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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 8/9

FOIA

F06-114/8

Box Number 29

YARHI-MILO

2914

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10468	CABLE	081656Z MAY 86 [1 - 2] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/8/1986	B1
10469	MEMO	PLATT TO POINDEXTER RE CHERNOBYL REACTOR UPDATE [13 - 15] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	3	5/8/1986	B1
10470	MEMO	PLATT TO POINDEXTER [17 - 18] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/7/1986	B1
10466	MEMO	PLATT TO POINDEXTER RE UPDATE ON CHERNOBYL INCIDENT [20 - 21] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/5/1986	B1

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

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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]

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10471	CABLE	091007Z MAY 86 [22 - 23] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/9/1986	B1
10467	MEMO	PLATT TO POINDEXTER RE UPDATE ON CHERNOBYL REACTOR ACCIDENT [24 - 24] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/9/1986	B1
10472	CABLE	101302Z MAY 86 [33 - 34] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/10/1986	B1
10473	MEMO	PLATT TO POINDEXTER RE CHERNOBYL REACTOR UPDATE [36 - 37] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	2	5/10/1986	B1

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10474	CABLE	121310Z MAY 86 [40 - 40] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/12/1986	B1
10475	CABLE	121255Z MAY 86 [41 - 41] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	5/12/1986	B1
10476	CABLE	131459Z MAY 86 [42 - 45] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	4	5/13/1986	B1

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PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 7848 DTG: 081656Z MAY 86 PSN: 029818
EOB690 AN006274 TOR: 128/2223Z CSN: HCE356

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*Ambr
Mickel*

EXDIS

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: UR, US, KSCA
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REACTOR THREE

REF: (A) STATE 144043, (B) MOSCOW 7486

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON MAY 8, POLCOUNS AND SCICOUNS MET AT THE MFA WITH SERGEY B. CHETVERIKOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, USA DEPARTMENT, TO PRESENT SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS PER REF A. NOTING THAT HE VIEWED THE POINTS AS ADDITIONAL TO THE LIST OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS DELIVERED TO THE MFA ON MAY 3 (REF B). CHETVERIKOV ACCEPTED THEM AND PROMISED TO GIVE OUR CONCERNS THOROUGH STUDY. CHETVERIKOV REFERRED TO THE TASS SUMMARY OF THE SHCHERBINA PRESS CONFERENCE AND, LOOKING BACK AT OUR TALKING POINTS, SAID THERE WAS NO BASIS IN SHCHERBINA'S STATEMENT TO SEE CONCERN FOR RADIATION RELEASES FROM REACTOR NUMBER THREE.

3. POLCOUNS SAID THE LACK OF PUBLIC INFORMATION COULD NOT BUT HURT SOVIET EFFORTS AT DEALING WITH THE CHERNOBYL' ACCIDENT. HE NOTED THE INTERESTS OF ALL IN DISTINGUISHING FACT FROM RUMOR. SHOWING CHETVERIKOV A TASS ENGLISH RELEASE CONCERNING LINES FOR TRAIN AND AIR TICKETS IN KIEV, HE ASKED FOR COMMENT ON WHETHER EVACUATIONS WERE OCCURRING. CHETVERIKOV SAID THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL EVACUATION. THE TASS RELEASE HAD REFERRED TO THE FORTHCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON AND TO SOME ANXIETY. IN LIGHT OF THIS ANXIETY AMONG THE POPULACE, IT WAS NATURAL THAT A HIGHER PORTION OF PEOPLE THAN USUAL WOULD BE LEAVING THE AREA.

4. POLCOUNS STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS A COMMON ONE POTENTIALLY AFFECTING ANY COUNTRY, AND SAID DROPPING BARRIERS TO THE FLOW OF INFORMATION WOULD

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PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 7848

DTG: 081656Z MAY 86 PSN: 029818

SERVE EVERYBODY'S INTERESTS--AND COULD HELP THE SOVIET PUBLIC IMAGE PROBLEM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE REAFFIRMED THE U. S. OFFER OF TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. CHETVERIKOV SAID HE LARGELY AGREED, AND REITERATED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR LATEST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. POLCOUNS URGED A PROMPT AND SUBSTANTIVE REPLY.
HARTMAN
BT

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 MISSION VIENNA 06977

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/IE PETER BRUSH
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
HAROLD DENTON

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: INUC, MNUC, PARM, IAEA, KNNP
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS
CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: CABLE REPORTS PRESS CONFERENCE CONDUCTED BY IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL HANS BLIX DESCRIBING HIS VISIT TO SOVIET UNION IN CONNECTION WITH NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT AT CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER STATION. BLIX REPORTED AGREEMENT BY SOVIETS TO FURNISH RADIOLOGICAL DATA ON A DAILY BASIS TO AGENCY. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENT SEQUENCE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DATA ON EXPLOSION AND FIRE, INCLUDING TIME (1:23 A.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 26), BUT DOES NOT INDICATE LIKELY CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR GENERAL BLIX UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT SCHMECHAT AIRPORT AT APPROXIMATELY 6 P.M. MAY 9, 1986: BLIX INTRODUCED DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NUCLEAR POWER L. KONSTANTINOV AND DIVISION OF SAFETY DIRECTOR MAURICE ROSEN, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM TO CHERNOBYL.

BEGIN TEXT.
I RECEIVED AN INVITATION LAST SUNDAY MORNING THROUGH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GO TO MOSCOW ON MONDAY, ARRIVING MONDAY EVENING. ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY WE WERE IN MOSCOW; WE TALKED WITH MINISTERS, WE TALKED WITH THE HEADS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY AND HIS SENIOR PEOPLE AND ON THURSDAY, YESTERDAY, WE FLEW DOWN TO KIEV AND FROM THE KIEV AIRPORT WE WERE TAKEN BY HELICOPTER UP TO CHERNOBYL AND THEN AROUND THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. WE WERE ABOUT 800 METERS FROM THE DAMAGED UNIT NUMBER FOUR AND WE COULD SEE IT WITH OUR OWN EYES. WE ALSO HAD TALKS IN KIEV WITH TWO PERSONS WHO ARE DIRECTING THE OPERATIONS FROM THE CITY OF CHERNOBYL, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF

SCIENCE, PROFESSOR VELIKOV (PHONETIC) CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY, PROFESSOR SIDERENKOV (PHONETIC), AND THEY WERE ALSO IN THE HELICOPTER WITH US WHEN WE TRAVELLED TO SEE THE PLANT.

DURING OUR STAY WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE OURSELVES A ROUGH AND PRELIMINARY PICTURE OF THE ACCIDENT ON THE BASIS OF FRANK AND OPEN TALKS. I SEE THESE TALKS AND THE INVITATION AS A CONTINUATION OF THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION THAT WE HAVE HAD FROM THE SOVIET MISSION THAT IS ATTACHED TO THE IAEA. THE LAST WEEK BEFORE WE LEFT WE HAD CONTINUOUS INFORMATION BY CABLE FROM MOSCOW AND WHAT WE DID NOW WAS A FOLLOW UP OF THIS CONTACT. THIS ROUGH PICTURE OF THE ACCIDENT IS ONE THAT MR. ROSEN WILL TELL YOU. THE DETAILED PICTURE CANNOT BE GIVEN BY US. ONLY BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, AND IN DUE COURSE. HOWEVER, WE ALSO AGREED WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON A NUMBER OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND THESE AGREEMENTS ARE OF THE FOLLOWING KIND:

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS TURNED TO US AND URGED US TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RELEASES FROM THE DAMAGED PLANT AND WE HAVE PRESENTED THAT NEED TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND WE HAVE NOW AN AGREEMENT WITH THEM UNDER WHICH THEY WILL DELIVER DATA ON THE RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY FROM THE STATION THAT IS NOT SO FAR FROM CHERNOBYL AND ALSO A NUMBER OF STATIONS OUTSIDE. MR. ROSEN CAN PERHAPS SUPPLEMENT WHAT I HAVE SAID ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT.

ROSEN: WE HAVE AGREEMENT THAT DATA WILL BE PROVIDED BY STATE COMMITTEE OF HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT TO THE STATE COMMITTEE ON THE UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, AND THEN DAILY, BY TELEX, TO THE VIENNA IAEA HEADQUARTERS. THE DATA WILL CONSIST OF READINGS OF:

- MILLIROENTGENS PER HOUR;
 - COORDINANTS OF THE STATION;
 - WIND DIRECTION;
 - WIND SPEED;
 - THE TEMPERATURE AT 1:00 A.M. WHEN THESE READINGS WILL BE TAKEN;
 - THE DEW POINT;
 - AND LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.
- BT



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HAROLD DENTON

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TNUC, MNUC, PARM, IAEA, KNNP
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS

THE DATA WILL BE COLLECTED FROM A STATION 68 KMS.
SOUTHEAST OF CHERNOBYL AND AT SIX OTHER STATIONS ALONG
THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE SOVIET UNION. THESE BEING AT
LENINGRAD, RIGA, VILNIUS, BREST, KRACOV (?), KISINOV
ALONG THE DISTANCE FROM LENINGRAD TO THE BLACK SEA
THESE STATIONS ARE REGISTERED STATIONS OF THE WORLD
METEOROLOGY ORGANIZATION.

BLIX: EVIDENTLY THIS MATTER OF GIVING INFORMATION IS
ONLY A PART OF THE MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF ARRANGING
AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE RELEASE OF DATA ON
RADIOACTIVE RELEASES WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED AN EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM A CONVENTION OF SOME KIND AND I AM SURE
THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION OF SUCH A SYSTEM. AND IN
THE COMMUNIQUE YOU WILL ALSO FIND EVIDENCE THAT THE
SOVIET UNION IS IN AGREEMENT WITH A MECHANISM OF SOME
KIND AND I TRUST THAT THIS WILL COME UP FOR DISCUSSION
BETWEEN STATES IN THE IAEA. THERE EXISTS AT THE
PRESENT TIME NO MULTILATERAL BINDING RULES ABOUT THE
RELEASE OF SUCH DATA, ONLY GUIDELINES AND WHAT MIGHT BE
AGREED UPON BETWEEN STATES. SO, THERE WILL BE WORK ON
THIS IN THE FUTURE WITHIN THE AGENCY.
NOW A SECOND POINT IN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH I SHOULD
MENTION. OUR SOVIET COLLEAGUES HAVE AGREED WITH US
THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A MEETING IN WHICH
THEIR EXPERTS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH EXPERTS FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT MAKING AN ANALYSIS OF THE
ACCIDENT AND WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM IT. ONE OF THE
FUNDAMENTAL ROLES OF THE IAEA IS TO BE A FORUM, A
MECHANISM IN WHICH COUNTRIES CAN LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER
AND THEREBY INCREASE SAFETY. WE SERVED THIS FUNCTION
AFTER THE THREE MILE ISLAND ACCIDENT A NUMBER OF YEARS
AGO AND THERE WILL BE SUCH A POST-ACCIDENT ANALYSIS IN
THIS CASE, TO BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, CERTAINLY BY
THE SUMMER MONTHS. OF COURSE, WE MUST ALLOW THE SOVIET

EXPERTS THEMSELVES, TO ADEQUATELY ANALYZE WHAT HAS
HAPPENED BEFORE WE CALL SUCH A MEETING. WE HAVE ALSO
AGREED THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL
MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE IAEA TO
IMPROVE NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY. I CANNOT GO, AS DIRECTOR
GENERAL TO MOSCOW AND SAY TO THEM WHAT MUST BE DONE
BECAUSE THE IAEA IS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.
IT IS FOR THE MEMBERS TO AGREE, BUT WE HAVE AGREED IT
WOULD BE DESIRABLE THAT WE HAVE SUCH DISCUSSION AND I
AM SURE THAT THE CLIMATE WILL BE RIGHT FOR DISCUSSIONS
OF VARIOUS SAFETY ISSUES AT NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS. WE
HAVE ALSO AGREED ON INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION OF
POSSIBLE TECHNICAL MEASURES IN NUCLEAR FACILITIES FOR
THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AND FOR THE REDUCING OF
THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

PROFESSOR KONSTANTINOV COULD PERHAPS TELL YOU SOME OF
THE MEASURES WHICH ALREADY EXIST WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATON
IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY.

