

Note on the preliminary consequences of the Chernobyl accident

April 26, 1986

Secret

On April 26, at 1:25 a.m., an explosion occurred in Unit 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant during preparations for scheduled maintenance. An explosion was followed by a fire, which was soon extinguished.

The explosion caused the reactor room roof to collapse, the turbine hall to cave in, and the roof of Unit 3 to ignite, prompting an emergency shutdown. By 6:00 AM, the fire on the roof of this unit was also extinguished.

At the time of the explosion, 17 shift personnel were in the Unit 4. Nine were hospitalized due to burns, including three in serious condition, and one, V.N. Shashenok, born in 1951, a commissioning site worker, died. In addition, 112 people are undergoing medical examination. The whereabouts of the senior reactor department operator, V.I. Khodemchuk, born in 1951, have not been established.

As of 3:00 PM on April 26, the radiation situation in the accident area is characterized by gamma radiation levels: up to 36,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ in the immediate vicinity of the source, up to 3,600 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ within the NPP area, and from 72 to 144 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ in outlying areas of the city of Pripyat.

This level is constantly monitored.

Under the direction of Party and Soviet authorities, efforts are in place to decontaminate the road and departing vehicles; the entry and exit of private vehicles has been restricted.

Construction work on power units 5 and 6 has been temporarily suspended.

Power units 1 and 2 are operating normally.

A KGB-UKGB investigative team, led by the Deputy Chairman of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR, is working at the scene of the incident. They are conducting a range of undercover operations in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the prosecutor's office.

To prevent information leaks and the spread of false and panic-mongering rumours, outgoing communications are monitored, and telephone users' access to long-distance lines is restricted. High-frequency communications have been deployed to support the work of the Government Commission. Measures have been taken to increase the mobilization readiness of KGB and UKGB units.

The Zaporozhie, Nykolaev, and Rovno Oblast directorates have strengthened official and operational monitoring of the situation at operating nuclear power plants.

The situation at the nuclear power plant, in the city of Pripyat, and in surrounding communities is being monitored.

Reported by: Deputy Head of the KGB, Colonel G.A. Sivets