPECTIVE

Capitalizing on West European reservations about the US strike against Libya, and with an eye to the approaching Tokyo summit, the Soviets last month launched two initiatives designed to boost Moscow's standing abroad. European outrage at the Soviet handling of the Chernobyl' disaster, however, and inclusion of Chernobyl' as a summit topic in Tokyo, have undercut the potential impact of Moscow's moves.

* * *

Using the US attack on Libya as a peg, Soviet commentary on the Tokyo summit elaborates on three main themes to blame the United States for heightening international tension.

Neoglobalism. Soviet media have warned the allies not to be "arm twisted" into approving the US' "doctrine" as justification for interference in the internal affairs of other countries, i.e., Libya. Moscow cautions that US neoglobalistic, imperialist ambitions are a threat even to America's closest allies.

Disarmament. Gorbachev's April 18 "from the Atlantic to the Urals" conventional-arms proposal and the April 23 Soviet government statement refurbishing Brezhnev's Asian collective security scheme continue to get full play. In addition to these two "new" initiatives, Soviet commentary hounds the West Europeans and the Japanese about their participation in SDI and emphasizes the necessity for a nuclear test ban.

Economic issues. US imperialist economic motives and their negative effect on GNPs, especially in the third world, remain a prime propaganda theme. The administration's Baker plan, for example, is condemned for attempting to "further enslave" developing states under the cover of providing debtor countries with emergency aid.

Soviet media also charge that at the summit, while continuing to warn the Europeans against technology trade with the Soviets, the United States will threaten to tighten up protectionist measures against imports from the allies unless they open their markets to US products.

Moscow's handling of this week's nuclear disaster at Chernobyl' has all but eliminated for now any positive Western resonance of the Soviet propaganda campaign. The USSR's assertion of being a neighbor and fellow European country rings particularly hollow after the failure to notify the Europeans of the imminent danger. The misfortune, for the Soviets, that nuclear-sensitive Japan is the summit site may reduce the impact of Soviet propaganda even further.

MATLOCK

from St. Martin

SOVIET NUCLEAR POWER PLANT INCIDENT

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR TRAVELERS

JIP

Precise information on radiation levels resulting from the Chernobyl Soviet nuclear power plant incident is unavailable at this time. The nature of this incident suggests that increased levels of radiation might exist in surrounding areas, causing the greatest potential public health risk in those areas closest to the incident. The United States Public Health Service is making interim guidance available for U.S. citizens who may be traveling to these areas. This guidance will be reviewed and updated as further information becomes available, and communicated to the media and to public health officials throughout the nation.

1. Americans living or traveling in or around the affected region may wish to take the following precautions to minimize exposure to radiation:
 - o Avoid drinking fresh milk or eating other dairy products;
 - o Eat processed foods when possible and wash or peel fresh produce;
 - o When possible, drink bottled water and other bottled beverages instead of local water.
2. For U.S. citizens who have visited affected areas recently and have departed from them on or after April 26, 1986, routine medical screening procedures are not recommended. If you have concerns, information and answers to specific questions may be obtained from your State radiation control program or your physician.
3. For U.S. citizens who are planning travel to these **AREAS** in the near future, carefully monitor press reports of this situation so that you have the most up-to-date information before making a firm travel commitment.

THIS IS BEING PROMULGATED AS ADVISORY FROM
PUBLIC HEALTH.

St

DRAFT
May 3, 1986

POSSIBLE CABLE TO USSR RE:
MEDICAL LIAISON

We would like very much to have international representatives meet with your scientific community with respect to the Chernobyl nuclear incident in order to reassure the international health community that everything appropriate is being done to minimize and/or eliminate adverse health and medical effects outside of your country. Such a meeting would demonstrate the mutual concern of our countries.

Upon your agreement, we will nominate representatives of the U.S. medical science community to participate in such a meeting. Our nominees will be individuals who are highly regarded in the medical science communities.

STATE IS SENDING THIS AS AN HHS REQUEST.

SA

M. Rosenstein
5/3/86
3 p.m.

Summary of I-131 in Milk in Sweden (4/28-5/2)

- o The attached maps are in chronological sequence (1 each for 4/28, 4/29, 4/30, 5/1 and 5/2).
- o The data are for I-131 in milk for Sweden only, presented in pCi/l (converted from Bq/l).
- o All data (with one exception) are from a Swedish National Institute of Radiation Protection submission (in Swedish) telecopied to us at about 3:40 a.m. on 5/3 directly from the National Institute. The exception is the data point for Umea on 4/30, and is so noted. This comes from another submission from the Swedish State Power Board (received from Charlie Porter, EPA, on 5/2/86).
- o I have assumed the date given for a sample was the collection and analysis date.
- o The highest values occurred on 4/29 and 4/30 on Gotland, a Swedish island between the northern coast of Poland and Stockholm. The maximum values there approached and exceeded the FDA preventive protective action guide of 15,000 pCi/l (peak activity) for I-131 in milk.
- o The remaining data are considerably lower; the next highest values were in Kalmer on 4/29 (1,890 pCi/l), and Umea on 4/30 (1,350-1,850 pCi/l).
- o As of 5/1 and 5/2, elevated levels of I-131 are still being observed.

FDA PREPARED ABOVE BASED ON SWEDISH
DATA.

st

Soviet Nuclear Accident

NEWS

MAY 4 1986

THIS IS SAMPLING OF
HOW ITS PLAYING.

St

U.S. Panel Calls the Disaster In Ukraine the Worst Ever

By PHILIP M. BOFFEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 3 — Federal officials said today that the latest information they had received on the Soviet reactor accident confirmed that it was the worst such accident in history but left many critical questions unanswered.

After Federal task force reviewed the latest data at a two-hour meeting this morning, Lee M. Thomas, head of the group, said that "not a lot of new conclusions" could be drawn about the accident and its consequences.

But Mr. Thomas added that American estimates that highly lethal radiation must have drenched an area several miles around the stricken reactor appear to have been confirmed by a Soviet official interviewed on West German television Friday.

Area Still Radioactive

That official, Boris N. Yeltsin, the Moscow Communist Party leader, said that water reservoirs near the crippled reactor were contaminated and that the region around the reactor was too dangerously radioactive to allow evacuated people to return.

Mr. Yeltsin said radioactivity in the area around Chernobyl had fallen considerably since the disaster but that it was still around 200 roentgen. A roent-

gen is a measure of radioactivity more commonly referred to as a rem in the United States.

His statement is highly ambiguous, however.

People who, within a few days, are exposed to 200 rem would experience acute illness, suffering from severe nausea or from bone marrow damage and infection. At a 200-rem level, a few people die; at 450, half of the exposed population dies within 60 days; at 600, nearly all die within 30 days.

If the 200-rem figure cited by Mr. Yeltsin referred to an hourly dose, the standard way of stating such figures, then virtually all those exposed for three hours, for example, can be expected to die within 30 days, having received the 600-rem level. If he meant they were exposed to a 200-rem total over a few days, say, before evacuation, then only a few deaths would occur.

Mr. Thomas said his task force was trying to get a full transcript of the official's remarks because they "confirmed what our own experts have been telling us."

"We have consistently said that it's

Continued on Page 28, Column 1

Accident Calls It the Worst Ever

Continued From Page 1

the worst nuclear facility accident in history, with extensive contamination both on the site and in surrounding areas," he said. "This confirms it all."

Other Reactors Appear Safe

Mr. Thomas said that, based on the data reviewed today, on which he declined to give details, "we would be more firm in our conclusion that there is no problem with the other three reactors" at the Chernobyl site.

Although some nuclear experts and intelligence officials have suggested that Unit 3 at Chernobyl, which is next to the stricken Unit 4 reactor, was affected by a meltdown or fire that would intensify the accident, Mr. Thomas said, "We would say today that we see no problems with the other units."

Although he declined to say what evidence enabled him to make that assertion, the task force includes representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency, who provide classified information from satellites and other sources.

Both Mr. Thomas, and another member of the task force, Harold Denton,

the top nuclear reactor official for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, stressed that there was still very little information available on most aspects of the accident.

It has been at least one full week since the Soviet reactor accident, but the most critical questions bearing on reactor safety and public health remain largely unanswered.

Western experts still have no idea what caused the accident, precisely how it progressed, what relevance it has for the United States, what health damage is likely, what threat the accident poses to neighboring countries, or what impact it will have on Soviet agriculture, electric power supplies and the economy.

Probably Worst Incident Ever

Experts do know that the accident is almost certainly the worst in the history of nuclear power in several respects. This can be said primarily because it released more radioactive material than any previous accident, thereby contaminating a great area and potentially affecting the largest number of countries with radioactive fallout, and also because it seems to have caused more damage to the power

plant than any other similar incident.

But the details of the accident available in the West remain fuzzy and sparse, pieced together from a few terse Soviet statements and a lot of deductions made by Western experts on the basis of fallout measurements made hundreds of miles from the scene supplemented by satellite photographs and expert knowledge of how reactors work.

"There is a large range of uncertainty," said Mr. Denton.

The accident is known, from Soviet statements and satellite photographs, to have occurred in the newest reactor in a complex of four operational nuclear power plants at Chernobyl. Although there has been some speculation that the reactor, which started operating in 1983, was used to produce plutonium for the Soviet nuclear weapons program, Federal officials believe that is not the case.

Any reactor can be used to produce weapon-grade material or to generate electricity, but the best operating configuration varies depending on the purpose. "The documentation we have on the Soviet reactor is that it's a true power producer reactor, optimized for power production, rather than materials production," Mr. Denton told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Thursday.

"My understanding is that it's an electrical generating plant," Robert Sims, the top Pentagon spokesman, said on Tuesday.

Day of Accident Unknown

Exactly when the accident occurred is uncertain. Soviet officials have said it began April 26, while some American intelligence officials have suggested it occurred on Friday. The American task force, using meteorological records, has noted when fallout was first detected in Sweden, some 800 miles from the stricken reactor, and has calculated how long the fallout must have traveled to get there.

The best American guess is that the main release of radioactive material started early Saturday, but some task force members hedge and say Friday or Saturday. Lester Machta, director of the air resources laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a member of the task force, said he thinks the radioactive release started around midnight Friday.

Rumanian Denial on Alert

VIENNA, May 3 (Reuters) — Rumania today denied reports that it had declared a state of alert after an increase in radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

"Reports on an alleged state of alert ordered in Rumania after the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident are completely groundless," the Rumanian press agency Agerpres said.

The West German Foreign Ministry said Friday that the Rumanian press had reported a state of alert and that people had been urged to stay indoors and await further instructions over radio and television. Rumania shares an 830-mile border with the Soviet Union.

Agerpres said radiation levels

in eastern Rumania went "much over normal limits" on Thursday.

The population has been advised to drink only municipal, deep well or mineral water, to wash fruit and vegetables and to prevent children from being outdoors for long periods.

The press agency said that there had been a reduction in radiation levels in some of the affected areas overnight but that radioactivity was still above normal.

A Government commission, headed by Elena Ceausescu, a First Deputy Prime Minister, has been set up to supervise the situation, Agerpres said. Radiation measurements are continuing and the population will be kept informed, the agency added.

Cont.



The New York Times/May 4, 1986

STRICKEN AREA: Three senior Soviet officials were reported to have visited the area around the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

The most important question, from the standpoint of assuring the safety of reactors, is the cause of the accident. Mr. Yeltsin, the Communist Party chief, who is also a nonvoting member of the Politburo, said in his television interview with the West German network ARD that human error was to blame. Whether that is the primary or only cause is unknown.

Western experts note that in any complicated technological accident, whether failure of a nuclear plant or of a space shuttle, it is often impossible to determine the true cause until after a thorough investigation, and sometimes not even then.

One Plausible Theory

Nor is it certain how the accident proceeded. Mr. Denton, the top expert on such matters for the American task force, has suggested one plausible outline of events, in which the reactor lost its coolant, the nuclear fuel overheated and both the fuel and the "cladding" in which it was encased melted, producing chemical reactions that led to "a violent explosion" that ruptured all protective systems and the building itself.

Mr. Denton said he believed that the sequence of reactions also ignited a fire in the graphite used in the Russian

plant to facilitate the nuclear reaction, thereby starting a blaze that continued to release radioactive materials.

But others have suggested other possible sequences, and Mr. Denton acknowledged today that "we really don't know the sequence." "We have no direct evidence," he said. "You could probably get 50 different scenarios that would lead to the same end point."

Mr. Denton said he was convinced that the Soviet reactor suffered a "meltdown" or "partial meltdown" in which the fuel and its cladding overheated and became molten. He also said he was convinced by all the evidence he had seen that there was both an explosion and a fire, although the latter has not been officially confirmed by the Russians.

Mr. Denton would not be more specific, but satellite photographs have shown that the roof of the reactor building had been largely blown off, and other photographs, some shown to members of Congress at a classified briefing, are said to show smoke coming out of the building.

Mr. Thomas said today that it appeared plausible from the latest data that the reactor continued to smolder, although that cannot be confirmed unequivocally. Mr. Yeltsin said that helicopters had dropped lead, sand and boron onto the plant to suppress the radiation from the accident.

Lessons Remain Unknown

Without knowing exactly what went wrong in the Soviet reactor, most experts agree, it is impossible to know whether the accident holds any lessons for the United States. The Soviet reactors differ greatly from most American power reactors, chiefly in the graphite, or carbon-like core, which can burn, and in lacking effective containment structures designed to bottle up radioactive gases in an accident. But if the accident was triggered by some reactor element that is found in American plants, or by an operator error that could occur anywhere, then the disaster at Chernobyl might well be relevant to other nations, experts say.

The health damage caused, or likely to be caused, by the accident also remains uncertain. The Soviet Government reported that only two people had died in the accident, that 18 are seriously injured, and that 197 in all have been at least briefly hospitalized. Al-

though some Western press reports have suggested that the death toll might already exceed 2,000, Federal officials say there is no evidence to support those figures, and no evidence to contradict the Soviet figures.

At a news conference Friday, task force members estimated that lethal radiation might spread up to three miles from the site and doses that could cause severe health damage might have reached seven miles. But Mr. Denton said the task force did not know how many people lived or worked that close to the plant, how much warning they had, and how effective any evacuation procedures might have been. "It is just far too tentative, I think, for us to try to draw conclusions on how many people were injured or killed as a result of this accident," he said.

The health effects of radiation are often delayed, Mr. Denton said, and even many of those exposed to high doses may not die for a month or even longer.

Frank Young, the Federal Food and Drug Commissioner, said, "The vast majority of the serious reactions are in a very local area." He suggested that the radioactive fallout would have no significant health effect on the United States or Western Europe. Other health experts have suggested that residents of Sweden, where the fallout was first detected, are also not seriously threatened. The greatest uncertainty, most experts say, is Eastern Europe, where both Poland and Rumania have taken major steps to protect their population against fallout. But task force members say there is such conflicting information coming out of Eastern Europe that they cannot make a sound assessment about the level of danger.

At a news conference Friday, three experts from the American College of Nuclear Physicians warned against overreacting to the feared danger of fallout. Richard Reba, director of nuclear medicine at George Washington University medical center here, said that if he were invited to go to Kiev, 70 miles south of the reactor site, he would not only go, but would ask for a ticket for his wife, as well.

Oscar B. Hunter Jr., a pathologist who works on radiation, said he doubts that "anyone outside of a mile" of the site "would be exposed to any lethal type of radiation."

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43

REAGAN PROTESTS LACK OF DETAILS ON SOVIET PLANT

DEMANDS A FULL ACCOUNT

On Eve of Tokyo Meeting, He
Says Moscow Disregarded
Peril to Rest of World

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

TOKYO, May 3 — President Reagan charged today that by withholding details of the Chernobyl nuclear accident the Soviet Union "manifests a disregard for the legitimate concerns of people everywhere."

Speaking on the eve of the annual economic summit meeting of the seven biggest industrial democracies, the President contrasted the openness of the leaders gathering here with the Russians' "secrecy and stubborn refusal to inform the international community of the common danger" from the nuclear disaster.

"A nuclear accident that results in contaminating a number of countries with radioactive material is not simply an internal matter," Mr. Reagan said in his weekly radio talk. "The Soviets owe the world an explanation; a full accounting of what happened at Chernobyl and what is happening now is the least the world community has a right to expect."

Chernobyl Statement Expected

After meeting with the President, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi of Italy said the summit participants would issue a joint statement branding Soviet conduct as "unacceptable." He also said they would issue what he called a "statement of will" to resist terrorism, without specifying precisely what steps should be taken against whom. [Page 12.]

Both Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan and Mr. Craxi, with whom the President held separate preliminary meetings this afternoon, said they intended to discuss the nuclear disaster during the formal sessions of the summit meeting, which begins with a dinner Sunday evening and ends Tuesday evening with a banquet.

This will be the 12th economic conference in the series that began in 1975. Again this year, as has often happened, political issues have tended to upstage economic ones.

Reagan-Gorbachev Prospects

Mr. Craxi also told Italian journalists that he had gained the impression from Mr. Reagan that the President's second meeting with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, would probably not take place this year in Washington as the two men agreed.

The President's comments on the Chernobyl disaster were among the strongest he has made since the accident in the Ukraine a week ago. Several White House aides said the nuclear question, together with the issue of

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

President Is Angered Over

Soviet Actions in Nuclear Accident

Continued From Page 1

state-sponsored terrorism, might well get more attention here than the economic questions that these annual gatherings are supposed to deal with. If that happens, said Mr. Reagan's spokesman, Larry Speakes, "So be it."

Officials of several nations said it was not clear precisely what action the leaders could take in connection with the accident beyond sharing concerns about the effect of wind-borne radioactive materials, criticizing the Soviet Union and jointly pressing Moscow to disclose more information.

As he began his talk with Mr. Craxi today, Mr. Reagan was asked to comment on Soviet charges that the West had exaggerated the scope of the nuclear accident. He replied, "Maybe they would not have any problem if they would come forward and tell everybody exactly what happened."

He also denied that he was engaging in "Soviet-bashing."

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George P. Shultz said at a news briefing that it appeared a fire was still smoldering at the Chernobyl reactor. He added that the official Soviet casualty report — 2 dead and 197 injured — "looks very low from information we have from a variety of sources." Among other things, Mr. Shultz said, emergency equipment sent to the reactor site had not been able to leave.

Mr. Shultz said he thought the leaders would probably discuss whether they should try to make more explicit what he called "the inherent obligations that states have to provide information" about such events as nuclear accidents which have an effect on people beyond their borders.

There are no international agreements covering the reporting of nuclear accidents, although members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, of which the Soviet Union is not a member, exchange incident reports. Both the United States and the Soviet Union permit the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect reactors to insure that they are not being used for weapons production. Those inspections do

not cover reactor safety.

Intensive security measures were in force in central Tokyo as the Western leaders began assembling. More than 30,000 policemen patrolled the streets, checking every vehicle and every pedestrian approaching the two principal hotels involved in the meeting — the Okura, where Mr. Reagan is staying, just south of the Imperial Palace, and the New Otani, west of the palace, where the other delegations are

based.

Helicopters and a blimp hovered overhead in gray, showery weather.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, who is expected to resist more strongly than any other leader some of the American economic proposals, arrived tonight from Thailand, where he has spent the last four days. All the other leaders are due to be here by late Sunday afternoon, including Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is to

meet with Mr. Reagan just after she flies here from South Korea.

The opening dinner, at Mr. Nakasone's official residence near the Parliament building, is likely to dwell on political questions, as have such dinners in the past.

Both Mr. Shultz and Treasury Secretary James A. Baker 3d said this year's conference came at a moment of "real opportunity" for the West. They said improving economic conditions should make it possible to summon the political will to deal with problems that might otherwise prove intractable.

Mr. Baker said there were four economic areas on which the United States hoped to concentrate: strengthening the general performance of summit countries' economies, improving growth, reinforcing free trade and searching for ways to improve international economic coordination.

A first indication that differences of approach remain came in Mr. Reagan's session with Mr. Nakasone. The Japanese leader said the steep rise in the value of the yen, which the United States sought, was causing problems for his country, according to a senior United States official.

Cutting Trade Imbalance

Mr. Reagan, the official said, replied that he understood that but said that the rise of the yen was also helping to reduce the imbalance of trade between Japan and the United States. There was no suggestion that the two leaders agreed on what should happen next.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Craxi spent much of their time, according to another Administration official, discussing how to increase the diplomatic and economic isolation of Libya in retaliation for its purported support of terrorism.

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3 Soviet Leaders Tour the Ruins Of A Accident Site

Group's Makeup Hints At Gravity of Incident

By SERGE SCHIRMANN

Special to The New York Times p. 1

MOSCOW, May 3 — Three Politburo members inspected the area of the damaged Chernobyl nuclear power plant today, marking the first public demonstration of concern about the accident by top Soviet officials within the Soviet Union.

The Government press agency Tass said that the area was visited by Prime Minister Nikolai I. Ryzhkov, by Yegor K. Ligachev, the second-ranking party secretary after Mikhail S. Gorbachev, and by Vladimir V. Shcherbitsky, the Ukrainian leader.

In the company of other officials, the three were said to have checked on the condition of structures and taken unspecified decisions on "additional measures to expedite the work."

Meanwhile, a four-man United States Army team arrived here today to measure the radioactivity levels under which the 460 American residents of Moscow are now living. Moscow is 450 miles from the nuclear accident site.

Unusually High Delegation

The dispatch of Prime Minister Ryzhkov and Mr. Ligachev, two men close to Mr. Gorbachev, represented an unusually high level for such an inspection team. Western diplomats could not remember a previous disaster that rated so high-ranking a delegation.

In sending the two men from Moscow, the Soviet leadership seemed intent on demonstrating a high level of concern, and perhaps on preparing the public for the fact that the accident was graver than the bland official announcements had suggested.

The latest Government report gave no further information on the situation in the area of the Chernobyl power station, where an unspecified accident occurred a week ago, killing two and seriously injuring 18. A cloud of radioactive debris cut a wide swath across northern and eastern Europe.

The Tass report was read out over the evening television news without accompanying film of the visit, but with a snap in the background showing the location of the Chernobyl station, which is near the town of Pripyat, 70 miles north of Kiev.

Tass said the leaders "familiarized themselves with the situation and con-

Three Kremlin Leaders Visit Area Of the Chernobyl Nuclear Station

Continued From Page 1

sidered measures being taken to eliminate the focus of the breakdown." The report did not further explain what was meant by the "focus of the breakdown."

The Soviet press did not report remarks made Friday in Hamburg, West Germany, by Boris N. Yeltsin, another member of the top Soviet leadership, but they were broadcast by Radio Liberty, the Munich-based American-financed station that beams programs into the Soviet Union.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is in Hamburg to attend a Communist Party convention, told a West German television network that the accident had been caused by human error and that local water supplies had been contaminated.

The power station and its isolated cooling pond are a high bluff above the Pripyat River, a tributary of the Dnieper River that flows through Kiev and forms a hydroelectric reservoir just north of the city. Soviet officials have said that the Kiev water supply is safe.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is the Moscow city leader, said radioactivity levels at the plant had fallen off but were still too high for people to enter. He said the level remained at about 200 roentgen. A roentgen is a measure of X-ray and gamma radiation, and a dosage of 200 rem (roentgen equivalent man) is considered by some a minimum lethal dose.

The fact that more information was being made available by Soviet leaders in the West than inside the Soviet Union seemed to support the view that the Kremlin wanted to make sure that the Soviet public was first thoroughly prepared.

The limited information made available by the Soviet Government was

matched by growing criticism of the coverage given the nuclear disaster by Western news organizations.

Soviet spokesmen have accused the Western press of exaggerating the accident to whip up anti-Soviet feelings. In the absence of Official Soviet information, some early Western news reports cited highly exaggerated casualty figures and speculated on a calamity probably in excess of what happened.

The Soviet authorities have yet to disclose what exactly happened at the nuclear power plant, how much radioactivity escaped, and how much of a threat exists.

Muscovites, interviewed on the street by Soviet television, expressed indignation over what one called Western "provocations." A middle-aged man said that Russians had felt genuine grief over the Challenger disaster, but that the West's attitude toward the Soviet Union in such cases was "the worse the better."

The Soviet Union seemed intent not only on undermining the credibility of Western reports broadcast into the Soviet Union, but on deflecting any domestic dissatisfaction toward the West.

U.S. Army Team Arrives

By FELICITY BARRINGER

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, May 3 — Four members of a United States Army radiological team arrived here today with radiation-detection devices to test whether significant levels of fallout were present in Moscow.

The four, including a veterinarian, are expected to sample air, water and food and dairy products, in an attempt to determine whether the 450 Americans here face health hazards.

Soviet fallout may taint Japanese rain water

TOKYO (UPI) - The government warned Sunday against drinking rain water after radioactive pollution believed caused by the Soviet nuclear disaster was detected, but the contamination was not expected to pose a health threat.

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes, in Tokyo with President Reagan for the Western economic summit, said the United States had not been told about a radioactivity threat in Tokyo and planned to discuss the subject with Japan.

A spokesman for the Science and Technology Agency said radioactive contamination was detected in rain in Tokyo and other areas Saturday.

"We decided to appeal to the people not to drink rain water without filtering, though pollution levels were not high," he said.

The contamination was not serious enough to harm human health, he said.

The agency's appeal was the first report of radioactive pollution over Japan since the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine last week. The Soviet Union said two people died in the disaster, but unconfirmed Western reports have placed the death toll in the hundreds or thousands.