KONSTANTINOV: CURRENTLY THE AGENCY HAS DONE AND IS
BEING DONE SPECIAL WORK CONNECTED WITH SAFETY OF
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN PARTICULAR, THREE YEARS AGO IT
DEVISED A SPECIAL SYSTEM - INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM
AND THE SOVIET UNION IS A MEMBER OF SUCH A SYSTEM. AND
WE PROVIDE, OF COURSE, THE INFORMATION IN PARTICULAR,
IN SUCH A SYSTEM, IN GENERAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE
CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. BUT, OF COURSE, IT WILL
TAKE SOME TIME TO CONSIDER ALL THE DATA EXISTING. SO,
ALSO, THERE ARE OTHER ACTIVITIES, AND I WOULD LIKE TO
MENTION NOT ALL OF THEM. YOU COULD GET THE DETAILED
INFORMATION FROM MYSELF OR DOCTOR ROSEN CONCERNING THE
ACTIVITY THAT HAS BEEN DONE. IN PARTICULAR WE HAVE
SPECIAL NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS AND THE AGENCY IS
ABLE AT THE REQUEST OF A STATE TO ASSIST THE MEMBER
STATE WHO HAS DECIDED TO INVITE THE CORRESPONDING
ASSISTANCE IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE, THE SECRETARIAT,
ARE ABLE TO DO THIS; BUT, THROUGH THE SECRETARIAT, IT
IS POSSIBLE TO FIND THE CORRESPONDING EXPERT AND THE
ASSISTANCE FROM THE OTHER MEMBER STATE OF WHICH THE
SECRETARIAT IS REQUESTED. I THINK WE ALSO HAVE A LOT
OF SPECIAL DOCUMENTS, IN PARTICULAR, NUCLEAR SAFETY
BT

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PAGE 01 UNVIE MISSION VIENN 6977 DTG:092028Z MAY 86 PSN:031964
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BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY SOVIET OFFICIALS AS
SUPPLEMENTED BY THE GROUPS OWN OBSERVATIONS AT THE SITE.

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BEGIN TEXT

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THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER STATION ACCIDENT
(A SUMMARY DESCRIPTION BY IAEA REPRESENTATIVES)
9 MAY 1986

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DE RUEHVI #6977/03 1292040
O 092028Z MAY 86 ZFF4
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HAROLD DENTON

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TNUC, MNUC, PARM, IAEA, KNNP
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS

STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND WHICH DEFINE THE
SPECIFIC TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR
POWER PLANTS AND IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS TO MAKE THE
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFE. IF I SHOULD ALSO MENTION A
SPECIAL BODY - THE SPECIAL ADVISORY GROUP (INSAG)
INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP, WHICH
CONSISTS OF 13 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONE EXPERT FROM THE
USSR. AND THIS GROUP ESPECIALLY CONSIDERS THE
NECESSARY ACTIONS TO INCREASE SAFETY. I BELIEVE THAT
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO FURTHER GO INTO DETAILS, BUT WE
SUPPOSE THAT THIS GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO CONSIDER THE
FIRST RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE ACCIDENT AT
CHERNOBYL.

BLIX: I WILL END BY NOTING THE THIRD POINT FROM THE
END OF THE COMMUNIQUE, THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE STATED
THAT THE ACCIDENT WILL NOT AFFECT NUCLEAR POWER
DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN THE SOVIET UNION. YOU ARE NO
DOUBT AWARE THAT THE SEVEN HEADS OF STATES AND
GOVERNMENTS THAT MET RECENTLY IN TOKYO SIMILARLY STATED
THE CONVICTION THAT PROPERLY MANAGED NUCLEAR POWER IS
AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN INCREASINGLY WIDELY USED
SOURCE OF ENERGY. ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF THE WORLDS
ELECTRICITY IS TODAY PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR. SO, BOTH THE
SOVIET UNION AND THESE WORLD LEADERS ARE OF THE VIEW
THAT THIS WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF ENERGY.
AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS ACCIDENT WILL
BE USED BY NUCLEAR INDUSTRY EVERYWHERE TO IMPROVE
SAFETY. AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WITHIN THE IAEA THERE
WILL BE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO LEARN FROM THE TRAGIC
EVENTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PAYING VERY DEARLY FOR NOW.
ROSEN THEN READ A TWO AND ONE HALF PAGE PAPER WHICH THE
BLIX GROUP HAD PREPARED IN MOSCOW DESCRIBING THEIR VERY
ROUGH AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS CONCERNING THE
ACCIDENT. ROSEN EMPHASIZED THAT THIS NARRATIVE WAS

A FULL AND AUTHORITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE
ACCIDENT, THE REASONS FOR IT AND CONSEQUENCES OF IT CAN
ONLY BE GIVEN BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AFTER NECESSARY
ANALYSIS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, PREPARED THE FOLLOWING
BRIEF DESCRIPTION WHICH IS BASED UPON WHAT WE HAVE
LEARNED FROM A NUMBER OF TALKS WITH MINISTERS,
OFFICIALS CONCERNED AND EXPERTS AND TO SOME EXTENT FROM
OUR OWN VISUAL OBSERVATIONS DURING A HELICOPTER FLIGHT
AROUND THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. MANY OF THE
FACTS GIVEN HERE HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC EARLIER.

ON THE 26TH OF APRIL AT 1:23 A.M. EXPLOSIONS
OCCURED IN THE FOURTH UNIT OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR
POWER STATION. AT THAT TIME THE REACTOR WHICH WAS
UNDERGOING A PLANNED MAINTENANCE SHUT-DOWN WAS AT 7
PERCENT POWER LEVEL. AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION TWO
PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES, ONE FROM HOT STEAM BURNS, THE
OTHER OF INJURIES FROM FALLING OBJECTS.

SO FAR THERE ARE ONLY HYPOTHESES REGARDING THE
SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE ACCIDENT. RESEARCH AND
DETAILED ANALYSIS ARE UNDER WAY. RECORDS OF DATA FROM
THE CONTROL ROOM WERE RECOVERED AFTER THE ACCIDENT AND
ARE BEING STUDIED.

THE EXPLOSIONS CAUSED FIRE. THE REACTOR BUILDING,
EQUIPMENT IN IT, THE REACTOR ITSELF AND THE REACTOR
CORE WERE EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED RESULTING IN RADIOACTIVE
RELEASES BEYOND THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AREA.
THE CHAIN REACTION AUTOMATICALLY STOPPED AT THE
TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THE FACT
THAT MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF PERSONS AFFECTED SHOWED NO
EVIDENCE OF HIGH NEUTRON FLUX EXPOSURE.

BT

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TNUC, MNUC, PARM, IAEA, KNNP
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS

A LARGE PART OF THE RADIOACTIVE RELEASES CONSISTS OF THE EMISSION OF SHORT-LIVED RADIONUCLIDES. MEASUREMENTS INDICATE THAT UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE EMISSIONS WERE IN THE FORM OF IODINE 131.

FIRE TEAMS CAME QUICKLY TO THE SITE. WORK WAS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT NEITHER WATER NOR CHEMICALS COULD BE USED. FIREMEN AND SOME NUCLEAR POWER STATION PERSONNEL WERE AMONG THOSE INJURED BY RADIATION. MOST RESIDENTS IN ADJACENT AREAS WERE INDOORS AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT THUS REDUCING THEIR EXPOSURE.

IN THE EARLY MORNING OF THE 26TH OF APRIL MONITORING EQUIPMENT REGISTERED INCREASED RADIOACTIVITY AND REPORTED THIS.

EVACUATION BEGAN ON THE 27TH OF APRIL, STARTING WITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN. UP TO 48,000 PEOPLE WERE EVACUATED FROM CHERNOBYL AND OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN A 30 KILOMETER RADIUS.

AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE POTASSIUM IODINE TABLETS WERE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED INSIDE AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE 30 KM ZONE.

204 PERSONS INCLUDING NUCLEAR POWER STATION PERSONNEL AND FIRE FIGHTERS, WERE AFFECTED BY RADIATION FROM 1ST DEGREE TO 4TH DEGREE, 18 PERSONS BEING IN THE 4TH DEGREE. ALL 204 PERSONS WERE HOSPITALIZED IN MOSCOW AND TREATED MEDICALLY. IN SOME CASES BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS WERE PERFORMED.

THE RADIOACTIVE RELEASES FROM THE DAMAGED UNIT HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED BY SHIELDING AND NEUTRON

ABSORBING MATERIALS - SAND, BORON, CLAY, DOLOMITE AND LEAD - DROPPED FROM HELICOPTERS OVER THE REACTOR RESULTING IN DECREASING RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS IN THE 30 KM ZONE.

NECESSARY SHIFT PERSONNEL WORK ON THE SITE TO KEEP THE UNDAMAGED REACTORS IN SAFE SHUT-DOWN CONDITION. THE THIRD REACTOR ADJACENT TO THE FOURTH, WAS NOT DAMAGED IN THE ACCIDENT, AND ITS SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR COOLING ARE FUNCTIONING.

THE DAMAGED REACTOR SUFFERED SOME FIRE IN PARTS OF THE GRAPHITE. THESE FIRES HAVE BEEN EXTINGUISHED BUT TEMPERATURES REMAIN HIGH. RECRITICALITY IS NOT CONSIDERED A PROBLEM. THE AIM IS TO ENCASE THE WHOLE FOURTH UNIT IN CONCRETE AND WORK HAS BEGUN TO PLACE A CONCRETE FOUNDATION UNDER THE REACTOR.

ALTHOUGH NO SYSTEMATIC DATA ON RADIATION LEVELS WERE MADE AVAILABLE, SOME VALUES WERE GIVEN. MAXIMUM RADIATION LEVEL WITHIN THE 30 KM ZONE HAS BEEN 10-15 MILLIREM/HOUR. BY THE 5TH OF MAY IT HAD DECREASED TO 2-3 MILLIREM/HOUR. ON THE 8TH OF MAY IT HAD DROPPED TO A MAXIMUM OF 0.15 AT THE PERIMETER OF THE ZONE. THE LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVITY IN KIEV'S WATER RESERVOIR WAS WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS AT ALL TIMES. END TEXT.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q. IS THE DECAY HEAT IN THE REACTOR UNDER CONTROL?

A. (ROSEN) THE SOVIETS ARE USING GASEOUS NITROGEN FROM LIQUID NITROGEN TO CREATE AN INNER ATMOSPHERE. THEY

ARE PUMPING IT FROM UNDER UNIT 3 AND THE TEMPERATURE IS GOING DOWN. (BLIX) BUT DECAY HEAT REMAINS A PROBLEM.

Q. DIDN'T THE CORE MELT DOWN?

A. (ROSEN) NO, NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

Q. WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE DAMAGE.
BT



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UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 MISSION VIENNA 06977

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR KENNEDY, S/NP
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/IE PETER BRUSH
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
HAROLD DENTON

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TNUC, MNUC, PARM, IAEA, KNHP
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS

A. (KONSTANTINOV) THERE IS A SPECIAL SPACE FOR WATER UNDER THE REACTOR IN A DESIGN BASIS ACCIDENT. THE GASES AND OTHER EFFLUENTS WOULD BE FUNNELED THERE. NOW THIS POOL IS DRY AND IS BEING FILLED WITH CONCRETE. THIS WILL ENABLE THE REACTOR TO BE ENCAPSULATED IN CONCRETE.

Q. DID YOU TAKE ANY PRECAUTIONS IN FLYING OVER THE REACTOR.

A. (BLIX) WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND THEIR JUDGEMENT THAT WE COULD SAFELY ENTER THE AREA. WE WORE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. (ROSEN) THE CLOSEST WE CAME TO THE REACTOR WAS 800 METERS (WE WERE 400 METERS FROM THE REACTOR AND 400 HUNDRED METERS IN ELEVATION) AT THAT POINT WE WERE AT THE HIGHEST AREA OF RADIOACTIVITY AND OUR MEASUREMENTS DISCLOSED 350 MILLIROENTGENS PER HOUR. WE HAD DOSIMETERS AND AFTER CHECKING THEM WE FOUND THAT WE HAD OBTAINED A MINIMAL DOSE.

Q. WILL IAEA'S MANDATE BE EXTENDED TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES?

A. (BLIX) WE HAVE 70 VOLUMES OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND THESE WILL REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENTS, I DO NOT EXPECT TO EVER BECOME THE MANAGER OF NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES.

Q. DOESN'T YOUR AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS COVER POINT FOUR OF THE TOKYO COMMUNIQUE?

A. (BLIX) I DON'T KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS MAY BE, WHETHER IT WILL BE A CONVENTION OR SOMETHING ELSE. THIS IS UP TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, WHAT THE WORLD WILL NEED IS A PERMANENT

ARRANGEMENT WHERE COUNTRIES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND A FOCAL POINT TO RECEIVE AND DISSEMINATE SUCH INFORMATION. I SEE A ROLE FOR THE AGENCY IN THIS.

Q. WILL THE SOVIETS NOW MAKE THEIR OWN REACTORS SAFER?

A. (BLIX) THE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS WILL BE ANALYZED EVERYWHERE AND WEAKNESSES IN SAFETY WILL BE USED TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND ELSEWHERE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT CONTAINMENT?

A. (BLIX) CONTAINMENT IS OBVIOUSLY ONE IMPORTANT BARRIER TO RADIOLOGICAL RELEASE.

Q. WHAT IS THE RADIATION IN THE CHERNOBYL AREA NOW?

A. (ROSEN) WE HAVE JUST BEEN HANDED A COPY OF THE FIRST REPORT FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES BY TELEX AND THE INITIAL READING FROM THE STATION 68 KMS. FROM CHERNOBYL READS .33 MILLIROENTGENS PER HOUR.

Q. ISN'T THIS MORE THAN THE READING IN YOUR SUMMARY DESCRIPTION - TWICE AS MUCH IN FACT?

A. (ROSEN) THESE FIGURES MUST BE CAREFULLY ANALYZED BECAUSE THE EARLIER FIGURE WAS NOT TAKEN FROM THE SAME PLACE OR UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS. WE CAN'T TELL WHAT THE READING MEANS UNTIL IT IS COMPARED WITH OTHER COMPARABLE FIGURES.

Q. THE SOVIETS HAVE SAID THEY PROVIDED INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ACCIDENT, WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT?

A. (BLIX) I FIRST RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON MONDAY EVENING (NOTE THIS IS APRIL 28).

Q. IS THE USSR IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION NOW?

A. (ROSEN) WELL, THE TEMPERATURE IS DECREASING AND WE
BT

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UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 MISSION VIENNA 06977

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR KENNEDY, S/NP
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/IE PETER BRUSH
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
HAROLD DENTON

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TNUC, MNUC, PARM, IAEA, KNNP
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS

ARE TOLD THAT THERE ARE NO HOT SPOTS IN THE AREA. THE
SITUATION IS STABILIZING. PERHAPS ONE CAN BE
OPTIMISTIC.

Q. ONLY PERHAPS?

A. (ROSEN) PERHAPS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY VIEWS ON THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION?

A. (BLIX) THE SOVIETS HAVE SEVERAL HYPOTHESES ON THE
CAUSE, BUT THEY ARE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT PINPOINTING THE
CAUSE AT THIS STAGE. THEY HAVE DATA FROM THE REACTOR
AND WILL BE REACHING CONCLUSIONS ON THIS, HOPEFULLY IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q. WHY WON'T THE FIGURES YOU ARE RECEIVING FROM THE
SOVIETS BE REALIZED TO THE PUBLIC?

A. (BLIX) WE ARE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND
WILL BE PROVIDING THIS MATERIAL TO AUTHORIZED
RADIOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND MEMBER STATES. YOU
WOULDN'T FIND THESE FIGURES VERY ENTERTAINING.
NOTE: MISSION TRANSCRIPTION OF BLIX INTRODUCTORY
STATEMENTS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE CHERNOBYL
NUCLEAR POWER STATION ACCIDENT ARE ESSENTIALLY
VERBATIM. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE OUR BEST EFFORT TO
SUMMARIZE NOTES TAKEN DURING CROWDED AND NOISY PRESS
CONFERENCE WITHOUT BENEFIT OF RECORDING.

THE IAEA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL BLIX WILL
BRIEF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN THE IAEA BOARD ROOM AT 3:30
P.M. ON MONDAY, MAY 12. MISSION WILL BE PRESENT AND
REPORT ANY RELEVANT RESULTS OF THAT BRIEFING. CHAPMAN
BT



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File Chernobyl

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7868 DTG: 091844Z MAY 86 PSN: 031753
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 07868

DEPT FOR CWG: LGALLINI

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, IAEA, UR
SUBJECT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS CONFERENCE:
- MOSCOW, MAY 9, 1986

REF: GALLINI-BEALL TELCON, 9 MAY 86

1. FOLLOWING IS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CLOSE OF
DG HANS BLIX VISIT TO THE USSR DATED MAY 9, 1986.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

- ON THE INVITATION FOR THE USSR GOVERNMENT THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY (IAEA) H. BLIX VISITED THE SOVIET UNION FROM
5 TO 9 MAY 1986.

- HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-
GENERAL L.V. KONSTANTINOV AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE
NUCLEAR SAFETY DIVISION M. ROSEN.

- BLIX AND THE ACCOMPANYING HIM IAEA SPECIALISTS
WERE RECEIVED BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS B.E. SHERBINA, AT THE
USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AT THE USSR
STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC
ENERGY.

- IN THE COURSE OF THE VISIT H. BLIX AND THE
SPECIALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE PROVIDED INFOR-
MATION PERTAINING TO THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL
NUCLEAR POWER STATION (NPS). WAYS OF FURTHER
ENHANCING NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY BY STRENGTHENED
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INCREASING THE
IAEA ROLE IN THIS AREA WERE DISCUSSED.

- THE SOVIET EXPERTS GAVE THE IAEA REPRESENTATIVES
DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACCIDENT AT THE UNIT 4
OF THE CHERNOBYL NPS AND ABOUT THE MEASURES TAKEN
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT.

- H. BLIX WAS INFORMED THAT NECESSARY OPERATIONAL
PERSONNEL ARE PRESENT AT THE THREE UNDAMAGED CHERNOBYL
NPS UNITS, WHICH ARE SHUT DOWN.

- H. BLIX AND HIS COLLEAGUES ACCEPTED THE
INVITATION TO VISIT THE CHERNOBYL NPS AREA, WHERE
THEY RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS TO ON-SITE
CONDITIONS AND MEASURES BEING TAKEN FOR THE
ELIMINATION OF CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT.

- IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR-
GENERAL OF THE IAEA, THE SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSED ITS
WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE, AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE,
INFORMATION ON THE ACCIDENT TO BE DISCUSSED AT A
MEETING OF NUCLEAR SAFETY EXPERTS IN ORDER TO
ASSIST IAEA MEMBER-STATES TO LEARN FROM THIS
ACCIDENT AND THUS TO FURTHER IMPROVE NUCLEAR
POWER SAFETY.

- THE SOVIET SIDE IS READY TO PROVIDE THE IAEA
WITH INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL OF RADIATION FROM A
STATION LOCATED AT THE DISTANCE OF 60 KM FROM THE
NPS AND FROM SEVERAL OTHER STATIONS LOCATED ALONG
THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE USSR, THE AGENCY WILL
BE DISTRIBUTING THIS INFORMATION TO NATIONAL
RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

- THE SOVIET SIDE STATED THAT THE ACCIDENT WILL
NOT AFFECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NUCLEAR POWER
DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

- WAYS OF FURTHER IMPROVING NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY
WERE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL MEASURES

WHICH MAY BE USEFULLY DEVELOPED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE IAEA IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES
OF NUCLEAR POWER ACCIDENTS. BOTH PARTIES NOTED THAT
SUCH MEASURES MAY INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TIMELY
WARNING MECHANISM ON RADIOACTIVITY RELEASES WHICH COULD
AFFECT AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, PROVISION
OF INFORMATION ON BACKGROUND LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVITY AND
THE INTRODUCTION OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL
MEASURES IN NUCLEAR FACILITIES FOR THE PREVENTION
OF ACCIDENTS AND REDUCING THEIR CONSEQUENCES.
BT

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7868 DTG: 091844Z MAY 86 PSN: 031755
EOB700 AN006819 TOR: 129/1906Z CSN:HCE771

THE ACCIDENT AND ARE BEING STUDIED.

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 MOSCOW 07868

DEPT FOR CWG:LGALLINI

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, IAEA, UR
SUBJECT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS CONFERENCE:

- BOTH PARTIES STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IAEA
ACTIVITIES, THOSE DIRECTED TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AS WELL
AS THOSE DIRECTED TO ENSURE A TOTALLY PEACEFUL
UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR POWER.

END TEXT (COMMUNIQUE).

3. FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS READ BY IAEA OFFICIAL
MORRIS ROSEN AFTER PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE.

4. BEGIN TEXT:

- A FULL AND AUTHORITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE
ACCIDENT, THE REASONS FOR IT AND CONSEQUENCES OF IT
CAN ONLY BE GIVEN BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AFTER
NECESSARY ANALYSIS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, PREPARED THE
FOLLOWING BRIEF DESCRIPTION WHICH IS BASED UPON
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A NUMBER OF TALKS WITH
MINISTERS, OFFICIALS CONCERNED AND EXPERTS AND TO
SOME EXTENT FROM OUR OWN VISUAL OBSERVATIONS DURING
A HELICOPTER FLIGHT AROUND THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT. MANY OF THE FACTS GIVEN HERE HAVE BEEN
MADE PUBLIC EARLIER.

- ON THE 26TH OF APRIL AT 1:23 A.M. EXPLOSIONS
OCCURRED IN THE FOURTH UNIT OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR
POWER STATION. AT THAT TIME THE REACTOR WHICH WAS
UNDERGOING A PLANNED MAINTENANCE SHUT-DOWN WAS AT
7 PERCENT POWER LEVEL. AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION
TWO PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES, ONE FROM HOT STEAM
BURNS, THE OTHER OF INJURIES FROM FALLING OBJECTS.

- SO FAR THERE ARE ONLY HYPOTHESES REGARDING
THE SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE ACCIDENT. RESEARCH
AND DETAILED ANALYSIS ARE UNDER WAY. RECORDS
OF DATA FROM THE CONTROL ROOM WERE RECOVERED AFTER

- THE EXPLOSIONS CAUSED FIRE. THE REACTOR BUILDING,
EQUIPMENT IN IT, THE REACTOR ITSELF AND THE REACTOR
CORE WERE EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED RESULTING IN RADIOACTIVE
RELEASES BEYOND THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AREA.

- THE CHAIN REACTION AUTOMATICALLY STOPPED AT THE
TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THE FACT
THAT MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF PERSONS AFFECTED SHOWED
NO EVIDENCE OF HIGH NEUTRON FLUX EXPOSURE.

- A LARGE PART OF THE RADIOACTIVE RELEASES
CONSISTS OF THE EMISSION OF SHORT-LIVED RADIONUCLIDES.
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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 MOSCOW 07868

DEPT FOR CWG: LGALLINI

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, IAEA, UR

SUBJECT: IAEA DG BLIX PRESS CONFERENCE:

- THE RADIOACTIVE RELEASES FROM THE DAMAGED UNIT HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED BY SHIELDING AND NEUTRON ABSORBING MATERIAL - SAND, BORON, CLAY, DOLOMITE AND LEAD - DROPPED FROM HELICOPTERS OVER THE REACTOR RESULTING IN DECREASING RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS IN THE 30 KM ZONE.

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END TEXT.

5. TASS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING RELEASE MAY 8:

BEGIN TEXT: DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) HANS BLIX, TODAY VISITED THE AREA OF THE CHERNOBYL ATOMIC POWER STATION, CENTRAL TELEVISION OF THE USSR REPORTED.

- WE HAVE SEEN FROM THE AIR THE SITE OF THE CHERNOBYL ATOMIC POWER STATION. THE IAEA DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAID IN AN INTERVIEW TO THE SOVIET TELEVISION. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN THAT VAST WORK IS BEING DONE TO KEEP THE REACTOR UNDER CONTROL. COMPETENT PERSONS HAVE TOLD US ABOUT THE WORK BEING DONE.

- IT IS APPARENT THAT VERY VAST WORK HAS BEEN DONE OVER THE PAST FORTNIGHT AND THAT IT WAS SUCCESSFUL, THE IAEA DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOTED. WE HOPE THAT THE SITUATION WILL BE STABILIZING.
END TEXT.

HARTMAN
BT

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- Prepare Memo For President
- Prepare Memo For Poindexter / Fortier
- Prepare Memo _____ to _____
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Chew
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Elliott

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. _____

- | | | |
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 - Rodman
 - Pearson
 - Lehman
 - Secretariat
 - _____
 - Poindexter (advance)
 - Fortier (advance)

COMMENTS

Return to Secretariat



~~SECRET~~

May 8, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Chernobyl Reactor Update

Status of Reactor Site

Yesterday's concern over a fire in reactor 3 was probably misplaced: smoke was reportedly observed coming from an adjacent building yesterday, but today's imagery does not confirm earlier reading of a fire at or near reactor 3. The Soviets appear to have shut down reactor 3, and cooldown is proceeding.

The situation at unit 4 continues as before. Vapor continues to rise from the reactor, and there is still tremendous heat in the core despite Soviet efforts to choke it with sand. The major Soviet concern now seems to be that heat in the core of unit 4 could melt through its concrete base, possibly leading to a major steam explosion and contamination of ground water, but no major release of radiation into the atmosphere.

Whatever the outcome, the Soviets face an enormous, unprecedented cleanup operation, and are seeking additional ideas from abroad on how to handle the problem.

Soviet Activities

Reports from several Western sources support media claims of many voluntary departures from Kiev: a Canadian diplomat there May 7 reported a sense of "disquiet" in the city; other reports indicate extra trains and planes are being made available for people wishing to leave the city; increased security is reported in Moscow around trains arriving from Kiev to prevent Western news teams filming.

