

KGB Information report for April 25, 26, and 27, 1986

April 28, 1986

Secret

On April 27, there were 24,391 foreigners from capitalist and developing countries in the Ukrainian SSR.

[...]

There were also 26,425 citizens of socialist countries in Ukraine, including 8,666 graduate and other students and interns, in technical schools and colleges.

About the Nuclear Power Plant explosion

On April 26, 1986, at 1:25 a.m., an explosion has 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 and the turbine hall roof to collapse, and the roof of Unit 3 also ignited, leading to an emergency shutdown. By 6:00 a.m. that same day, the fire on the roof of this unit had also been extinguished.

At the time of the explosion, 17 shift workers were in the room of Unit 4. Nine injured workers were hospitalized due to burns, and one, V.N. Shashenok, born in 1953, a commissioning worker, died in the hospital. The whereabouts of V.I. Khodemchuk, a senior reactor department operator born in 1951, have not been determined. In addition, 126 people with signs of radiation sickness were sent to Moscow medical facilities for examination and treatment.

In connection with the opinion expressed by scientists and specialists regarding a possible increase in radiation levels and the danger to the population's continued presence in the city, on April 27, the Government Commission decided to shut down power units 1 and 2, cool down the reactors, and evacuate the residents of Pripyat.

Almost the entire city population (over 44,500 people) has been evacuated to the Polesyie and Ivankov districts, with up to 1,000 people leaving for Chernigov and other regions to visit family and other acquaintances. More than 5,000 people remain in the city to carry out emergency operations. 1,500 police officers have been deployed to escort the evacuees and maintain order, and task forces from the Kiev and Kiev region KGB Directorate and the Internal Affairs Directorate have been dispatched to the evacuated areas.

Helicopters are being transferred to the area to contain the source of the accident. Radiation and chemical protection troops are also deployed for this purpose.

As of 8:00 a.m. on April 28, the radiation situation was characterized by gamma levels of 36,000–93,600 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ at power units 3 and 4, and 1,080–5,760 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ in some areas within the city limits.

An investigative group of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR, with the participation of officers from the KGB of the USSR, is investigating the possibility of sabotage. Measures are being taken to prevent the spread of panic-mongering rumours and biased information.

The situation at the nuclear power plant, in the city of Pripyat, and the surrounding area is being monitored. On April 27, reports were received of unrest among some residents of certain districts of the Zhytomyr region and the spread, as they believe, of radiation into this region. In the Chernigov region, 29 people from Pripyat were hospitalized with signs of possible radiation sickness.

The Kiev Oblast Prosecutor's Office has opened a criminal case regarding the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident.

The Republic's KGB is taking measures to increase mobilisation readiness and strengthen monitoring of the situation at the operating Zaporozhie, Rovno, and South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plants.

Chairman of the State Security Committee of the Ukrainian SSR
S. Muha