Radioactive fallout spewed by the crippled reactor has been detected throughout Europe.

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radioactivity levels up in tokyo; white house spokesman comments; 1stadd
stands)

By CHARLES MITCHELL

MOSCOW (UPI) - The Soviet Union agreed Saturday to let U.S. experts search for radiation in Moscow's air, food and water, and a Communist Party official said intense radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster has transformed the surrounding area into a desolate wasteland.

The official also indicated human error may have been responsible for the disaster and deadly radiation levels still exist around the plant, 80 miles north of Kiev.

Fears that contaminated milk, vegetables and water could reach Moscow from the disaster scene 600 miles southwest heightened Saturday with the discovery of small doses of radiation in some goods from the Japanese Embassy.

"The levels of radiation in milk, vegetables, water and other goods ... are not dangerous and pose no threat to health," a Japanese Embassy spokesman said.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhokov and Communist Party propaganda chief Yegor Ligachev led a special government commission on a tour of the area surrounding the nuclear wastelands near Chernobyl in the Ukraine.

They talked with survivors and some of the 25,000 evacuees from what is now considered the worst industrial nuclear accident ever, Soviet news reports said.

The Soviet government insists only two people and one cow were killed in the nuclear plant accident, but numerous unconfirmed reports from the area say hundreds, and perhaps thousands, may have died.

In Tokyo, President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz - attending an economic summit of Western industrial nations - sharply criticized Moscow for withholding information on the disaster, which has spread radiation to other countries.

Shultz said the impact on the lives of Soviet citizens in the area is "much greater than what they've said."

With increased radiation falling in the rain over Tokyo, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Sunday apparent damage to the reactor building and the evacuation of towns within 20 miles of Chernobyl "suggests that massive core damage must have occurred."

He said the United States cannot confirm Soviet claims that the fire has been put out.

Cont ,

A U.S. team of radiation experts has arrived in Moscow to determine any danger to the American embassy and consulates.

Speakes said he could not make a judgment whether the increased radiation in the air over Tokyo were a direct result of the Chernobyl explosion. But he added with a smile, Reagan "will use an umbrella."

Friday, the U.S. government released translations of two Soviet journals that sharply criticized construction and maintenance practices at the Chernobyl complex that could lead to "disorder that is inadmissible at a nuclear power station."

In Kiev, Canadian diplomat Hector Cowan told The Washington Post in a telephone interview that the "situation is apparently normal," with buses running and no signs of health problems or panic.

But members of the foreign community in Moscow, a city of 9 million people, have expressed concern about the possibility of contaminated milk and vegetables coming on the market from the rich farmlands surrounding Chernobyl.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow said four members of the American radiation detection squad arrived from England Saturday to monitor contamination in water, food and the air in the Moscow area.

"We need to have better information than we had before. What the Soviets have given us is not enough information to make sensible conclusions," a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

Dr. Robert Gale, a Los Angeles-based specialist in bone-marrow transplants, the only known treatment for severe radiation poisoning, arrived in Moscow Friday at the invitation of the Soviet government to help treat victims.

Gale said some of the victims of the disaster airlifted from Chernobyl to Moscow had "rare" radiation poisoning, but he did not elaborate.

"I have seen some of the patients here in Moscow and I intend to travel to the Ukraine area in the next few days, perhaps tomorrow," he told United Press International in a telephone interview.

Gale said he had agreed with his hosts not to publicly discuss his trip until it was completed, saying the welfare of the victims must come first.

Of the most critically injured of the radiation victims he has seen in Moscow, Gale said: "Their condition is rare but not unknown. I have seen similiar cases of such serious doses."

Moscow's Communist Party chief Boris Yeltsin told West German television the area immediately adjacent to the damaged reactor complex has become a wasteland.

"The off-limits zone where raised levels of radioactivity exist remains unreachable for people although in the past few days the level of radiation has receded," Yelstin said.

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By HELEN THOMAS

TOKYO (UPI) - President Reagan, awakening to a nuclear rain and news of another U.S. space disaster, got down to the business of allied summitry Sunday and readied his presentation on terrorism and Soviet secrecy in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

By JANET SNYDER

TOKYO (UPI) - Suspected leftist radicals Sunday fired five rockets aimed at the state guest house where Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was officially greeting world leaders but the projectiles overshot their mark, police said.

No damage or casualties were reported in the attack, which occurred 2 1/2 hours after the 1 a.m. EDT official opening of the seven-nation, three-day economic summit of industrialized nations.

Police said five rockets were found near the Canadian Embassy, about five blocks southeast of the Geihinkan guest house, separated from the mission by a large wooded area. The embassy is across the street from the Akasaka Palace, residence of Crown Prince Akihito.

Police said they found five crude rocket launchers aimed at a 45-degree angle from the fourth floor of an apartment building in an area about 1 1/2 miles north of the guest house. Authorities said they suspected leftist radicals mounted the attack.

Police said they believed the rockets were aimed at the Geihinkan but flew past the guest house. All five rockets were found in the vicinity of the Canadian Embassy, they said, and one left a crater about a foot in diameter and seven inches deep in the concrete street 10 yards in front of the embassy gate.

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By JACK REDDEN

MOSCOW (UPI) - U.S. scientists set up a makeshift laboratory to check for radiation contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster Sunday and the Soviet media accused Washington of whipping up a "fear campaign."

The four experts from the U.S. Army Command-Europe - a radiologist and three health physicists - will examine areas under American control, including the embassy compound itself, apartments and a recreational cottage outside the capital, an embassy spokesman said.

"They are out running around with their equipment, but there are no numbers expected before Monday," said the spokesman. "They set up a mini-lab and it takes them a while to get results."

The American experts began with checks of air samples, the embassy spokesman said, and would later monitor any radiation levels on food or clothing.

The U.S. tests follow an announcement by the Japanese Embassy on Saturday that radioactivity had been detected on Moscow food samples, but the levels were not dangerous.

The four Americans arrived Saturday, more than a week after the accident began at the Chernobyl reactor accident in the Ukraine, 600 miles southwest of Moscow.

The official Tass news agency, reporting on a visit to the region by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and propaganda chief Igor Ligachev, said Saturday that work was continuing to "eliminate the breakdown" - indicating trouble persists.

The Soviet Union, which has tried to play down the significance of what is generally considered history's worst nuclear accident, continued a campaign of attacking Western reports of the disaster.

"A fear campaign is being whipped up in the U.S. press and on television," the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday, blaming it on "the advocates of a continued nuclear arms race."

"By artificially turning up an outcry, they are clearly out to draw world attention from the barbarity and disgraces of recent U.S. aggression against Libya, from the nuclear blasts in Nevada which have outraged all mankind and from the militarist Star Wars program," Pravda said.

"This is evidently why they have decided to inflate a propaganda cloud as big as possible in a bid to poison the international atmosphere," the newspaper said.

Official radio, calling Western reporting "complete lies," restated the government figures that only two people had died and 197 were hospitalized.

However, the most detailed Soviet information has come from Politburo member Boris Yeltsin, who was interviewed Friday during a visit to West Germany.

Yeltsin confirmed reports thousands of people in the region around the reactor had been evacuated and dangerous radiation levels prevent entry to a wasteland surrounding the wrecked power station.

His remarks were not reported to listeners in the Soviet Union, who were told only that Yeltsin was attacking U.S. military policy while attending a meeting of West Germany's small Communist Party.

Radiation No Threat in Warsaw,

EPA Agent Says

Polish Authorities Appear to Extend Protective Measures After Chernobyl Accident

By Jackson Diehl
Washington Post Foreign Service

P.30

WARSAW, May 3—A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official said here today that radiation in Warsaw poses no health hazard and probably had not reached a dangerous level at any time since the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Richard Hopper, an EPA radiation specialist, said tests he conducted after arriving here today showed that radioactive traces in Warsaw's air were about twice normal levels, but far below the amount considered hazardous. He said that he had not tested water or food.

Hopper said he believed there

was no reason for the State Department to continue a recommendation announced yesterday that women of child-bearing age and children should not visit here. He added that no U.S. diplomatic personnel or dependents would be evacuated and that those he had tested showed no sign of harmful contamination.

The official's evaluation came as the Polish authorities appeared to extend safety measures to prevent the consumption of contaminated substances.

Though there was no public announcement, shop managers said they had been told not to sell locally made soft drinks or butter until May 15. Farmers have been told not to graze cows until that date.

The government previously an-

nounced a ban on the sale of fresh milk and distributed an iodine solution to children under 16 as a radiation antidote. The new measures were the first sign of official concern that common drinking water, which is used in local soft drinks, might be unhealthy to consume.

A commission of Polish government experts repeatedly has reported this week that increased radiation levels in Poland following the Chernobyl accident posed no immediate health danger. However, the experts said they expected some increase in cancer rates over the next two to three decades.

Western diplomats here said that scientists consider radiation hazardous when it reaches a level sufficient to cause illness or increase the

risk of cancer for a large percentage of people exposed to it. At the same time, any significant increase in radiation levels can lead to a long-term statistical increase in the cancer rate of a large population, they said.

Hopper said that the radiation level in Warsaw today was so low that it could be measured only in microroentgens, a quantity thousands of times smaller than that of harmful radioactive doses. He said that the current readings indicated that dangerous quantities of radiation never had been present in the air here.

The U.S. official was dispatched to Poland with monitoring equipment because of dissatisfaction among American and other western

diplomats over information provided by authorities about radiation levels.

The uncertainty has led about 50 dependents of western diplomats, including Canadians, French, West Germans and British, to leave Poland in recent days. The State Department offered yesterday to pay the travel expenses of dependents of American employes here wishing to leave, but none chose to do so, a spokesman said.

Diplomats here said the EPA testing and State Department offer to cover travel expenses were put into effect primarily to ease anxiety among Americans here and not because it was believed that a serious health risk might exist.

At the same time, several western diplomats said the testing and travel advisories by U.S. and British authorities were a way of expressing dissatisfaction with Polish authorities for not releasing detailed information about radiation levels.

European Radioactivity Closely Noted

Wash Post p. 20
Associated Press

Here is a breakdown of yesterday's radiation levels and precautionary measures in several European nations following the Soviet nuclear reactor accident a week ago. No country reported levels dangerous to humans.

Some countries provided measurements in millirems, which measures the effect that radiation produces in human tissue. A millirem is one-thousandth of a rem, a measure used in setting radiological protection standards.

Experts in Frankfurt say an average West German receives about 110 millirems a year from natural and man-made sources. Exposure to about 1,000 millirems a year is estimated to create one or two chances in 10,000 of developing fatal cancer.

■ **AUSTRIA**—Radiation levels continued to fall but no figures were given. The Health Ministry said milk would be tested at dairies through May 10, and farmers were forbidden to feed cows pasture fodder or sell milk directly to consumers.

■ **BRITAIN**—The National Radiological Protection Board said radioactivity readings were "very low" but gave no figures.

■ **BELGIUM**—Environmental authorities said the radioactivity reading was 0.008 millirems, down from its peak of 0.010 Friday. Normal is 0.006.

■ **DENMARK**—Researchers said they had not detected above-normal radiation since Wednesday.

■ **FINLAND**—Radiation levels were falling steadily and authorities said dairy milk is now safe to drink but rainwater is not.

■ **GREECE**—The state-run atomic energy institute Democritos said radiation levels had risen "in the past 24 hours" but gave no details. The Health Ministry advised careful washing of fruits and vegetables.

■ **HUNGARY**—The official news agency MTI said air radiation in the Budapest area had declined and there is no significant change elsewhere in the country. The level of radiation is far from the degree harmful to health throughout the country." MTI continued to recommend that children be given only milk controlled by the official dairy industry and that vegetables be washed thoroughly.

■ **ITALY**—Italy's nuclear regulatory agency said radiation levels had risen slightly in the past few days. Readings were about 50 percent higher than normal in Rome. The Health Ministry continued its ban on the sale of most leafy vegetables and the use of milk by children and pregnant women.

■ **LUXEMBOURG**—Radioactivity stood at 0.012 millirems, down from a peak Friday of 0.018 millirems. Normal level is 0.011.

■ **NETHERLANDS**—Radioactivity was at 0.03 millirems in Amsterdam, down from 0.06 on Friday. The normal level is 0.018. The government told farmers to keep cows away from pastures and that vegetables be carefully washed.

■ **POLAND**—The official PAP news agency said radioactivity had dropped to near normal.

■ **ROMANIA**—The official news agency Agerpres said radiation had dropped, but was still above normal. Residents have been cautioned to drink only municipal, deep well or bottled water, and to limit children's time outside.

■ **SPAIN**—The Nuclear Security Council said radiation levels "remained within the normal range for Spain, from 0.01 to 0.025 millirems.

■ **SWITZERLAND**—Officials reported a slight increase in radioactivity, with levels ranging from .018 millirems (1.8 times normal) in the west to .10 (10 times normal, the highest reading since the accident) in the south near the Italian border, where there was heavy rainfall overnight. Other parts of Switzerland showed .034 millirems.

■ **SWEDEN**—The Radiation Protection Institute said air and ground radiation continued to fall steadily and the government lifted a four-day-old ban on importing fresh foods from Eastern Europe.

■ **TURKEY**—Radiation levels in some areas rose above normal, the Turkish Atomic Institute said. It said radiation in the Black Sea coastal province of Zonguldak was seven times higher than normal but was not dangerous.

■ **WEST GERMANY**—Radiation levels remained 10 to 12 times above normal in parts of Bavaria in the southeast, while readings six times normal were measured in the southwest. The trend nationwide was down, and readings in most areas were normal or near-normal. Border officials continued to check vehicles and people entering the country from Eastern Europe.

■ **YUGOSLAVIA**—Officials said radiation had dropped by one-third but remained about six times higher than normal. The government advised children not to play on the grass and said vegetables should be washed well.

Kremlin Aides Visit Area of Reactor Accident

U.S. Specialists Begin Examinations

By Gary Lee
Washington Post Foreign Service

Pl.

MOSCOW, May 3—Two leading Kremlin officials visited the area of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster yesterday, meeting with people evacuated after the explosion and discussing cleanup efforts, the Soviet news agency Tass reported today.

The senior Kremlin group—headed by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and Yegor Ligachev, the second-ranking official in the ruling Politburo—made decisions “on additional measures to be taken to expedite the work” of cleaning up after the reactor accident, Tass said, adding that “the work to eliminate the breakdown is being conducted in an organized way.”

In other developments, a U.S. bone-marrow specialist began examining radiation victims here today and four U.S. medical specialists arrived from West Germany with Soviet permission to examine potential health hazards of the nuclear accident for Americans based in the Soviet Union.

In Western Europe, thousands of protesters demonstrated to demand the shutdown of nuclear power plants there. Radioactivity levels from airborne fallout from the accident in Chernobyl diminished across most of Eastern and Western Europe, but several countries continued precautionary measures. In Warsaw, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official said radiation there now poses no health hazard. [Details on Page A30].

Politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitsky, the party leader of the Ukraine, and several other So-

See NUCLEAR, A30, Col. 1

Kremlin Aides Visit Area of Nuclear Accident

NUCLEAR, From A1

Soviet officials were included in the delegation of Kremlin visitors, Tass said. The group "visited the area of the Chernobyl power station," according to Tass, but it did not say how close to the site they came.

The Friday visit of two leading Politburo members, reported without pictures tonight on the evening news on state-run television, signals the level of attention the Kremlin is now devoting to the Chernobyl disaster, according to western analysts here.

It coincided with public comments that Boris Yeltsin, leader of the Moscow Communist Party, made about the accident in an interview with West German television yesterday. Yeltsin said "human failure" was probably the cause of the accident "and this we must eliminate." He also said that there is "a dangerous zone" around the plant, 60 miles north of Kiev, because of radioactivity.

Official accounts of the Kremlin delegation's visit today said they had gone to "populated areas," indicating that they apparently had not approached the site itself, which has been evacuated.

Dr. Robert Gale, a prominent U.S. bone-marrow specialist who arrived here yesterday, said he examined some of the radiation victims of the explosion today.

In an interview, he described the cases he saw, which had been brought here from the Ukraine, as serious and "rare but not unknown."

Gale said he plans to travel to the Ukraine to examine other victims, perhaps Sunday.

Tass said Thursday that 18 of the 197 Soviets who were hospitalized following the

Chernobyl accident were in serious condition, but today's dispatch gave no further information about them. Earlier, Tass had said that 49 of the 197 had been discharged from the hospital.

Soviet officials have said that two people were killed in the explosion. The official Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said today that it was told by official Soviet sources that the two were reactor workers, The Associated Press reported.

A radiologist and three health physicists attached to U.S. military units in West Germany arrived here today to examine the potential health hazards from the accident for Americans living here. Neither they nor the U.S. Embassy would discuss their activities in detail.

U.S. officials said, however, that the embassy had submitted a detailed list of technical questions to Soviet officials about the incident.

They said they have received no answers.

Meanwhile, Tass and Soviet television continued a growing campaign here against western reaction to the disaster today, with the television featuring street interviews with three Soviets who criticized the western response.

One woman said Soviet television broadcasts showing western officials checking travelers and food exports for radioactivity had provided proof that western reaction to Chernobyl is "a provocation."

A Soviet Army major interviewed also denounced western reaction to the accident and said, "The imperialists will always be looking for any reason, even any fact, to twist it in their own interests."

An engineer who was interviewed by So-

viet television said the Soviets had responded with grief when they learned of the Challenger space shuttle accident, but that Americans and others in the West had reacted far differently to a Soviet tragedy.

[Tass, in a commentary by Sergei Kulik charged today that "demanding 'more news and 'more facts' from Chernobyl, losing all sense of shame and conscience, the politicians are waiting only for bad news," The Associated Press reported.

["It's unlikely that the reports that the situation in the area of the atomic station is normalizing will sober them up," the commentator said, claiming that "the White House and its allies need this witch dance to cast a shadow on the Soviet Union and its peaceful initiatives."]

In the past few days, Soviet criticism of western treatment of the Chernobyl incident has loomed larger than official coverage of the incident itself.

United Press International reported the following:

Six weeks before the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the newspaper Pravda Ukrainy complained of a breakdown in deliveries to the site that could lead to "disorder that is inadmissible at a nuclear power station," according to a translation of the March 18 article in the Ukrainian Communist Party paper by the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service in Washington.

The description of an installation plagued by disorganization, supply problems and inefficiency was reinforced later by a front page report on March 27 in Literaturny Ukraina, another official newspaper published in Kiev.

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'H' or 'X'.

Scope of Cleanup Believed Unmatched

ACCIDENT, From A1

Scope of Cleanup Believed Unmatched

By Cass Peterson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union faces an incredibly expensive cleanup operation in the wake of the accident at its nuclear station in Chernobyl and may be forced to declare some areas off-limits indefinitely, according to U.S. experts in decontaminating radioactive sites.

While the Soviets have released little information on the extent or severity of radioactive fallout from the reactor explosion and apparent meltdown, a U.S. interagency task force has estimated that lethal levels of radioactivity extended as much as three miles from the plant immediately after the accident and that extremely dangerous levels extended as far as seven miles.

"I don't think anybody has ever handled anything this size," said Wayne Bliss, director of the Environmental Protection Agency's radiation division in Las Vegas, which mainly assists in cleanups of military sites. "This is the worst acute contaminating event anybody has ever had."

The U.S. task force is seeking additional information on Chernobyl, partly in an effort to reassure Americans that they are in no danger from a similar disaster but also because of the wealth of data that the accident is expected to generate.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission official Harold Denton, a member of the task force who directed the cleanup at the Three Mile Island commercial reactor near Harrisburg, Pa., after its partial meltdown in March 1979, said the Chernobyl

See ACCIDENT, A30, Col. 1

accident could provide the best lessons so far in how to cope with a serious nuclear accident. "This is not the absolute worst case," he said, "but it ranks right up there as to what you could expect."

No environmental cleanup was required in the area surrounding TMI, where a steel-and-concrete containment vessel held in most radioactive emissions. Nonetheless, it was three years before operators could lower a television camera into the contaminated reactor and another year before the first technicians, equipped with special tools, entered the crippled reactor to begin decontamination.

"You can go in TMI now," Denton said. "Workmen are standing above the core, which is underwater, using special robot tools to scoop up the radioactive material for disposal . . . This one [Chernobyl] has the core open to the air, with the same level of destruction. This is a major, major cleanup."

The United States has some experience in similar cleanups, with mixed success. A major effort on the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, contaminated by fallout from an atomic bomb test in 1954, has not reduced radioactivity enough to permit the return of residents.

Islanders returned briefly in 1969 but were evacuated again when it was discovered that food crops on the island were taking up radioactivity at dangerous levels. Two years ago, a scientific committee estimated it would take another \$40 million to remove 11 inches of topsoil and revegetate the island.

Bikini Atoll is less than two square miles in size. The area thought to have sustained significant environmental damage around Chernobyl, by contrast, is a minimum of 40 square miles and probably far larger.

The largest areas treated in the United States for radioactive contamination are the nuclear test sites in Nevada, which are neither populated nor suitable for agriculture. Bliss estimated that about 80 acres have been coated with ordinary road oil to prevent radioactive par-

ticles from being wafted into the atmosphere.

The Soviets' task will be complicated by the fact that Chernobyl is situated in the Ukraine, the nation's breadbasket, which together with four smaller republics just north of the nuclear station produces more than one-third of the nation's winter wheat and dairy products, as well as substantial amounts of sugar beets, vegetables and fruits.

The plant also sits near the Dnieper River, which supplies agricultural irrigation water as well as drinking water for Kiev, a city of 2.4 million, and other Soviet cities on its way south to the Black Sea.

"We've never had anything contaminated so widely and with such high levels of radioactivity," Denton said.

At the worst, heavily contaminated soils might have to be dredged up and disposed of elsewhere, stripping the land of its most productive topsoil, or abandoned for crop and grazing purposes for decades while radioactive particles decay to safe levels.

Less drastic measures may be possible in less severely damaged areas, such as the use of chelating agents to bind some isotopes and prevent plants from taking them up, or deep plowing to mix and dilute radioactive materials in the soil.

"But there are points where you don't want to use pastures or fields for anything," Bliss said.

The Soviets reportedly faced a similar situation 30 years ago when an explosion contaminated a wide area near Kyshtym in the eastern Ural Mountains. According to published reports from CIA documents and emigre Soviet scientists, 30 villages were abandoned after that accident, more than 100 square miles were declared a "dead zone" and a river was rerouted to avoid contamination.

A far less severe accident happened in 1966, when an American B52 collided with its refueling plane near the coast of Spain and spilled four hydrogen bombs. Two of the bombs ruptured on impact, spreading plutonium and uranium over two areas several hundred feet in diameter. U.S. officials dredged up more than 1,000 tons of topsoil and veg-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers in a large Milan market destroy fresh produce following a government ban on consuming fresh vegetables.

etation and took it back to the United States for disposal.

Just how far dangerous levels of radioactive particles from Chernobyl might have spread is a matter of speculation.

According to the U.S. task force, areas within seven miles of the plant clearly will require long-term decontamination, but without data on local weather conditions and terrain, it is not possible to know how much additional land has been damaged.

The only experience at all comparable to Chernobyl in the United States was a deliberate test by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1965. The commission hauled a small reactor on a flatbed railroad car to a site near Jackass Flats, Nev., and dropped the fuel rods out in an effort to determine the effects of a runaway nuclear reactor.

The reactor exploded, releasing lethal levels of radioactivity in the immediate vicinity. Cesium and strontium 90 isotopes were detected in samples of milk from cows grazing near Bakersfield, Calif., 175 miles away, but not at levels considered dangerous.

The Chernobyl accident would have released much higher doses, because of the size of the reactor,

but just how much more would depend on the amount of fuel in the reactor, how long the fuel had been in use and the power level at the time of the accident.

In a television interview Friday from West Germany, a Soviet official said water reservoirs near the plant were contaminated, an occurrence that U.S. officials considered unavoidable. The plant sits near the Pripyat River, a tributary of the Dnieper.

But water contamination may pose less difficulty than soil contamination, according to Bliss, who said initial doses of radiation have probably been flushed downriver and diluted, and standard city water treatment facilities remove much radioactivity through carbon filters.

Some isotopes may settle in river or reservoir sediment or be taken up quickly by algae and other vegetation, where they can enter the food chain through fish and other animals, he said. "These compounds very likely will dissolve easily, like table salt, and they will move quite a ways," he said.

Rooftop cisterns, used in many countries to collect rainwater for household use, could be heavily contaminated, but well water "should

not be contaminated if people have reasonable wellheads," he said.

As for food products, Bliss said that leafy vegetables and grasses will probably have to be destroyed or disposed of in some manner.

"Root vegetables are probably all right if they are washed and checked," he said. "Uptake won't occur rapidly and there are safe levels of radioactivity in consumer products without subjecting the public to great risks."

For future crops, however, the soil might have to be treated with agents to prevent plants from taking up excessive quantities of radioactive materials. Potassium fertilizers, for example, can restrict the uptake of radioactive cesium by plants in much the same way potassium iodide protects humans from radioactive iodine.

While it is impossible to estimate the overall cost of any cleanup operation at Chernobyl, Bliss noted that the United States spent \$15 million in just a few days seeking the radioactive remains of a Soviet spy satellite that crashed in Canada in 1978.

"This is going to make that look a trip to the candy store," he said.