Soviet Academy of Science Vice President Velikhov said that decontamination teams tunneled under the damaged reactor, evidently to lay a base of boron to try to shut down the reaction. He said the incident presented problems unique in the history of the nuclear power industry, and that the Soviets were mounting an offensive to fully neutralize, or deaden, the reactor.

~~SECRET~~

DECL:OADR

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06-114/8#10469

BY HOI NARA DATE 9/30/08

14

~~SECRET~~

Soviet MFA organized press pool to visit Kiev May 8, return to Moscow May 9.

West Germany reported it was lending two special robots to Soviets to help survey damage.

Floyd Culler has confirmed that he will accompany Armand Hammer to Moscow Monday (not for public release). IAEA Director General Blix will brief Culler prior to his departure. We hope Culler will be able to carry on Blix's dialogue with the Soviets.

Hammer's people informed us that Doctor Gale plans to remain in Moscow 30 days. His team has identified 33 patients for bone marrow transplant operations, and anticipates more will be selected later. The team is presently doing two operations per day. The Soviets indicate that they do not need more foreign specialists.

IAEA DG's Trip to Moscow

IAEA Director General Blix flew over Chernobyl today and reported that the damaged reactor is still emitting smoke. His trip to Moscow is scheduled to end Friday. Blix plans press conferences Friday in Moscow and on his return to Vienna. He also has scheduled a debrief on the trip for IAEA mission representatives in Vienna Monday afternoon. A high-ranking IAEA source (U.S. national) confirms that the trip is going well. The media are quoting Soviet sources as saying the USSR agreed "in principle" to placing an IAEA continuous radiological measuring station at Chernobyl.

Health Information

To assure our personnel that their food supplies are safe, FDA will measure radioactivity levels in foodstuffs submitted by Soviet and East European posts.

The World Health Organization says that assuming no further major release, the risk to the public has passed and the public can resume normal activities and diet. WHO believes testing measures adopted by European countries will screen out contaminated food, making precautions unnecessary. Restrictions are justified only for products from the contaminated area near the accident and areas of enhanced contamination from rainfall.

~~SECRET~~

15
~~SECRET~~

American Citizen Welfare

The travel advisory recommending against travel to Kiev and adjacent areas remains in effect. Public inquiries continue at a high level, with most calls concerning the advisability of travel to Europe and suggested public health precautions. We continue to urge travelers to employ the measures suggested by PHS, and to check with our embassies and consulates for local public health recommendations.



Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

TIME STAMP

86 MAY 8 7 A 7: 31

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 3535 add-on

ACTION OFFICER: **FOR RECORD PURPOSES ONLY** DUE: _____

- Prepare Memo For President
- Prepare Memo For Poindexter / Fortier
- Prepare Memo _____ to _____
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Chew
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Elliott

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. _____

- | | | |
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| <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Burghardt <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cannistraro <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Childress <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Covey <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Danzansky <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> deGraffenreid <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Djerejian <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dobriansky <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Donley <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Douglass <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Grimes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hughes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kraemer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Laux <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lenczowski | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Levine <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Linhard <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mahley <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mandel <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matlock <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> May <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Menges <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Miller <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Platt <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pugliaresi <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Reger <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Ringdahl <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sable | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sestanovich <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sigur <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sommer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Soos <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Stark <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Steiner <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Tahir-Kheli <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Teicher <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Tillman <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wigg <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wright <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
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- INFORMATION McDaniel Pearson Secretariat
- Rodman Lehman _____
- Poindexter (advance) Fortier (advance)

COMMENTS

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By: crs NARA, Date: 7/29/02

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 7, 1986

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSESUBJECT: Chernobyl Reactor Update
Status of Chernobyl Reactor Site

The damaged reactor four is still emitting smoke/vapor. Soviet technicians are working at the site. The town of Chernobyl is now evacuated, and no new evacuations have been detected.

Intelligence indicates there is a problem at reactor three: a fire has been detected at or near it. The Soviets appear to be responding to this situation. We have cabled Stockholm and Bonn to ask host governments for information they may have on reactor three's status.

Soviet Activities

Soviets have approached Swedish nuclear scientists with questions which suggest a worsening situation in reactor three that could result in another emission of radiation. The Swedes directed the Soviets to the West German Institute at Karlsruhe which has done research in this area. Soviet press conference statement yesterday, indicating that reactor three requires "careful technical examination", and prior statements alluding to "complicated" situation increase concern over possible reactor three problems. We have instructed Embassy Moscow to ask the Foreign Ministry to provide up to date information on the condition of each reactor, especially reactor three due to its proximity to the damaged reactor.

Armand Hammer, who will travel Moscow Monday for the Soviet opening of his exchange of art exhibitions, has invited respected atomic energy expert and former deputy director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory Floyd Culler to accompany him. Culler's visit, like that of bone marrow specialist Dr. Gale, would be privately arranged between Hammer's organization and Soviet authorities.

USG Teams in Europe

USG teams at our missions in the USSR and Eastern Europe have been instructed to remain in place given the continuing uncertainties regarding the Chernobyl reactor site.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECL: OADR

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06-114/8#10470
BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

18

American Citizen Welfare

The travel advisory for Kiev and surrounding area remains in effect. Public inquiries remain steady, averaging 30-35 calls per hour. U.S. citizens traveling to affected areas continue to be advised of precautionary measures put out by the United States Public Health Service.

Brockmley
for Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

19

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

TIME STAMP

86 MAY 6 11:43

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 3535 ADD-ON

ACTION OFFICER: MATLOCK DUE: MAY 8, 1986

- Prepare Memo For President
- Prepare Memo For Poindexter / Fortier
- Prepare Memo _____ to _____
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Chew
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Elliott

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS* PHONE* to action officer at ext. 5112

- | | | |
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| <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Burghardt <input type="checkbox"/> Cannistraro <input type="checkbox"/> Childress <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb <input type="checkbox"/> Covey <input type="checkbox"/> Danzansky <input type="checkbox"/> deGraffenreid <input type="checkbox"/> Djerejian <input type="checkbox"/> Dobriansky <input type="checkbox"/> Donley <input type="checkbox"/> Douglass <input type="checkbox"/> Grimes <input type="checkbox"/> Hughes <input type="checkbox"/> Kraemer <input type="checkbox"/> Laux <input type="checkbox"/> Lenczowski | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Levine <input type="checkbox"/> Linhard <input type="checkbox"/> Mahley <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Mandel <input type="checkbox"/> Matlock <input type="checkbox"/> May <input type="checkbox"/> Menges <input type="checkbox"/> Miller <input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> Platt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pugliaresi <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond <input type="checkbox"/> Reger <input type="checkbox"/> Ringdahl <input type="checkbox"/> Sable | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sestanovich <input type="checkbox"/> Sigur <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Sommer <input type="checkbox"/> Soos <input type="checkbox"/> Stark <input type="checkbox"/> Steiner <input type="checkbox"/> Tahir-Kheli <input type="checkbox"/> Teicher <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson <input type="checkbox"/> Tillman <input type="checkbox"/> Wigg <input type="checkbox"/> Wright <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
|---|---|---|

- INFORMATION McDaniel Pearson Secretariat
- Rodman Lehman _____
- Poindexter (advance) Fortier (advance)

COMMENTS

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By CWS NARA, Date 7/29/02



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 5, 1986

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Update on Chernobyl Incident

Status of Chernobyl Site

May 5 imagery shows continuing smoke or vapor being emitted from unit 4. These continuing emissions indicate that unit 4 is still hot enough to discharge radioactive materials into the atmosphere, albeit in decreasing amounts. The emissions also indicate that the Soviets have not yet sealed the damaged reactor, despite their claims they have succeeded in doing so.

The cooling water intake pond for units 3 and 4 appears completely dry. Since unit 3 is not yet completely cooled down, it presumably is being cooled by some alternative means, perhaps through a tie-in with the intake pond for units 1 and 2 or a direct feed from the primary pumphouse.

However, we can think of no safety-related reason for emptying the intake ponds, and are concerned that the drying up of the pond could be a sign of a problem with unit 3. Some cooling is, of course, needed to remove residual heat from even a shutdown RBMK reactor's core. If there is a problem with unit 3's core cooling, the Soviets have two to four days to work out solutions.

Approximately 400 of the 500 buses seen yesterday in Chernobyl have left, suggesting that the weekend visit of Politburo members may have spurred additional evacuation activity.

Readings in Japan

Iodine 131 levels in rainwater collected May 4 in Japan are not considered dangerous. Rainwater readings were 1700 picocuries/liter (pcl) in Tokyo and 13,300 pcl at Narita.

Soviet Activity

The site visit by Politburo members Ligachev, Ryzhkov, and Scherbitskiy was clearly designed to illustrate that the situation is under control and to allay fears, but the evacuation of nearby areas appears to have stepped up following their inspection.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECL: OADR

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NLRR F06-114/8 #10466BY NDT NARA DATE 9/30/08

USG Teams in Affected Areas

Further readings in Warsaw, Bucharest, and Moscow confirm our initial assessment that radioactivity levels there present no significant health concerns at this time, but we need more data on radiation exposure levels in Poland before lifting our recommendation against travel by women of child-bearing age and children.

Potential Effects on U.S.

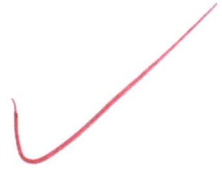
Very low levels of radioactivity were detected at 30,000 feet off the West Coast this morning by the Air Force. Measurements of radioactivity above the Pacific indicate that radioactive debris has entered the jet stream and is traveling toward the U.S. at 120 to 150 miles per hour, at an approximate altitude of 30,000 feet.

EPA predicts that in general radiation levels will be low. Areas of the U.S. experiencing rain from high altitude will begin to show radioactivity levels above background which are expected nevertheless to remain within safe limits.

Pomckmley
for Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT



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- AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE 1361
- AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3512
- AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3715
- UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE
- USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 07859

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 18
- AS OF 0800 GMT, MAY 9

REF: MOSCOW 7850

1. ~~IC~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

SCENE AT KIEVSKIY STATION, MAY 9

2. SCIOFFS AND TWO MILATTS OBSERVED FOUR TRAINS ARRIVING IN MOSCOW FROM KIEV, L'VOV AND BUCHAREST BETWEEN 0900 AND 0945 LOCAL TIME MAY 9. (THE LATTER TWO TRAINS PASSED THROUGH KIEV.) PASSENGERS ON THE TWO KIEV TRAINS WERE AGAIN MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN; EMBOFFS ESTIMATE ABOUT 35 PERCENT OF PASSENGERS WERE SMALL CHILDREN WITH A TOTAL OF ABOUT 70 PERCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN. FEW TEENAGERS OR PRE-TEENS WERE OBSERVED. A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MET THE TRAINS. MANY OF THE WOMEN WERE TRAVELING IN GROUPS. OTHERS WERE BEING MET BY PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, UNCLAS/AUNTS, OR FRIENDS. SEVERAL UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN WERE OBSERVED BEING MET BY GRANDPARENTS/ UNCLAS OR BEING ESCORTED BY TRAIN STEWARDESSES.

SOME SECOND-CLASS SLEEPER CARS APPEARED ALMOST FULL OF YOUNG CHILDREN. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS ONE OF CALM, AND PEOPLE WERE GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS. WHILE PASSENGERS DISEMBARKING FROM THE L'VOV AND BUCHAREST TRAINS APPEARED TO BE A MORE NORMAL MIX, CERTAIN CARS, PROBABLY ADDED ON IN KIEV, WERE AGAIN MOSTLY FILLED WITH WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ELDERLY PEOPLE. A SPECIAL TRAIN ARRIVING FROM KIEV AT 1055, WHICH WAS OBSERVED BY MILATT, CONTAINED 22 CARS -- PASSENGERS WERE ABOUT 45-50 PERCENT CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, AND ABOUT 80 PERCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

COMMENT: IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THESE "CHILDREN TRAINS" OTHER THAN A DE FACTO EVACUATION. WHILE THIS IS A THREE-DAY WEEKEND--AND IN FACT, SOME BE-MEDALLED VETERANS WERE DISEMBARKING FROM THE TRAINS-- LAST WEEKEND WITH A FOUR-DAY BREAK IN HONOR OF MAY FIRST WAS "THE" BIG SOVIET SPRING HOLIDAY. CONSIDERING THE CLEAR ABSENCE OF TEENAGERS AND MALE ADULTS, IT'S NOT AS IF SCHOOL HAD BEEN LET OUT YET IN KIEV AND FAMILIES WERE COMING TO MOSCOW FOR A VACATION. THE KIEVSKIY STATION SCENE TOGETHER WITH CONVERSATIONS EMBOFF OVERHEARD ABOUT OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TRAVELING TO VILLAGES, GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF AN ANXIETY-DRIVEN EXODUS. END COMMENT.

