

**Excerpt from the report on the radiation situation and the progress of the investigation
into the accident at the Chernobyl NPP**

May 22, 1986
From Chernobyl
Secret

Regarding the situation at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

As of May 22, the situation at the nuclear power plant remains stable.

Radiation levels at an altitude of 200 meters above the crater are 450,000 – 550,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$. The temperature in the reactor heat exchanger area is 60 degrees Celsius. Decontamination work continues at the nuclear power plant and surrounding area. To improve the radiation situation on highways, engineering troops of the USSR Ministry of Defence are clearing trees along the road, which passes through a heavily contaminated forest.

Due to elevated radiation levels in the village of Kovshilovka in the Polessyie District, located 70 km from the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (gamma radiation of 40 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, soil surface radiation of 60 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$), party and government bodies have decided to relocate 64 families, a total of 146 residents.

While monitoring the situation within the 10- and 30-kilometer zones of the accident, operational sources have systematically recorded instances of careless behaviour and violations of personal safety rules among those involved in the clean-up efforts directly within the nuclear power plant.

Thus, miners and especially military personnel are exposed to radiation that is not necessary for their work due to the failure to use personal protective equipment, resting near and directly on special equipment returning from the nuclear power plant zone, and poor personal hygiene, which leads to premature failure of the equipment.

This indicates a lack of awareness-raising and control over the actions of subordinates on the part of the administration and military command. The administration of the Ministry of Coal Industry of the Ukrainian SSR and, through the KGB, the military command has been informed, so that the appropriate action can be taken.

With our participation, an order was developed and implemented, approved by the chairman of the government commission, regulating the procedure for access to the zone and the nuclear power plant grounds.

In pursuance of this order, 10 checkpoints have been deployed, and 73 barriers have been erected.

Recently, 256 unauthorised persons have been identified and removed from the controlled zone. Work continues to secure the perimeter of the 30-kilometer zone (88 km of the 117 km have been fenced).

Dosimetric monitoring of parcels from areas adjacent to the 30-kilometer zone was organised, resulting in the seizure and confiscation of three parcels with unacceptable radiation levels. [...]

Deputy Chief Deputy Chairman

6th Directorate of the KGB of the USSR KGB of the Ukrainian SSR

Major General G.V. Kuznetsov Major General V.M. Yevtushenko