

Reference note on the sources, background and level of contamination in the city of Pripyat

April 29, 1986

Secret

On April 28 of this year, in a conversation with the Director of the Institute for Nuclear Research of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR (INR), Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences I.N. Vishnevsky and the Deputy Director of this Institute, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences A.F. Linev, the following was established.

According to the radiation safety service of the INR RAS and the city's sanitary and epidemiological station (GSES), radioactive contamination was recorded in Kiev on April 26-27 of this year. Radiation levels exceeding background levels by two to three times were observed on buses used for transportation from the emergency zone, in the metro, trams, trolleybuses, and private cars parked near the INR RAS, in the Leningradskaya and Ukraina hotels, and at the bus station. They were also found on individuals (Tkachenko, Petlitskaya, and Legkobytt, — INR RAS employees) who, according to their statements, went on vacation to the Chernobyl-Pripyat area over the weekend. A puddle with elevated radioactive contamination was also discovered at the entrance to the courtyard of the VDNKh of the Ukrainian SSR.

According to scientists, the recorded radiation level is not yet dangerous to public health. However, I.N. Vishnevsky and A.F. Linev note that increased radioactivity at the sites where measurements were taken indicates the transfer of radioactive and fissile material by vehicles and people from the emergency zone and adjacent areas, which could lead to undesirable consequences.

Thus, on April 27 of this year, in the forested village of Kruglik, the RB INR RAS detained a Zhiguli car from Pripyat, license plate D 42–98 KH (driver Ivanitsky, a police officer), with radiation levels of up to 1,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, which poses a health hazard. After decontamination, the driver and seven people who had been in contact with him were transferred to the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service for hospitalisation.

To prevent further radiation contamination of the city, the aforementioned scientists propose tightening controls on the movement of people and vehicles from the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant zone. Decontamination measures should be conducted outside Kiev and utilize appropriate military units, as other organizations and institutions in the city (including the Institute of Nuclear Research of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Station) lack the necessary capabilities.

I.N. Vishnevsky and A.F. Linev rule out sabotage at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant due to the reliability of the reactor's safety systems. They note that the spread of fissile material presumably occurred due to insufficient mechanical protection against explosions in RBMK-type nuclear reactors.

6th Directorate of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR