

On the operational situation in the Chernobyl region

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Secret

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Chernobyl is a city under the jurisdiction of a district, located on the right bank of the Pripjat River, at the confluence of its tributary, the Uzh River, 133 km from Kiev and 18 km from the Yanov railway station of the Southwestern Railway, the city of Pripjat, and the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. The territory of the Chernobyl district is 2,031 square kilometres.

It is located in the Polesia zone of the Kiev region and borders on the north with the Narovlya and Bragin districts of the Gomel region, on the east with the Kozelets and Chernigov districts of the Chernigov region, and on the Vyshgorod, Ivankov, and Polesia districts of the Kiev region. The city of Pripjat, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and the communications centre of the USSR Ministry of Defence, known as "Chernobyl-2," are located within the district's territory.

The Khmelnytsky-Chernigov-Moscow railway, the Southwestern Railway, and the republican and regional highways Kiev-Chernobyl-Pripjat-Gomel, Chernobyl-Polesky-Ovruch-Zhytomyr, and others pass through the district.

There are cargo and passenger river ports on the Pripjat River.

Chernobyl is one of the oldest cities in the Dnieper region. The first chronicle mentions it date back to 1193. Chernobyl was several times under the control of Lithuania and Poland. Various crafts flourished. Chernobyl finally became part of the Kiev Governorate as a provincial town after the reunification of Right-Bank Ukraine with Russia in 1793.

During the Patriotic War of 1941–1945, due to the threat of the German army's advance on Kiev, Chernobyl was significantly fortified, and the Kostroma militia was concentrated there.

In 1900, Chernobyl had a population of 16,740. During the revolution of 1905–1907, workers' rallies and strikes took place in Chernobyl. Local peasants actively opposed the landowners, seizing their land.

After the February bourgeois-democratic revolution of 1917, the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies was established in Chernobyl. Soviet power was established in Chernobyl on February 2, 1918. During the civil war, the city was occupied several times by the Germans, Poles, Denikin's troops, Struk's gang, and others.

In 1923, Chernobyl became the centre of the Chernobyl district and was designated an urban-type settlement, which was crucial for its subsequent economic development. In 1925, the restoration of Chernobyl's economy was completed. The city's economy and culture experienced significant development during the years of socialist construction. In 1932, a ship repair yard was established on the site of the repair shops, servicing the Dnieper Shipping Company, and cast-iron foundries and other local plants began operating.

In July and August 1941, residents of the area made great efforts to evacuate industrial plants, equipment, agricultural produce, and livestock. On August 25, 1941, the city was occupied by Nazi Germany. During the occupation, underground partisan groups and the Chapayev Partisan Detachment operated at the shipyard and in the city.

On November 16, 1943, units of the 8th Rifle Division of the 13th Army of the 1st Ukrainian Front liberated Chernobyl.

The occupiers inflicted enormous damage on the district's economy; virtually all industrial enterprises were destroyed, and approximately 3,000 people died.

During the first post-war five-year plan, the district's economy was restored, and by 1950, its production volume had reached its pre-war level.

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Before the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, 47,000 people lived in the district, including 14,000 in the city of Chernobyl.

There was one city and 27 rural Councils of People's Deputies, governing 69 settlements, two state farms, and 18 collective farms, which were responsible for 100,700 hectares of agricultural land, including 34,100 hectares of arable land. The district's primary agricultural activities included potatoes, flax, and grain crops, as well as livestock farming (meat and dairy). There were 14 industrial and transport organisations and five construction companies within the district.

The following were in full operation: the Generator restricted-access plant, the Oktava Scientific Production Association of the Ministry of Electronics Industry, the Chernobyl naval repair and maintenance base, the river port, and the district communications centre.

The district had 11 secondary schools, 21 eight-year schools, 23 primary schools, a medical school, a vocational school, and a music school.

Following the explosion at Unit 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on April 26, 1986, due to high radiation levels and soil contamination, the population of Chernobyl and other settlements in the district, a total of approximately 44,000 people, was evacuated to other districts of the Kiev region in May–June 1986. Chernobyl residents were resettled in the towns of Brovary, Belaya Tserkov, Fastov, Irpen, Borispol, Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky, Obukhov, Boguslav, Vyshgorod, Vishnevoe, Boyarka, and elsewhere. Many enterprises and institutions were disbanded.

According to incomplete available data, enterprises, institutions, and collective farms have been relocated to the following towns and cities:

- Fleet Repair Base – to Kremenchug and Kiev (Dnieper Shipping Company),
- Iron Foundry – to Obukhov,
- Generator Plant – to Kiev,
- Industrial Combine and Workshop of the Shevchenko Factory – to B. Tserkov,
- PMK-4 – to Rzhyshev,
- PMK-169 – throughout the region,
- DRSU – to Belaya Tserkov,
- RSU-2 – disbanded,
- SPTU-23 – to Volodarka,

- Medical College – to Yagotin,
- Chernobyl Forestry Department – to Katyuzhanka village, Vyshgorod District,
- Novo-Shepelichsky Forestry and Forestry Department — to Maryanovka village, Makarovsky District,
- Regional Data Processing Centre and the editorial office of the district newspaper "Prapor Peremogy" — to Brovary,
- Pripyatsky farm, Zimovishche village — to Rudnitskoye village, Baryshevsky District,
- Zapovedy Ilyicha farm, Korogod village — to Zhovtneve village, Borodyansky District,
- Komsomolets Polessiya breeding farm, Lelev village — to Nedra village, Baryshevsky District,
- Kommunar farm, Tolsty Les village — to Lipovka village, Makarovsky District,
- Chervone Polessiya farm, Chapayevka village — to Fasovnya village, Makarovsky District,
- Peremoga farm, Stechanka village — to Pachkovshchina, Zgurovsky District,
- "Road to Communism" farmstead, Rossokha village – to Kolonshchina village, Makarovsky District,
- k-z "1 Travnja" in the village of Opachichi – to the village of Kozichanka, Makarovsky District,
- k-z im. Kalinina in the village of N. Shepelichi – to the village of Zabuyanye, Makarovsky District,
- k-z "XX Partsyezd" in the village of Ilyinty – to the village of Pravo Zhovtenya, Zgurovsky District,
- k-z "Druzhba" – to the village of Zalesye,
- Zimovishchansky village council – to the village of Rudnitskoye, Baryshevsky District,
- Zalessky village council – to the village of Nebrat, Borodyansky District,
- Ilynetsky village council – to the village of Pravo Zhovtenya, Zgurovsky District,
- Kopachevsky village council – to the village of Nedra, Baryshevsky District,
- Korogodsky village council – to the village of Zhovtneve, Borodyansky District,
- Kupovatsky Village Council – to Grezskoye village, Makarovsky District,
- Ladyzhitsky Village Council — to the village of Sukachi, Ivankovsky District,
- Mashevsky Village Council — to the villages of Tsudnitskoye and Lukashi, Baryshevsky District,
- Novo-Shepelichsky Village Council — the village of Zabuyanoe, Makarovsky District,
- Opachichsky Village Council — to the village of Kozichanka, Makarovsky District,
- Parshiepsky Village Council — to the village of Lukyanovka, Baryshevsky District,
- Rechisky Village Council — to the village of Korolevka, Makarovsky District,
- Rossokhsky Village Council — to the village of Kolonshchina, Makarovsky District,
- Staro-Shepelichsky Village Council — to the village of Maryanovka, Makarovsky District,
- Stechansky Village Council — to the village of Paskushchina, Zgurovsky District,
- Terekhovsky Village Council — to the village of Doroga in Fastovsky district,
- Tolstolessky Village Council – to Lipovka village, Makarovsky District,
- Chapaevsky Village Council – to Fasova village, Makarovsky District,
- Cherevachsky Village Council – to Zrayki village, Volodarsky District,
- Chistogalovsky Village Council – to Yareshki village, Baryshevsky District.

In June of this year, the Chernobyl City Council of People's Deputies ceased to exist.

The following continue to function: the Chernobyl District Party Committee, the Chernobyl District Executive Committee, virtually all district departments, and the district agro-industrial association.

Seven settlements remain in the district: Gornostaipol, Gubin, Dityatki, Zorin, Medvin, Strakholesye, and Fruzinovka, with a population of approximately 3,500.

The villages are united into two collective farms: Lenin (Gornostaipol) and Michurin (Dityatki). Three village councils of people's deputies are located in the villages of Gornostaipol, Dityatki, and Strakholesye.

There are approximately 1,200 people of working age, the rest are pensioners and children. District organizations are located primarily in the village of Gornostaipol, including the Regional Communist Party of Ukraine (RCPU) and the district executive committee, some in the village of Dityatki, the Chernobyl District Department of Internal Affairs in the village of Zorin, and the Regional Military Commissariat in the village of Dityatki. Over 800 people work in district organisations, whose families permanently reside in the cities of Brovary, Belaya Tserkov, and Vishneve.

The Strakholessky village council area contains a hunting reserve, which is the security zone of the 9th KGB Service of the Ukrainian SSR, troops of the 11th Sector (KKVO), the 912th operational group of the USSR Civil Defence, which is involved in the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, and a regiment for the protection of the 10- and 30-kilometer zones from the internal troops of the Ukrainian and Moldavian SSRs — a total of approximately 20,000 military personnel.

Due to the ill-considered actions of certain officials within the Soviet and Party authorities in 1986 and early 1987, intense pressure was put on the evacuated population to prompt their rapid return. For this reason alone, residents of 22 villages were not paid monetary compensation. The evacuated residents, citing non-payment of compensation and difficulties and inconveniences at their evacuation sites, began to return to their former places of residence without permission and resume farming on their private plots.

Currently, over 1,000 people live in the zone. Despite the fact that the issue of compensation payments has already been resolved, the overwhelming majority of residents categorically refuse to leave the zone, despite a decision by the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR to evict them from the zone, as representatives of the USSR Ministry of Health refused to sign documents for re-evacuation due to the severe radiation contamination of certain land plots and forested areas.

Elevated radiation levels persist in populated areas, economic activity continues. The state purchases meat, milk, and other agricultural products, although in some cases these products exceed permissible radiation levels. Grain is not exported from the region, but is used for the needs of farms and collective farmers.

After the Chernobyl explosion, many young people and families with young children left the remaining seven villages, and this trend continues.

There is a severe shortage of specialists, with district organisations staffed at 30-50%. A tense atmosphere has developed among residents and district organization leadership. There is a widespread belief that the continued existence of district organisations is inappropriate. Preventive measures taken by medical workers and military units decontaminating populated

areas further exacerbate the anxiety, as test results and other measures are not communicated to residents.

There are virtually no instruments in the area to detect radiation contamination of food products.

The local population is negatively impacted by the workers and specialists living in the Zeleny Mys shift camp — a total of approximately 6,000 people participating in the Chernobyl clean-up effort. Their salaries are several times higher, they receive free meals and protective clothing, and they have good apartments in Kiev, Chernigov, and elsewhere.

The Chernobyl District Department of Internal Affairs is located in the village of Zorin and consists of 130 officers and sergeants assigned to serve three-month terms from various departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Ukrainian SSR. In addition to its regular duties, the District Department of Internal Affairs is responsible for manning Checkpoint No. 1 "Dityatki," Checkpoint No. 2 "Starye Sokoly," and the "Zeleny Mys" checkpoint, as well as the entrances and exits to the 30-kilometer zone of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, as well as guarding 26 villages in the zone whose residents have been evacuated. The District Department of Internal Affairs includes a patrol and guard company. A patrol and guard battalion and the Chernobyl City Department of Internal Affairs are stationed in the village of Zeleny Mys, serving in the 30-kilometer zone in the city of Chernobyl.

The operational base in the area is insignificant:

- 9 people over 70 years of age previously convicted of especially dangerous crimes against the state;
- 7 people who communicate in writing with the United States, Canada, and Australia;
- 8 people from the unregistered Pentecostal group (KhVE) live in the villages of Zorin and Fruzinovka.

The high-security facility of the USSR Ministry of Defence, the "Long Distance Communications Radio Centre," located near the village of Korogod in the Chernobyl District, is currently mothballed; no one lives in the area surrounding the facility due to the evacuation of the population.

The facility's territory is fenced with several rows of barbed wire and special alarm systems. Furthermore, the facility is located in the so-called "black zone," guarded by internal troops. Inside, the facility is guarded by a special guard. Further work to encircle the facility will be planned under a joint plan developed with the KGB Special Operations Department (military unit 94031).

For counterintelligence missions in the Chernobyl region, there is one resident, five agents, two secret service agents, 12 trusted individuals, and 15 inactive agents, some of whom are capable of becoming active agents.

We have identified virtually all agents evacuated from the 30-kilometer zone around the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Due to the loss of operational capabilities at their new places of residence and work in 1987, 20 agents were removed from the intelligence apparatus, and the personal and work files of 12 agents were sent to the appropriate KGB agencies for further operational use.

In the Chernobyl region in 1987, three agents were recruited, one secret service contract and two secret service contracts were acquired, and trust relationships were established with 12 individuals. In accordance with the special plan with the KGB Special Operations Department, military unit 94031.

Individuals against whom the Polessyie Regional Directorate of the KGB has incriminating materials are being identified at their new places of residence, and the relevant KGB agencies are being directed appropriately.

Counterintelligence work in the Chernobyl region has been carried out since May 1987 by operative Captain A.Ya. Litvinenko.

Head of the Polessyie Regional Directorate of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR for the city of Kiev and the Kiev region

Lieutenant Colonel V.E. Gorovenko