- AUSTRIAN SAMPLES FINALLY ARRIVE FROM ZHLOBIN

3. THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE AUSTRIAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AT ZHLOBIN FINALLY PUT THEIR FEET DOWN AND DECLARED THEY WOULD NOT CONTINUE WORKING UNLESS THEY WERE ALLOWED TO SEND FOOD, WATER AND SOIL SAMPLES BACK TO VIENNA FOR ANALYSIS. THE

SOVIET OFFICIALS ON THE SCENE FINALLY RELENTED, AND A CAR WAS LOADED WITH SAMPLES AND DISPATCHED TO THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. ON THE WAY, THE AUSTRIAN DRIVER SUFFERED RELENTLESS HARASSMENT, INCLUDING NUMEROUS PUNCTURED TIRES AND SEVERAL MILITIA CHECKS, WHICH GAVE THE AUSTRIANS THE IMPRESSION NOT EVERYONE IN THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY AGREED WITH THE DECISION TO LET THE SAMPLES OUT. HOWEVER, THEY FINALLY REACHED MOSCOW AND HAVE BEEN SENT TO VIENNA.
BT

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR Feb-114/8# 10471
BY LOS NARA DATE 9/30/08



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7859 DTG: 091007Z MAY 86 PSN: 030914
EOB883 AN006457 TOR: 129/1037Z CSN: HCE524

TO SAY HIS TROUPE HAD BEEN "RADIATED" WHILE IN
KIEV. HE EVEN CLAIMED HIS HAIR WAS STARTING TO
FALL OUT. COMMENT: BOTH WE AND OUR SOURCE
BELIEVE THIS EXAGGERATED, BUT IT DOES SHOW HOW THE
ACCIDENT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE SPREADING FEAR
THROUGH THE POPULATION. END COMMENT. HARTMAN
BT

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- AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2834
- AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5194
- AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1138
- AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2434
- AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE 2112
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- AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 3513
- AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3716
- UNVIE MISSION VIENNA IMMEDIATE
- USDOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 07859

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 18

- FRG EMBASSY: LEVELS NORMAL

4. THE FRG EMBASSY REPORTS THEIR MAY 8 MEASUREMENT
IN MOSCOW SHOWED "NORMAL" RADIATION LEVELS. THE
GERMANS REPORT NO SUCCESS IN TRACKING DOWN INFORMATION
ON REPORTS CONCERNING PROBLEMS WITH CHERNOBYL'
REACTOR THREE.

- CHERNIGOV CLOSED?

5. AN UNOFFICIAL SOVIET CONTACT WITH RELATIVES
IN THE AREA HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE CITY OF CHERNIGOV
HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN CLOSED TO ALL EXCEPT THOSE WITH
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS. ROADBLOCKS HAVE BEEN SET UP
ON ROADS LEADING TO THE CITY, HE REPORTS, AND TRAIN
TICKETS ARE NOT BEING SOLD. THE SOURCE BELIEVES
AN EVACUATION OF THE CITY MAY BE PLANNED. THE SAME
SOURCE REPORTED, WITHOUT GIVING IT MUCH CREDENCE,
THAT AN ACTOR FRIEND HAD CALLED HIM FRANTICALLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

3535

May 9, 1986

~~Attache~~

SECRETMEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Update on Chernobyl Reactor Accident

Status of Reactor Site

May 9 imagery shows smoke/vapor continuing to emanate from reactor 4, but no evidence of smoke near reactor 3. A Soviet press statement said the roof of the building housing reactor 3 had caught fire earlier, but was extinguished. The latest imagery also shows continued vehicular and earth-moving activity. There are no signs of "tunneling" under unit 4.

Activities in the Soviet Union

IAEA Nuclear Safety Division Director Morris Rosen announced at the conclusion of IAEA Director General Blix's Moscow visit that the fire is out in unit four and that the Soviets are now working to prevent a core melt in that reactor. According to Rosen, the Soviets agreed to provide IAEA with daily readings from radiation monitors at the site and along their western frontier. Rosen also said that due to the blast 204 people suffering from radiation exposure -- 18 of whom suffer from fourth degree (the worst) -- are in hospitals in Moscow.

The NRC has offered the Soviets technical expertise and analytical techniques to aid them in dealing with the potential contamination of ground and surface water should reactor four's core penetrate its concrete base and enter underlying soil.

Effects Outside the Soviet Union

We are no longer recommending that women of child-bearing age and children under sixteen defer travel to Poland. Data, including that collected in the past week by an EPA radiation specialist in Poland, indicate that radiation levels in the air currently pose no hazard. No Embassy dependents accepted our offer of voluntary departure.

Data reported from other countries through our posts or directly to the NRC do not indicate that a health hazard exists. Travelers continue to be advised to exercise food precautions and be mindful of the advice of local authorities.

Nicholas Platt
Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06 714/8 #10467

BY LSJ NARA DATE 9/30/08**SECRET**



Soviet Nuclear Accident

~~MATLOCIC~~
F. Kei
Chernobyl

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

The first results from the U.S. milk monitoring network show no detected radioactivity in any sample. Sample collection dates and locations are as follows: May 7 - Atlanta, Georgia; St. Louis, Missouri; May 6 - Portland, Maine; Concord, New Hampshire; Louisville, Kentucky; Tampa, Florida; Baltimore, Maryland; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Kansas City, Missouri; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Las Vegas, Nevada; Charleston, West Virginia; Laramie, Wyoming; Charleston, South Carolina; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; May 5 - Manchester, New Hampshire; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Hartford, Connecticut; Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Wichita, Kansas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Omaha, Nebraska; Charlotte, North Carolina; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Rapid City, South Dakota; Des Moines, Iowa; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Knoxville, Tennessee; May 4 - Spokane, Washington; May 1 - Iowa City, Iowa; April 30 - Montpelier, Vermont.

Yesterday's Task Force Report identified trace radioactivity in air samples collected May 6 in Denver, Colorado and Cheyenne, Wyoming. Air samples collected in these two cities on May 7 show radiation levels have returned to normal background. All other EPA air particulate samples show no increase above normal background levels. DOE has reported that an air sample from Richland, Washington collected on May 8 showed traces of iodine-131 (0.165 pCi/m^3), tellurium-132 (0.02 pCi/m^3), ruthenium-103 (0.02 pCi/m^3) and cesium-137 (0.028 pCi/m^3).

In addition to the results of rainwater analyses contained in previous Task Force Reports, two additional EPA rainwater samples have been found to contain iodine-131. The sample collected in Portland, Oregon on May 5 contained 460 pCi/l, representing a deposition of 138 pCi/m^2 . The sample collected in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 6 contained 120 pCi/l, representing a deposition of 38.4 pCi/m^2 . These levels are similar to those reported in previous reports and pose no danger to the public. All other EPA rainwater samples analyzed since the last report show no activity detected. DOE has reported that two rainwater samples collected at

(more)

Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 8 showed 113 pCi/l and 620 pCi/l of iodine-131 and 24 pCi/l and 130 pCi/l of molybdenum-99. The State of New York has reported that two rainwater samples collected May 7 contained 36 pCi/l and 90 pCi/l of iodine-131. The Task Force will include in its daily update results reported to it by state agencies. There may be additional results from these agencies that have not yet been reported to the Task Force.

Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng notes that the Commodity Credit Corp. has large inventories of non-fat dry milk which could be made available or donated under certain circumstances to replace milk which is being discarded in countries affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The latest information available on the reactor is that the number four unit may still be smoldering. We have no confirmation of late reports that the smoldering has been extinguished. We also have no reason currently to suspect problems at the number three unit, although we repeat that any time a reactor must be brought to a "cold shutdown" there are inherent risks, and we will continue to monitor the entire facility. We do believe that there is remedial activity taking place under the number four reactor, but the exact scope and nature of that activity remains unclear.

Both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service have routine procedures in place to monitor food from foreign countries. Working with U.S. Customs Bureau officials, the agencies are now giving particular attention, as a result of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl April 25-26, to products originating in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, East Germany, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Poland, the Soviet Union, Sweden and West Germany. Countries may be added to or removed from the list as further data are obtained. FDA has increased monitoring and analysis of these country's fresh dairy products (soft unripened cheese, for example), fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh fish for radioactive contamination. Countries exporting meat and poultry products to the United States are being provided special procedures by the Food Safety and Inspection Service for monitoring before shipment to the United States. If sampling and testing of foods, or other information, present a concern to either agency about a product from a country, all shipments of other products will be automatically detained and analyzed before they are released.

The most recent Canadian rainwater and milk samples show no increase in radiation above normal background levels.

(more)

The Task Force has received a very large number of questions about the precise location of the radioactivity in the air at various altitudes above ground level and the predicted movement of this radioactivity across the United States. By now, the releases from the Chernobyl accident have become so dispersed that exact forecasting is not possible. We will continue to monitor air, water, and milk for increased radiation levels. We expect that any increases will be comparable to the low levels already seen.

Preliminary interpretation of May 8 LANDSAT data indicate that the "hotspot" at the Chernobyl number four reactor is no longer apparent. A full analysis will be available early next week by LANDSAT.

Revised advice on tourist travel to Poland: The State Department is no longer recommending that women of child bearing age and children defer travels to Poland. Data, including that collected in the past week, by an EPA expert in Poland, indicate that radiation levels in the air currently pose no health hazard. However, the U.S. Public Health Service continues to urge certain health precautions for travelers in the countries affected. Information on these precautions is available from U.S. embassies and consulates in the region.

The EPA Press Office will be open for reporters' calls on the Chernobyl nuclear accident from 10:00 a.m. to noon EDT over the weekend of May 10-11. The Press Office also will issue an updated report on the accident on those days.

#

AIR SAMPLING DATA 5/8/86

Sampling Station	Date Started	Date Removed	Gross Beta Act (pci/m**3)		Gamma Emitter (pci/m**3)
			Lab	Field	
ALBANY, NY	4/22/86	4/29/86	0.01	<10	---
NASHVILLE, TN	4/29/86	4/30/86	0.01	<10	---
ASHFORD, AL	4/24/86	5/ 1/86	0.01	NA	---
CHARLESTON, WV	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.00	NA	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.02	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.00	<10	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.02	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.00	<10	---
MIAMI, FL	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.02	<10	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.01	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.00	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 4/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---
MONTPELIER, VT	5/ 4/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---
MONTGOMERY, AL	5/ 2/86	5/ 5/86	0.02	<10	---
GOLDSBORO, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.13	<10	---
BISMARCK, ND	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
JUNEAU, AK	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.01	<10	---
TMI, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.10	<10	---
TOPEKA, KS	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.23	<10	---
ANCHORAGE, AK	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.01	<10	---
PIERRE, SD	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
MONTGOMERY, AL	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.10	<10	---
HARRISBURG, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.09	<10	---
LITTLE ROCK, AR	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.04	<10	---
LANSING, MI	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
SPOKANE, WA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
MONTPELIER, VT	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.06	<10	---
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
SANTA FE, NM	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.06	<10	---
HELENA, MT	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
PITTSBURGH, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.04	<10	---
AUSTIN, TX	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
HARTFORD, CT	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
INDIANAPOLIS, IN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.28	<10	---
LYNCHBURG, VA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.46	<10	---
AUGUSTA, ME	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
SYRACUSE, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.17	<10	---
CHEYENNE, WY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.31	<10	---
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.10	<10	---
LINCOLN, NE	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.25	<10	---
CHICAGO, IL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.37	<10	---

LITTLE ROCK, AR	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.13	<10	---
SALT LAKE CITY, UT	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---
LOS ANGELES, CA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.09	<10	---
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.28	<10	---
TOLEDO, OH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.13	<10	---
KNOXVILLE, TN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.39	<10	---
JACKSONVILLE, FL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---
NEW ORLEANS, LA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	NA	---
HELENA, MT	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.16	<10	---
TOPEKA, KS	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.23	<10	---
MADISON, WI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.29	<10	---
WILMINGTON, NC	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
OLYMPIA, WA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.01	<10	---
FRANKFORT, KY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.34	<10	---
SPOKANE, WA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.21	<10	---
COLUMBUS, OH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.39	<10	---
DENVER, CO	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.32	<10	---
BERKELEY, CA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
JACKSON, MS	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.24	<10	---
PAINESVILLE, OH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	<10	---
GOLDSBORO, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.40	<10	---
CHARLESTON, WV	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.45	<10	---
PHOENIX, AZ	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.10	<10	---
HONOLULU, HI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.06	NA	---
HARRISBURG, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.16	<10	---
COLUMBIA, SC	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.17	<10	---
YAPHANK, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.05	<10	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.23	<10	---
CHARLOTTE, NC	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.29	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
NEW YORK CITY, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.08	<10	---
MIAMI, FL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.01	<10	---
NIAGARA FALLS, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.11	<10	---
NASHVILLE, TN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.31	<10	---
WILMINGTON, DE	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.16	<10	---
TMI, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.30	<10	---

