

On the situation and progress of the investigation into the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident

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From Chernobyl
Secret

As of May 15th, the reactor's condition remained unchanged. The temperature of the glowing active mass in the crater has decreased and, according to preliminary estimates, is approximately 600 degrees Celsius (1122 degrees Fahrenheit) inside the crater and 300 degrees Celsius (562 degrees Fahrenheit) on the surface.

Scientists have decided against pouring concrete due to the risk of a "geyser" effect. A decision has been made to clear the roof of the turbine hall of active mass, remove the debris, and dispose of the radioactive sources in a repository being rapidly constructed on the territory of the nuclear power plant by chemical protection troops.

The investigative team assisted scientists E.P. Velikhov and Yu.M. Cherkashov in transporting them directly to the site of the collapse using special vehicles to assess the feasibility and scope of the upcoming work and to develop proposals for the state commission on the liquidation of the consequences of the explosion.

The radiation situation remains stable. Radiation levels at the nuclear power plant site range from 5,000 to 10,000,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, in the clean-up zone from 14,000 to 2,000,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, in the city of Pripyat 2,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, in Chernobyl 60 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, and at the 30-km boundary of the zone 80 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$.

Measures are being taken to tighten entry and stay restrictions within the 30-kilometer zone to prevent the transport of radioactive objects, soil, and similar items along transport arteries. Driving on the shoulders of roads is prohibited, as radiation levels there are 100 times higher than the average level in the area. Speed limits have been imposed. A decision has been made to establish a control centre to register citizens entering the zone. Radiation dose records are being created for those participating in recovery efforts.

To assist investigative bodies in identifying the causes of the accident, the KGB's Specialized Technical Directorate, together with scientists and specialists, analysed available documentation and conducted calculations. These calculations indicate that the force of the explosion, corresponding to the nature of the destruction, was equivalent to the power of a charge of at least 50-60 tons of TNT. A methodology is being developed for calculating the consequences of a possible explosion of an explosive mixture in turbogenerators due to the presence of hydrogen. Research is underway to retrieve, using specialised vehicles, data from the turbine room of the mobile laboratory, which is expected to contain oscillograms and other data from the experiment.

According to scientists, including L.A. Ilyin, a member of the Government Commission and Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, foreign documentary materials obtained through the KGB's Perm State University (PSU) have proven extremely useful in developing

long-term recommendations for the use of agricultural lands and their products. Currently, the PSU's capabilities in Western European countries are being used to explore the possibility of supplying the USSR with large volumes of specialised foaming compounds for soil decontamination.

[...]

We continue to investigate the causes of the accident, identify those responsible, and monitor the situation.

Deputy Chief of the 6th Directorate of the USSR KGB

Deputy Chairman of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR

Major General Khapayev Major General Kovtun