ND = Not Detected
 NA = Not Available

MILK DATA
5/7/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity pCi/l
Manchester, NH	5/5	ND
Portland, OR	5/5	ND
Salt Lake City, UT	5/5	ND
Grand Rapids, MI	5/5	ND
Hartford, CT	5/5	ND
Cincinnati, OH	5/5	ND
Portland, ME	5/6	ND
Chicago, IL	5/5	ND
Montgomery, AL	5/6	ND
Wichita, KS	5/5	ND
Spokane, WA	5/4	ND
Indianapolis, IN	5/5	ND
Montpelier, VT	4/30	ND
Concord, NH	5/6	ND
Iowa City, IA	5/1	ND

ND = Not Detected

MILK DATA
5/8/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity pCi/l
Louisville, KY	5/6	ND
Tampa, FL	5/6	ND
Oklahoma City, OK	5/5	ND
Omaha, NE	5/5	ND
Charlotte, NC	5/5	ND
Baltimore, MD	5/6	ND
San Francisco, CA	5/6	ND
Seattle, WA	5/6	ND
Milwaukie, WI	5/6	ND
Kansas City, MO	5/6	ND
Minneapolis, MN	5/5	ND
Minneapolis, MN	5/6	ND
Chattanooga, TN	5/5	ND
Las Vegas, NV	5/6	ND
St. Louis, MO	5/7	ND
Rapid City, SD	5/5	ND
Des Moines, IA	5/5	ND
Atlanta, GA	5/7	ND
Charleston, WV	5/6	ND
Philadelphia, PA	5/5	ND
Laramie, WY	5/6	ND
Charleston, SC	5/6	ND
Knoxville, TN	5/5	ND
Albuquerque, NM	5/6	ND
Harrisburg, PA	5/6	ND
Pittsburg, PA	5/6	ND

ND = Not Detected

PRECIPITATION DATA 5/8/86

Station	Date Collected	pCi/l	Activity	pCi/m**2
Concord, NH	5/2	ND		ND
Berkeley, CA	5/4	ND		ND
Topeka, KS	5/6	ND		ND
Little Rock, AR	5/7	ND		ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/5	ND		ND
New York City, NY	5/4	ND		ND
Montpelier, VT	5/6	ND		ND
Portland, OR	5/5	460 +/- 67%		138 (I-131)
Concord, NH	5/6	ND		ND
Topeka, KS	5/7	ND		ND
Salt Lake City, UT	5/7	ND		ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/6	120 +/- 91%		38.4 (I-131)
Berkeley, CA	5/7	ND		ND
Columbus, OH	5/7	ND		ND
Harrisburg, PA	5/6	ND		ND
Indianapolis, IN	5/7	ND		ND
Montpelier, VT	5/7	ND		ND
Augusta, ME	5/7	ND		ND

ND = Not Detected

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 7879
SIT423

DTG: 101302Z MAY 86 PSN: 033233
TOR: 130/1308Z

DISTRIBUTION: SIT /002 MCD MATL PEAR

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4604

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ MOSCOW 07879

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: TRGY, SW, UR

SUBJECT: OFFER OF AID FROM THE U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMARRLEN (NRC)

REF: STATE 148483

1. ~~(C)~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. POLCOUNS AND SCICOUNS MADE DEMARCHE PER REFTEL
HANDING OVER NON-PAPER WITH TEXT OF DETAILS,
IN MAY 10 MEETING WITH MFA USA BILATERAL SECTION
CHIEF SREDIN.

3. SREDIN THANKED US SIDE FOR CONCERN AND FOR
INFORMATION IN NON-PAPER WHICH WOULD IMMEDIATELY
BE TRANSMITTED TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HE

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06-114/8# 10472

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 7879

DTG: 101302Z MAY 86 PSN: 033233

THOUGHT MANY PRIOR US QUESTIONS HAD BEEN ANSWERED
IN THE MAY 9 PRESS CONFERENCE BY IAEA OFFICIALS.
POLCOUNS REPLIED THAT US QUESTIONS REMAINED IN FORCE
AND SREDIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS.

COMBS

BT

~~SECRET~~

TIME STAMP

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

35

86 MAY 12 A 7: 23

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 3535 add-on

Chernomyr

ACTION OFFICER: **FOR RECORD PURPOSES ONLY** DUE: _____

- Prepare Memo For President
- Prepare Memo For Poindexter / Fortier
- Prepare Memo _____ to _____
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Chew
- Prepare Memo McDaniel to Elliott

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. _____

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Burghardt <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cannistraro <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Childress <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Covey <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Danzansky <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> deGraffenreid <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Djerejian <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dobriansky <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Donley <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Douglass <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Grimes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hughes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kraemer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Laux <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lenczowski | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Levine <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Linhard <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mahley <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mandel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matlock <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> May <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Menges <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Miller <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Platt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pugliaresi <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Reger <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Ringdahl <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sable | <p>FYI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sestanovich <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sigur <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sommer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Soos <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Stark <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Steiner <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Tahir-Kheli <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Teicher <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Tillman <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wigg <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wright <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
|---|--|--|

- INFORMATION
- McDaniel
 - Rodman
 - Pearson
 - Lehman
 - Secretariat
 - _____
 - Poindexter (advance)
 - Fortier (advance)

COMMENTS

DECLASSIFIED
 White House Guidelines, August 20, 1997
 By C/S NARA, Date 7/29/02

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 10, 1986

**SECRET**MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Chernobyl Reactor Update

Status of Reactor Site

Clouds and haze over the site on May 10 preclude any determination through imagery of smoke/vapor emission status. Approximately 100 vehicles are now near the reactor administration building, including 20 decontamination trucks. Major earthmoving projects continue, including at least one causeway/dam across one of the Pripyat River estuaries, probably in an attempt to prevent rainwater runoff from entering the river.

Soviet-related Activities

Prior to leaving Moscow, IAEA DG Hans Blix and Morris Rosen provided personal comments on Soviet handling of the incident in a private conversation with a Swedish diplomat. They indicated that their major problem was leading the Soviets out of their "blind alley" on the question of making meaningful data available to the international community. Rosen felt that the psychological unwillingness of local authorities to accept the gravity of the accident contributed to Soviet difficulties in handling the incident in its early stages. Rosen said trans-boundary radiation should not be a further problem, and that effects on the food cycle would be clearer in several months, after the first post-disaster harvest.

Effects Outside the Soviet Union

A EUCOM radiation monitoring expert is being sent to Helsinki Monday after our Embassy there expressed concern over early radiation readings reported in intelligence sources. We believe the early readings are erroneous in either measurement or interpretation, but prefer to send the expert to be certain.

We have indications that radiation levels are dropping in most places in Europe. Many European governments have shifted their focus to longer term health effects and assessments of the implications of the accident for nuclear energy in general.

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NLRR F06-114/8# 10473
BY HOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

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~~SECRET~~

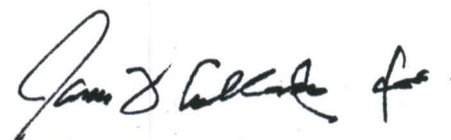
- 2 -

An OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency meeting held Friday in Paris concluded that no immediate action is required on nuclear power plant safety in OECD countries; that worldwide cooperation in nuclear safety, such as that called for in the Tokyo Summit statement, is needed; and that at this stage the accident has caused no significant risk to public health in OECD countries.

Possible Early IAEA Board of Governors Meeting

IAEA DG Blix has received a telegram from FRG S&T Minister Riesenhuber requesting an "extraordinary meeting" of the IAEA Board of Governors next week to "deal with Chernobyl." DG Blix will consult with the Resident Representatives in his briefing to them on Monday afternoon. If an early Board meeting is called, Ambassador Kennedy is prepared to attend and would include on the U.S. delegation representatives from DOE and NRC.

We are drafting U.S. positions on such questions as an expanded safety mandate for the IAEA, the possibility of additional U.S. funding for IAEA safety activities, the issue of indemnification by the Soviet Union for damages caused outside its borders, and negotiating an international convention calling for mandatory reporting on radiation releases.



Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

86 MAY 12 P7:50

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

B

S/S #

86 MAY 12 P7:50

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM
No. Pages

MESSAGE NO. 10777-9 CLASSIFICATION _____

FROM: Director (Officer name) CWG (Office symbol) 647-1512 (Extension) 7516 (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Unbanding Chernobyl Working
Group

TO: (Agency)	DELIVER TO:	Extension	Room No.
H - CIA, FBIS		16	
C - WHSE MATLOCK		(M) Emergency	
(D) SECDEF, JCS, NMCC			
F - NSA, NSOC			
G - NMIC			
K-1 - Recovery			

FOR: CLEARANCE INFORMATION PER REQUEST COMMENT

REMARKS: _____

S/S Officer: J. Quares



Washington, D.C. 20520

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May 12, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN D. NEGROPONTE

SUBJECT: Disbanding Chernobyl Working Group

The Secretary has instructed that the operations of the Chernobyl Working Group under your direction be suspended effective May 12, 1986 at 1100 hours EDT

Your Working Group Director should prepare a final Working Group report which should be hand delivered as an Information Memorandum to the Executive Secretary and S/S-I Director, Room 7516. A copy should also be sent to S/S-O (SOTFO). This report should include a copy of the Working Group log, copies of the Working Group Sitreps and copies of all other pertinent Working Group documents.

Nicholas Platt
Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

- DIST.
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- PA
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- OES (5)
- S/S-O (2)
- S/S-S
- S/S (3)
- S/S-I
- SOTFO
- MILREP
- EDITOR
- L
- OC
- CA
- EB
- IO
- PM
- UNA
- CA/OCS
- UNA
- M/MO
- SP
- PA/HO
- NSA (LDX)
- TREAS (LDX)
- SECDEF (LDX)
- JCS (LDX)
- CIA (LDX)
- WHSR (LDX)
- NSOC (LDX)
- NMCC (LDX)
- MNIC (LDX)
- ENERGY (LDX)
- FBIS (LDX)
- EPA (Courier)
- NOAA (Courier)
- NRC (Courier)



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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01 AMCONSUL Leningrad 1070 DTG: 121310Z MAY 86 PSN: 035543
EOB690 AN007231 TOR: 132/13292 CSN: HCE390

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

ON SALE IN THE LENINGRAD AREA WHICH ORIGINATE IN THE UKRAINE. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE, HOWEVER, CHECKED ESPECIALLY CLOSELY SOME VEGETABLE VENDORS FROM MOLDAVIA. THEIR PRODUCTS WERE FOUND TO HAVE NORMAL LEVELS OF RADIATION.

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT:
EOB:

5. THE DUTY OFFICER AT THE LENINGRAD NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT SOSNOVIY BOR REPORTS THAT ALL REACTORS "CONTINUE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY." MAGEE
BT

OP IMMED
STU7229
DE RUFMLG #1070 1321310
O 121310Z MAY 86
FM AMCONSUL Leningrad

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4698
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 5954

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ Leningrad 01070

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: TRGY, KSCA, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: SPECIAL MEASURES AT LENINGRAD

REF: MOSCOW 7859

- ENTIRE TEXT.
- IN THE WAKE OF THE CHERNOBYL' DISASTER, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE SET UP RADIATION MONITORING STATIONS AT PULKOVO AIRPORT. ONE STATION IS IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, AND IS USED TO TEST FOREIGN TOURISTS WHO HAVE BEEN IN KIEV DURING THEIR STAY AND ARE LEAVING THE SOVIET UNION FROM LENINGRAD. THE OTHER IS IN THE DOMESTIC AIRPORT.
- ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, SOVIET INSISTENCE ON RADIATION CHECKS HAS CAUSED OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS. ON MAY 4, A LARGE GREEK TOUR GROUP WAS BOARDING A FLIGHT TO EASTERN EUROPE WHEN INTOURIST SUDDENLY REALIZED THE GROUP HAD BEEN IN KIEV MAY 1-3 AND HADN'T BEEN CHECKED YET. THE GREEKS WERE SHUFFLED THROUGH THE RADIATION ROOM, AND NEARLY ALL OF THEM SHOWED HIGHER THAN NORMAL RADIATION IN THEIR CLOTHING--UP TO TEN TIMES THE NORMAL LEVEL. SOVIET OFFICIALS AT FIRST REFUSED TO LET THE GREEKS LEAVE. THE CLOTHES, THEY SAID, WOULD HAVE TO BE DECONTAMINATED. THE IRATE GREEKS PROTESTED, HOWEVER, AND AT THE LAST MINUTE THE SOVIETS RELENATED, ALLOWING THEM TO BOARD THEIR PLANE.
- POST HAS NOTED NO SPECIAL MEASURES TAKEN THUS FAR AT TRAIN STATIONS, AND NO INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAINS FROM KIEV. PASSENGERS ON WEEKEND TRAINS, HOWEVER, WERE PREDOMINANTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
- THE LENGORISPOLKOM MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR HEALTH HAS INFORMED THE CONSULAR CORPS THAT ALL FOOD PRODUCTS PUT ON SALE AT STATE STORES AND COLLECTIVE FARM MARKETS ARE BEING CHECKED FOR RADIATION BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO BE PUT ON SALE. ACCORDING TO THE WEST GERMAN DPO, THERE ARE NO DAIRY, VEGETABLE OR MEAT ITEMS CURRENTLY

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06-114/8#10474
BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT



PAGE 01 MOSCOW 7929 DTG: 121255Z MAY 86 PSN: 035526
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ MOSCOW 07929

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, ENRG, SENV, CASC, AMED, UR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED DEPARTURE OF RADIATION MONITORING TEAM

1. ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. VISAS FOR THE MILITARY RADIATION MONITORING TEAM TO REMAIN IN THE USSR EXPIRE WEDNESDAY, MAY 14. THE TEAM BELIEVES, AND EMBASSY CONCURS, THAT IT HAS FINISHED ITS TASK HERE IN MOSCOW AND SHOULD RETURN TO GERMANY. CONTINUED MONITORING OF RADIATION LEVELS WOULD BE PERFORMED BY EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER TRAINED BY THE TEAM TO USE THE EPA-PROVIDED EQUIPMENT.
3. EMBASSY THEREFORE PLANS TO SEND TEAM BACK TO GERMANY ON EVENING OF MAY 13, AND SEEKS DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE IN THIS COURSE OF ACTION. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON WHETHER RADIATION FIGURES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SUPPLIED ON A DAILY BASIS UPON TEAM'S DEPARTURE. GIVEN SHORT TIME REMAINING TO ARRANGE TEAM'S DEPARTURE, OR ALTERNATIVELY, VISA EXTENSION, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S REPLY ASAP.
COMBS
BT

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 MOSCOW 08045

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

PASS USDA FOR STOLFA/FSIS, FAS, ERS, OICD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 20
AS OF 1500 GMT, MAY 13

REF: MOSCOW 7980

SHCHERBINA BRIEFING

2. ON MAY 13, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BORIS SHCHERBINA, TOGETHER WITH A. M. PETROSYANTS (CHAIRMAN, STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY), URYI S. SEDUNOV (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, GOSKONGIDROMET), YEVGENIY I. VOROB'YEV (DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF HEALTH) AND AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR PETROVSKIY (MFA) HELD A BRIEFING FOR INVITED CHIEFS OF MISSION (PRIMARILY EC COUNTRIES PLUS CANADA AND THE U.S.) TO DISCUSS THE CHERNOBYL' ACCIDENT. FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS:

-- AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT 1:23 A.M. ON APRIL 26 CAUSED BY "A REACTION BETWEEN ZIRCONIUM AND WATER" (PRESUMABLY PRODUCING HYDROGEN).

-- MILK PRODUCED "IN THE REGION OF THE ACCIDENT" IS CURRENTLY BEING "RE-PROCESSED AND WILL BE SOLD AS CHEESE AND BUTTER NOT EARLIER THAN THREE MONTHS FROM NOW SO THAT THE LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVE IODINE WILL BE NEGLIGIBLE."

-- A THIRTY-TWO METER HIGH/DEEP CONCRETE WALL IS BEING BUILT AROUND THE COMPLEX SO THAT RAINWATER RUNOFF AND THE POLLUTED, SANDY SOIL CANNOT FLOW INTO THE PRIPYAT RIVER. WORK ON A NEW CONCRETE FOUNDATION CONTINUES. PLANS ARE TO ENTOMB REACTOR NO. 4 IN CONCRETE.

-- POLYMERS (PURCHASED FROM THE FRENCH) ARE BEING SPRAYED ON CONTAMINATED SOIL AND THEN REMOVED, BRINGING THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WITH IT. REPORTEDLY, 1 MILLION SQUARE METERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SO TREATED.

-- WHILE REACTORS NO. 1 AND 2 ARE READY TO BE REACTIVATED, NO. 3 IS STILL UNDERGOING DECONTAMINATION AND WILL NOT/NOT BE PUT BACK INTO OPERATION.

-- OF THE SIX STATIONS ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR RADIATION LEVELS TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION TO THE IAEA, ONLY TWO--ONE IN KISHINEV AND ONE IN RAKHOV-- SHOW READINGS ABOVE BACKGROUND. ON THE MORNING OF THE BRIEFING, THE KISHINEV STATION RECORDED 0.03 MILLIROENTGEN/HR.

-- RE ZHLOBIN, HIGHEST READING WAS RECORDED ON MAY 1 AT 0.5 MILLIROENTGEN/HR; CURRENTLY IT IS 0.2 MILLIROENTGEN/HR. THIS MORNING KIEV REGISTERED 0.22 MILLIROENTGEN/HR.

-- IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM SEVERAL AMBASSADORS, SHCHERBINA STATED THAT ANSWERS TO THE LIST OF QUESTIONS THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD DELIVERED TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES ABOUT CHERNOBYL' WOULD BE FOUND IN THE FINAL REPORT ISSUED BY HIS COMMISSION, PROBABLE IN JULY. WHEN SOME AMBASSADORS ASKED ABOUT RECEIVING SOVIET RADIATION READINGS AND OTHER INFORMATION USEFUL TO CURRENT DOMESTIC DEBATES IN WESTERN EUROPE OVER A BOYCOTT BT

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 8845 DTG: 131459Z MAY 86 PSN: 037642
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THE EC AMBASSADORS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE BRIEFING HELPED. END COMMENT.

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DEBRIEF OF REUTERS' CORRESPONDENT VISIT TO KIEV

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4. AS WE REPORTED EARLIER, REUTERS' BUREAU CHIEF CHARLES BREMNER WAS A MEMBER OF THE PRESS POOL THAT VISITED KIEV MAY 8 AND 9. BREMNER TOLD US THAT THE POOL WAS TAKEN TO KIEV AND TO AN AGRICULTURAL AREA 50 KM WEST OF THE CITY. HE SAID LIFE "APPEARED" NORMAL IN THE CITY, PEOPLE WERE WALKING ON THE STREETS, AND CHILDREN WERE PLAYING IN PLAYGROUNDS. PEOPLE WERE OBSERVED SWIMMING AND FISHING IN THE DNIER RIVER. NEVERTHELESS, SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-7) ARE BEING CLOSED EARLY MAY 15. THE MEDIA ARE ADVISING PEOPLE TO KEEP CHILDREN INDOORS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND TO SEND THEM TO SUMMER CAMP EARLY, PREFERABLY IN THE SOUTH. PEOPLE ARE ALSO BEING ADVISED THAT DUST IS A MAJOR ENEMY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CONTAMINATION, AND TOLD NOT TO LET CHILDREN CREATE DUST BY PLAYING WITH BALLS, FOR EXAMPLE. THEY ARE ALSO BEING ADVISED TO KEEP WINDOWS CLOSED AND TO WASH THEIR HAIR DAILY. THE AUTHORITIES ARE WASHING THE STREETS FREQUENTLY AND CLAIM TO BE MONITORING MILK AND WATER SUPPLIES.

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5. BREMNER CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE LARGE CROWDS OF PEOPLE AT THE KIEV AIRPORT AND TRAIN STATIONS. MOST PEOPLE INTERVIEWED SAID THEY WERE LEAVING TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT. ON THE CORRESPONDENTS' PLANE BACK TO MOSCOW, BREMNER SAID, BESIDES THE CORRESPONDENTS

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2839
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 5203
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1150
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 2440
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE 2118
AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE 1368
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THERE WERE 5 MEN AND 60 WOMEN AND CHILDREN. WHILE THERE IS NO PANIC IN KIEV, HE REPORTED, THERE IS "GREAT UNDERLYING CONCERN."

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 MOSCOW 08845

6. THE REUTERS CHIEF SAID HE HAD INTERVIEWED EVACUEES FROM AN AREA 28 KM AWAY FROM THE REACTOR SITE. AN ARMY UNIT WAS CHECKING THE PEOPLE WITH GEIGER COUNTERS, AND PERSONS WITH "HIGH LEVELS" WERE BEING GIVEN BLOOD TESTS. BREMNER WAS TOLD THREE OUT OF 1,000 PERSONS CHECKED HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED WITH "HIGH" LEVELS OF RADIATION. THE SOVIETS SAID THE RADIATION LEVEL IN KIEV
BT

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

PASS USDA FOR STOLFA/FSIS, FAS, ERS, OICD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 20

OF SOVIET FOOD PRODUCTS, PETROSYANTS NOTED THAT THE USSR WOULD INFORM THE IAEA OF RADIATION LEVELS THROUGH THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED MONITORING STATIONS AND THAT THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS COULD OBTAIN THE DATA THROUGH THE IAEA. ADDED SHCHERBINA: "THIS IS SUFFICIENT."

-- SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE MONITORING RADIATION LEVELS OF FOOD PRODUCTS SOLD AT LOCAL MOSCOW MARKETS "AS PER STANDARD PRACTICE."

-- TEMPERATURE IN REACTOR NO. 4 IS 300-400 DEGREES CELSIUS AND ALMOST ALL EMISSIONS HAVE BEEN STOPPED.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING BY THE COMPOSITION OF THE INVITEES, THE BRIEFING WAS INTENDED TO SOFTEN EC CALLS FOR AN EXPANDED BAN ON SOVIET FOODSTUFFS. CONSIDERING THE CLEARLY UNSATISFYING ANSWERS GIVEN TO OCCASIONALLY BLUNT QUESTIONS BY

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1151
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 MOSCOW 00045

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

PASS USDA FOR STOLFA/FSIS, FAS, ERS, OICD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 20

ON MAY 9 WAS 0.2 MILLI-ROENTGENS/HOUR, WHILE
THE SURROUNDING AGRICULTURAL AREA MEASURED
0.16 MILLI-ROENTGENS/HOUR.

OFFICIAL NUMBER OF EVACUEES RISES

7. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), THE SOVIET ARMY
NEWSPAPER, REPORTED MAY 13 THAT SOME 92,000
PEOPLE HAD BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE AREA AROUND
THE DISASTER. THIS IS AN INCREASE OVER UKRAINIAN
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PRESIDUM CHAIRMAN LYASHKO'S
EARLIER ESTIMATE OF 84,000.

RUMORS OF EXECUTIONS

8. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASINGLY TAKEN
THE LINE THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS DID NOT ADEQUATELY
ASSESS THE PROBLEM IN CHERNOBYL' AND FAILED TO
ALERT CENTRAL AUTHORITIES IN MOSCOW. THIS MAY HAVE
GIVEN RISE TO THE RUMOR ONE EMBOFF HAS PICKED UP

FROM SEVERAL SOVIET CONTACTS THAT A FEW OFFICIALS
IN CHERNOBYL' HAVE BEEN EXECUTED FOR NOT REPORTING
THE ACCIDENT TO MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY AND FOR FAILING
TO EVACUATE FOR 36 HOURS. (COMMENT: THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS STORY, BUT IT
SHOWS THE LINE THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE TO BLAME
IS TAKING HOLD. END COMMENT.)

FROM REFUSENIK AND DISSIDENT SOURCES

9. CONVERSATIONS WITH DISSIDENTS AND REFUSENIK
IN THE PAST TWO DAYS HAVE INCLUDED THESE
ASSERTIONS:

-- THE FIRST ONES SENT TO DEAL WITH THE EMERGENCY
WERE FIREMEN WEARING THEIR ORDINARY FIRE-FIGHTING
GEAR, WITH NO PROTECTION AGAINST RADIATION. (THIS
IS FROM SOMEONE WHOSE FRIEND RECENTLY RETURNED
FROM WORKING ON THE CATASTROPHE.)

-- PEOPLE EVACUATED FROM THE AREA HAVE FILLED
UP SANATORIA AND PIONEER CAMPS NORMALLY OCCUPIED
BY VACATIONERS FROM OTHER REGIONS, THUS DISRUPTING
VACATION PLANS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. ASIDE FROM
THIS PROBLEM, MANY ARE RELUCTANT TO VACATION ON
THE BALTIC OR ON THE UKRAINIAN BLACK SEA COAST.

-- THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA ABOUT THE CATASTROPHE
IS CLEARLY CYNICAL, REFERRING TO THE WHOLE THING
AS AN "ACCIDENT" AND CONSTANTLY ASSERTING THAT
THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL. THE OFFICIAL
REACTION IS SEEN AS A COMBINATION OF DEVIOUSNESS
AND INCOMPETENCE.

-- AMONG THE PROPAGANDA THEMES IS BLAME FOR
THE U.S. AND ITS ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO USE THE
"ACCIDENT" TO DISCREDIT THE USSR AND UNDERMINE
ARMS CONTROL TALKS. AMONG AVERAGE WORKERS,
THOSE WHO EVEN THINK ABOUT THE CHERNOBYL' DISASTER
READ SUCH PROPAGANDA AND (ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET
PRESS DOES NOT EXPLICITLY SAY SO) CONCLUDE
THAT THE U.S. IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT "ZIONISTS" (CODE WORD
FOR JEWS) ARE RESPONSIBLE, PERHAPS IN PART BECAUSE
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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE 2120
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 MOSCOW 08045

FOR S/NP: AMBASSADOR KENNEDY

PASS USDA FOR STOLFA/FSIS, FAS, ERS, OICD

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, SENV, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT: REPORT NO. 20

OF THE COMMON BELIEF THAT MOST SCIENTISTS ARE
JEWS.
COMBS
BT

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MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Proposed Q's and A's on Gorbachev's Chernobyl Speech

Proposed Questions and Answers on Gorbachev's speech on the Chernobyl nuclear accident are attached for use by the White House Press Office.

Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

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DECL:OADR

DECLASSIFIED
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By CW NARA, Date 7/29/02

Drafted: EUR/SOV - MNRobinson / JBean
647-3456
Doc. 1660B
5/14/86

Cleared: EUR/SOV - MRParris
EUR - MPalmer
OES - JDevine
S/NP - RKennedy
IO - LGallini
L - RBettaur
EUR/RPM -

Q: What is the President's response to Gorbachev's offer to meet him in Europe or Hiroshima to discuss a moratorium on testing?

A: -- THE PRESIDENT HAS INVITED GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV TO MEET IN THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR TO DISCUSS THE FULL RANGE OF US - SOVIET ISSUES, INCLUDING ARMS CONTROL. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR HIS RESPONSE TO OUR INVITATION. OUR VIEWS ON THE SOVIET PROPOSAL NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM ARE WELL KNOWN. WE HAVE MAKE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS WHICH COULD LEAD TO PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF NUCLEAR TESTING AND THESE STAND.

Q: Do you have any comment on Gorbachev singling out NATO countries and West Germany in particular for criticism on their responses to Chernobyl?

A: -- WE REGRET THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS RESPONDING TO CRITICISM OF ITS HANDLING OF THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT BY ATTACKING THOSE WHO URGED THEM TO PROVIDE TIMELY INFORMATION.

-- HAD THE SOVIETS INFORMED THE WORLD OF THE ACCIDENT AND PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER THE DETAILED INFORMATION GOVERNMENTS REQUESTED, OTHERS WOULD NOT BE LEFT TO DRAW THEIR OWN BEST CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THE INCOMPLETE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM.

Q: Do you support Gorbachev's call for increased funding for IAEA?

A: -- THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED IAEA AND
ADVOCATED STRENGTHENING ITS ROLE.

-- YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT
THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING IN GENEVA LAST YEAR
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY
SPECIFICALLY ADVOCATED THE STRENGTHENING OF IAEA'S
ROLE IN PROMOTING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

Q: What is your response to Gorbachev's IAEA proposals?

A: -- WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE PROPOSALS BY GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN DEALING WITH SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

-- HIS PROPOSALS -- ESPECIALLY THOSE CALLING FOR QUICK REPORTING OF NUCLEAR INCIDENTS AND PROVISION OF MUTUAL AID IN NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS -- APPEAR TO RESEMBLE CLOSELY PROPOSALS MADE AT THE TOKYO SUMMIT EARLIER THIS MONTH.

-- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL STUDY THESE PROPOSALS WITH CARE AND IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT.

Q: Do you support Gorbachev's call for cooperation among specialized agencies like WHO in future incidents?

A: -- THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT AT CHERNOBYL HAS GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED THE SHORT AND LONG TERM INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

-- THE TRANSBOUNDARY SPREAD OF RADIATION AND CONCERN FOR ITS EFFECT ON INDIVIDUALS' HEALTH AND FOOD SUPPLIES UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

Q: Do you believe Soviet statements that 2 died in the initial explosion and that 7 of 299 hospitalized have also died?

A: -- WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFIC NUMBER OF CASUALTIES OTHER THAN THAT PROVIDED BY THE SOVIETS.

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Q: Do you accept the Soviet version of what happened at the plant?

A: -- THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESCRIPTION OF WHAT OCCURRED APPEARS TO BE ROUGHLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ACCIDENT. WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF THE DETAILS OF WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED AT THE PLANT UNTIL THE SOVIETS PROVIDE A FINAL ACCOUNT.

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Q: Do you concur with Mr. Gorbachev's assertion that Soviet handling of the incident minimized its consequences?

A: -- WE ARE HAMPERED IN DRAWING CONCLUSIONS BY OUR STILL INCOMPLETE ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT.

-- THE SOVIETS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEIR HIGHER AUTHORITIES WERE NOT FULLY APPRISED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ACCIDENT UNTIL TWO DAYS AFTER IT OCCURRED. ALSO, BY THEIR OWN ACCOUNT, EVACUATIONS DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 36 HOURS AFTER THE BLAST, AND THE TOWN OF CHERNOBYL WAS NOT EVACUATED UNTIL 10 OR 11 DAYS LATER.

-- IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THEY DID NOT INFORM THEIR NEIGHBORS OF THE ACCIDENT UNTIL SWEDEN AND FINLAND RECORDED UNUSUALLY HIGH RADIATION READINGS.

Q: Do you agree with Mr. Gorbachev's claim that the worst is behind us?

A: -- THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT EMISSIONS OF RADIATION FROM THE DAMAGED REACTOR HAVE DIMINISHED SINCE THE EXPLOSION.

-- HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF THE RADIATION RELEASED ON PEOPLE, AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, AND THE SOIL ITSELF.

Q: What are the long-term economic implications of the accident for the Soviet Union?

A: -- AS MR. GORBACHEV SAID, HANDLING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT WILL REQUIRE THE COMMITMENT OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF RESOURCES AND TIME. ALMOST CERTAINLY MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE MUST BE DIVERTED FROM OTHER USES.

Q: What is your reaction to Mr. Gorbachev's charge that Western governments and media, especially in the United States, is seeking to take advantage of the incident to instigate an anti-Soviet campaign?

A: -- WE ARE NOT SURPRISED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS RESPONDING TO CRITICISM OF ITS HANDLING OF THE ACCIDENT BY ATTACKING ITS CRITICS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH BEHAVIOR THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXHIBITED WHEN CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH COMMONLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF HUMAN DECENCY AND INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

-- ON LEARNING OF THE ACCIDENT, THE FIRST RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO EXPRESS SINCERE REGRET AND TO OFFER ALL AVAILABLE HUMANITARIAN AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE -- AN OFFER WE HAVE REPEATED MANY TIMES SINCE.

-- HAD THE SOVIETS INFORMED THE WORLD OF THE ACCIDENT AND PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER THE DETAILED INFORMATION OTHER GOVERNMENTS REQUESTED, OTHERS WOULD NOT BE LEFT TO DRAW THEIR OWN BEST CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THE INCOMPLETE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM.

-- ~~IN THE ABSENCE OF FACTS, COUNTRIES ARE JUSTIFIED IN ASSUMING THE WORST POSSIBLE SCENARIO IN ORDER TO CONSIDER FULLY AN INCIDENT'S IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE.~~

*Jim Beane
called &
asked to
delete 5/4
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Q: How do you respond to Mr. Gorbachev's charge that the United States was slow to reveal the details of what happened during the Three Mile Island Crisis?

A: -- SOVIET STATEMENTS MADE RECENTLY WITH RESPECT TO OUR MAKING PUBLIC DETAILS ON THREE MILE ISLAND SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SEVERELY MISINFORMED ABOUT HOW THE UNITED STATES HANDLED THAT INCIDENT.

-- INFORMATION WAS MADE PUBLIC ALMOST IMMEDIATELY ONCE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INCIDENT WAS RECOGNIZED.

-- PLANT OPERATORS RECOGNIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM THREE HOURS AFTER THE EVENTS WHICH CAUSED IT OCCURRED AND THEY NOTIFIED STATE AND US GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF THAT REALIZATION

-- THE NRC BEGAN HANDLING PRESS INQUIRIES 2 HOURS LATER, AND THAT SAME DAY ISSUED TWO DETAILED PRESS RELEASES INCLUDING RADIATION READINGS AND EMERGENCY ACTIONS TAKEN

-- CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES WERE NOTIFIED THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT AND FULLY BRIEFED THE FOLLOWING DAY

-- THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT THE UNITED STATES NOTIFIED IAEA, NEA, OECD AND 22 FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ACCIDENT, RADIATION RELEASED, MALFUNCTIONS, AND OPERATIONAL ACTIONS TAKEN.

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- MORE COUNTRIES WERE NOTIFIED WITHIN 2 DAYS AND UPDATES WERE SENT ALMOST DAILY FOR TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT.
 - A SENIOR IAEA OFFICIAL - MORRIS ROSEN, WHO RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED HANS BLIX TO MOSCOW - VISITED THE SITE WITHIN 4 DAYS OF THE INCIDENT.
 - THE NRC ARRANGED SITE VISITS AND BRIEFINGS FOR FOREIGN NUCLEAR SAFETY OFFICIALS THE FIRST WEEK AFTER THE INCIDENT.
 - EXTENSIVE FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MONTHS AFTER THE INCIDENT IN ORDER TO LEARN FORM THE EVENT AND TO IMPROVE NUCLEAR SAFETY.

Q: Gorbachev said that the Tokyo summit dwelt on secondary issues such as terrorism and Chernobyl but had nothing to say on arms control. Is that true?

A: -- It is wrong. The Tokyo Declaration, "Looking Forward to a Better Future," issued by Western leaders at the conclusion of their meeting, testifies to their broad, balanced concerns at the summit.

-- The Declaration emphasizes the desire of the leaders to "strengthen peace," "build ... a more stable and constructive relationship between East and West," to "protect freedom and deter aggression, while not threatening the security of others," "to address ... East-West differences through high-level dialogue and negotiation," and to "support ... balanced, substantial and verifiable reductions in the level of arms; measures to increase confidence and reduce the risks of conflicts; and the peaceful resolution of disputes."

-- In Tokyo, Western leaders underscored the particular importance they ascribe to progress on arms-control: "Recalling the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to accelerate work at Geneva, we appreciate the United States' negotiating efforts and call on the Soviet Union also to negotiate positively."

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-- They welcomed and encouraged the IAEA's work to improve international cooperation on safety, handling of nuclear accidents and their consequences, and provision of emergency assistance.

-- They also urged early elaboration of an international convention committing the parties to report and exchange information in the event of nuclear emergencies or accidents."

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Q: What are your comments on General Secretary Gorbachev's announced plan to continue the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing?

A: -- THE DECISION TO CONTINUE A MORATORIUM OR TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING RESTS SOLELY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

-- THE U.S. POSITION ON A NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM IS UNCHANGED.

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Q. What do you think of General Secretary Gorbachev's renewed offer to meet with the President on the subject of a nuclear-testing moratorium?

A: -- AS WE SAID WHEN GORBACHEV FIRST SUGGESTED THIS MEETING, THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV AGREED AT GENEVA "TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAREST FUTURE," AND THE GENERAL SECRETARY ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1986. IN DECEMBER, THE PRESIDENT INDICATED TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY WHICH DATES WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT FOR THIS MEETING. NO REPLY HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED REGARDING THIS SUGGESTION.

-- IN OUR VIEW, MEETINGS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL SHOULD DEAL WITH THE ENTIRE RANGE OF IMPORTANT ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. NUCLEAR TESTING IS ONE OF THEM -- BUT ONLY ONE, AND IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO OTHERS, SUCH AS THE NEED TO REDUCE THE LEVELS OF EXISTING NUCLEAR ARMS AND TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION PROCEDURES.

-- IF THE SOVIETS DESIRE TO MAKE SERIOUS PROGRESS ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING LIMITATION, THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S LONGSTANDING PROPOSAL THAT WE HAVE OUR EXPERTS MEET, AND SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE PRESIDENT'S MOST RECENT OFFER ON TESTING VERIFICATION.

Drafted: EUR/SOV: JHamilton

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Cleared: Drawn from previous guidance

Q: In his speech on May 14, Gorbachev alleged that the West has sought to wring propaganda out of the Chernobyl reactor disaster in order to smear the Soviet Union. Your comment?

A: -- This allegation completely misrepresents the situation. Western leaders all expressed their condolences for the Soviet accident.

-- They also urged the Soviets to provide information on the release of radiation to the countries affected.

-- The concern of the leaders was reflected in the Tokyo statement on the Implications of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident:

-- The summit leaders expressed "deep sympathy for those affected" and said they "remain ready to extend assistance, in particular medical and technical, as and when requested."

-- They pointed out that "each country ... is responsible for prompt provision of detailed and complete information on nuclear emergencies and accidents, in particular those with potential transboundary consequences. Each of our countries accepts that responsibility, and we

urge the Soviet Union, which did not do so in the case of Chernobyl, to provide urgently such information, as our and other countries have requested."

-- The leaders "noted with satisfaction the Soviet Union's willingness to undertake discussions...with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency."