

On the counterintelligence work in the Polessyie district

November 2, 1987

Secret

Reference note on the operational situation for the Polessyie district

The Polessyie district is located in the northern part of the Kiev region. Its administrative centre is the urban-type settlement of Polesskoe, located 130 kilometres from Kiev and 15 kilometres from the nearest railway station, Vilcha, on the Southwestern Railway, along the right and left banks of the Uzh River. The district covers an area of 1,300 square kilometres. The district has a population of 29,000, including approximately 13,000 in the urban-type settlement of Polesskoe.

The district includes two urban-type settlements — Polesskoe and Vilcha, and 59 populated areas, residents of 11 of which were evacuated to other districts of the Kiev region after the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. There are also two village and 19 rural councils of people's deputies, 14 industrial enterprises, 11 collective farms, two state farms, several regional agricultural enterprises, eight secondary schools, 10 eight-year schools, two primary schools, and Vocational School No. 10 with an agricultural focus.

The district is crossed by the Khmel'nitsky-Korosten-Chernigov-Moscow Southwestern Railway and the Kiev-Mozyr-Minsk and Kiev-Ovruch-Zhytomyr, Polesskoe-Chernobyl, and Polesskoe-Pripyat highways of national importance. The district borders the Narovlya district of the Gomel region to the north, the Chernobyl and Ivankov districts of the Kiev region, and the Malyn and Narodichi districts of the Zhytomyr region to the southwest and west.

The founding date of the urban-type settlement of Poleskoye is unknown. It was first mentioned in documents in 1415 under the name Khabne. It has been the centre of the volost since 1866. The population actively participated in the revolutionary events of 1905–1907 and 1917. In mid-February 1918, Soviet power was established in the urban-type settlement of Khabne. In the 1920s, the Struk and Laznyuk gangs, as well as other kulak-nationalist gangs, were active in the vicinity of Khabne. During the years of foreign intervention and the civil war, many residents took an active part in the struggle against the occupiers, the White Guards, and other enemies.

For courage and bravery, several people were awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the highest revolutionary award of the period, in 1920–21.

The establishment of the Khabne state farm in 1922, by decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian SSR, was of great importance for the economic revival of the village of Khabne, the elimination of unemployment, and the improvement of the workers' living conditions.

Following administrative reform, Khabne became the centre of the district of the same name in 1923. The restoration of the district's economy was largely completed by the end of 1925. After the 15th Congress of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), agricultural collectivisation began in the district. The first collective farm was organized in 1929 in the

village of Khabne. In 1938, Khabne was renamed Kaganovichi, in honour of the former party, Soviet, and economic leader of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, L.M. Kaganovich, a native of this district. That same year, Kaganovichi was classified as an urban-type settlement.

In the first days of the Great Patriotic War, the workers of the Kaganovichi district, along with the entire Soviet people, joined the fight against the enemy. Many were mobilised or volunteered for the front; local residents built defensive fortifications for the Red Army and made a great effort to evacuate state and collective farm property and thousands of head of livestock to the east of the country. On August 23, 1941, Kaganovichi was occupied by Nazi Germany. An underground district party committee was organized to fight the enemy. In October 1941, the Nazis arrested all 28 underground members and executed them.

At the end of 1941, a patriotic underground group began operating, led by the communist physician A.P. Sirosh. In July 1942, another patriotic group of 45 people was formed, led by the communist physician V.M. Nozdrin. Local patriots coordinated their activities with the Kiev underground and neighbouring partisan detachments, including the Rozvazhevsky partisan detachment. In 1942–43, partisan units led by Kovpak, Saburov, Fedorov, and others operated in the region, as well as a pseudo-partisan detachment organised allegedly on behalf of the Kiev Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine by fascist counterintelligence. This detachment was almost completely destroyed by Saburov's unit with the help of other partisan groups in the Ivankovsky district in 1943.

During the temporary occupation, the Nazis executed several hundred residents of the district, practically the entire party activists with their families, and all persons of Jewish nationality. The Gestapo tortured the leaders of the partisan movement, A.P. Sirosh, V.M. Nozdrin, and many others; many were buried alive, with active assistance from traitors among the local population.

On November 15, 1943, units of the 143rd Rifle Division of the 12th Combined Arms Army of the Ukrainian Front liberated the district centre.

For their active participation in battles against the Nazi invaders and valiant labour during the Great Patriotic War, over 3,000 district residents were awarded USSR orders and medals, and three were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union (two of them posthumously).

The first party meeting in Kaganovichi after the occupation was held on November 28, 1943, where issues of rapid economic recovery in the district and assistance to the Red Army in defeating Nazi Germany were discussed.

Between 1943 and 1950, local counterintelligence exposed and brought to trial over 100 former German collaborators and traitors to the Motherland.

More than 3,000 residents of the district died during the war on various fronts and in the fight against the nationalist underground in Western Ukraine and Belarus.

During the first post-war five-year plan (1946–1950), the district's industrial enterprises and collective farms were fully restored, and in 1950, pre-war production levels were reached.

In 1957, the Kaganovichsky District was renamed the Polesky District, and the urban-type settlement of Kaganovichi was renamed the urban-type settlement of Poleskoye. Several new enterprises were built.

Before the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Polesky District had a population of approximately 38,000. Gross industrial output amounted to 57 million roubles, and agricultural output was 45 million roubles. Currently, these figures are 42 million and 40 million roubles, respectively. 17,315 hectares of agricultural land and approximately 10,000 hectares of arable land have been withdrawn from use. The district has approximately 50,000 hectares of agricultural land and approximately 35,000 hectares of arable land, all of which are sandy and poor.

The average grain yield for 1986 was 11.5 centners, for 1987 – 21 centners per hectare, potato yield – 170 centners per hectare, etc. Approximately 56,000 hectares of forest were transferred from the Polesyie forestry administration to the "black" and 30-kilometer zones, resulting in the liquidation of four forestry units – Yakovetskoye, Rechitskoye, Tolstolesskoye, and Lubyanskoye.

In May and June, due to high radiation levels and severe contamination of the soil and water, a livestock breeding station, a fattening station, a creamery, an incubator, a special boarding school for mentally retarded children, etc. were closed.

Residents of the following villages were evacuated from May to August 1986:

Bober - to the village of Seredovka, Zgurovsky District,

Varovichi - to the village of Plesetskoye, Danilovka, Vasylkovsky District,

Vladimirovka - to the village of Rovy, Vyshgorod District,

Lubyanka - to the village of Bugayevka, Pogreby, Vasilkovsky District,

Bovische - to the village of Khatsky, Pereyaslav-Khmelnysky District,

Staraya Rudnya, Kliviny, and the village of Yakovets - to the village of Glanyshchev, Pereyaslav-Khmelnysky District,

Kovshilovka - to the village of Rudnya, Dymerskaya, Vyshgorod District,

A total of 3,551 people, including 1,565 families, were evacuated. 5,500 people left the region independently in 1986–87, primarily young people and families with young children. The trend toward exodus is increasing due to high background radiation levels, which persist in many populated areas, particularly in the villages of Yasen and Shevchenkove, where gamma radiation levels consistently range from 7 to 40 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, and on the ground surface, from 40 to 120 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$.

Elevated background radiation levels are reported in the urban-type settlements of Poleskoye, Vilcha, Stanovishche, Zhovtnevo, Tarasy, Korolevka, Pukhov, Denisovichi, and Dibrova.

Elevated gamma radiation levels are present in virtually all forested areas, and in some places, at very high levels. For example, in the south-eastern direction near the village of Yasen, servicemen from the 112th OG of the USSR Civil Defence discovered a 55,000 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ radiation source from a helicopter in May of this year. No decontamination measures have helped. This situation is of great concern to people, especially those with small children.

In 1987, collective letters were sent to the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the Committee of Soviet Women, demanding resettlement to a clean zone and the payment of appropriate compensation. Delegations also travelled to Moscow several times on these issues.

In September 1987, commissions from the Central Committee of the CPSU, the USSR State Hydrometeorological Service, the USSR Ministry of Health, and the USSR Ministry of Defence worked in the area. A meeting of scientists and Soviet Party activists was held on October 15 to discuss the commissions' findings. However, the meeting was unsuccessful. The scientists and other representatives were unable to answer many of the attendees' questions.

People continue to be concerned about many unclear issues related to radiation contamination. Agricultural activity is restricted. There are no specific guidelines for the use of arable and farmland; there are only a few recommendations from various agencies, which vary significantly.

Collective and state farms continue to supply the state with milk, meat, and other agricultural products, although the vast majority of these products exceed permissible limits by several times.

Grain is not exported from the region; it is used for the needs of farms and collective farmers. For example, in some areas in 1986, the gamma radiation level from rye was up to 400 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$. In May of this year, milk from the Kuibyshev (Dibrova village) and Rodina (Martynovichi village) collective farms exceeded the permissible limit by 96 times.

According to operational and other data received from officials, there has been an increase in many diseases among the local population, diabetes is six times higher than in 1985, cardiovascular diseases are five times higher, blood loss in women in labour is two to three times higher than normal, and the majority of young women and adolescent girls are experiencing sharp changes in their menstrual cycles. Residents of the Polessyie and Ivankovsky districts with active tuberculosis, who had previously been cured and even removed from the tuberculosis registers, have begun to be admitted for inpatient treatment at the Polessyie Regional Tuberculosis Hospital No. 1.

Many residents of the district complain of headaches, a bitter taste in the throat, weakness, increased sweating, and irregular heartbeat. There are 5,627 children in the Polessyie district, 3,000 of whom are registered for medical care. Almost everyone who was in the Polessyie district during the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant explosion has an enlarged thyroid gland, and the incidence of thyroid disease is also increasing in adults.

In terms of blood group disease, over 700 children are registered at the Kiev Radiological Centre alone for all blood groups: A, B, C, D, and D; over 200 children in blood group D alone, meaning each child has over 2,775,000 Bq of cesium-137 in their blood. The results of comprehensive blood tests in the Polessyie district are unknown.

The first to leave the area were doctors and teachers, which had a negative impact on the population. There are interruptions in the supply of food from clean zones in settlements where the consumption of local products is prohibited, due to which an additional payment of 30 roubles is being imposed per resident.

There are 10 such settlements: the urban-type settlement of Poleskoye, the urban-type settlement of Vilcha, the village of Denisovichi, the village of Dibrova, the village of Grezlya, the village of Zhovtneve, Shevchenkovo, the village of Martynovichi, the village of Tarasy, and Yasen. A 25% additional payment has been introduced in the above-mentioned settlements,

and an additional payment in the following: the villages of Buda Varovichi, the village of Korolevka, the village of Novaya Markovka, the village of Novy Mir, the village of Nivetskoye, the village of Pukhov, the village of Rudnya Grezlyanskaya, the village of Stanovishche, the village of Chervona Zirka, s. Cheremoshnya.

In most settlements in the Polesseye district, the additional payment is not being made, which is causing discontent among residents. Furthermore, local residents often raise questions with high-ranking officials from Kiev that have no concrete answers, for example:

- Why is there no transparency regarding the radiation situation?
- Why is a 100% additional payment imposed in neighbouring districts of the Byelorussian SSR, while in Polesseye it is 25%, where the radiation situation is more severe?
- Why do military personnel living in the district receive one day's service as three, have firewood brought in from other regions, are their length of stay limited to two to six months, are paid double wages, are provided with free meals and travel allowances, and enjoy a whole range of benefits, unlike the local population?
- If the situation is normal, as scientists and representatives of the Ministry of Health claim, then why isn't the procurement office accepting meat, medicinal plants, berries, mushrooms, vegetables, and fruits, why isn't the collective farm market open, why has timber harvesting ceased, and why is hunting of poultry and other animals prohibited?
- Why have the breeding station, incubator, butter factory, fattening station, and special boarding school for mentally retarded children been closed?
- a list of medical contraindications for people living in areas with elevated ionizing radiation, etc., has not been provided.

There is a risk of radionuclides released into the soil penetrating into the aquifer, which could lead to mass contamination of people and animals with radioactive particles.

Within the 30-kilometer zone in the Polesseye District, residents from four villages have not been evicted: Denisovichi, Dibrova, Nivetskoye, and Cheremoshnya. The last two villages were re-evacuated in July 1986.

The operational situation is particularly difficult in the village of Denisovichi, which is located a considerable distance from the district centre, where people within a radius of more than 20 kilometres from the Byelorussian SSR have been evicted, economic activity is restricted, many have nowhere to work, etc.

In April and May, 23,882 people and more than 40 organisations and institutions were evacuated to the Polesseye District from the city of Prip'yat alone.

Negative processes occurred among workers and their teams for various reasons.

For example, in August–September 1986, during the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant construction management, located at the time in Polesseye Vocational School No. 10, workers refused to report to work due to the administration's failure to provide apartments to their families. Various slogans were posted, and so on.

Currently, approximately 150 people evacuated from Prip'yat and the Chernobyl region reside in the district. They have been provided with housing and employment and live in various settlements. About 400 workers and engineering technicians from the YUTEM and UM trusts

are residing at the Glavkivgorstroy recreation centre in the village of Kovshilovka; they work on a rotational basis.

About 100 people live in the evicted villages, primarily in the village of Lubyanka, located within the 30-kilometer zone. They resettled there without permission, citing poor living conditions at their evacuation site in the Zgurovsky District. They categorically refuse to move back. Compensation and insurance payments were paid to them in August and October of last year.

The Vilcha railway station of the Korosten branch of the South-Western Railway was upgraded to the 1st category in the fall of 1986 and now supplies various construction and other specialized materials for the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident.

The unfavourable situation, which could lead to an emergency, is created by the fact that a large number of tank cars, railcars, and flatcars have been concentrated on the sidings and sections of the Vilcha station since July 1986. A similar situation exists at the Tolsty Les and Yanov railway stations, from where radiation-contaminated trains are transported through the village of Vilcha to a special processing facility built 500 meters away, causing strong discontent among Vilcha residents.

The Vilcha railway station also houses a loading and unloading facility for the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant's industrial and technical equipment section, where materials for the nuclear power plant and the construction of the city of Slavutych are concentrated. Workers work on a rotational basis, and there are numerous problems with providing them with the necessary conditions for normal work, as well as serious violations by the administration regarding wages, which is causing significant dissatisfaction.

Currently, the district is home to nine engineering and chemical defence regiments from the III and II sectors of the 112th OG of the USSR Civil Defence, which are participating in the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, a medical battalion, a bath and laundry facility, and three battalions of internal troops guarding a 30-kilometer zone.

At checkpoint No. 3 "Dibrova" and checkpoint No. 4 "Lubyanka-1," as well as to guard evacuated settlements in the 30-kilometer and so-called special control zones, regular officers from a specially created security company of the Poleshye District Department of Internal Affairs, drawn from departments and directorates of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Ukrainian SSR, are on duty for three months. A special security battalion for the cities of Prip'yat and Chernobyl, as well as the non-departmental security department of the Kiev Regional Executive Committee's Internal Affairs Directorate, are also stationed in the urban-type settlement of Poleshye. Police officers from a special traffic police battalion of the Kiev Regional Executive Committee's Internal Affairs Directorate are constantly on duty in the area and areas adjacent to the 30-kilometer zone.

Every year, with the exception of 1986, the district is visited by 2-3 foreigners and about 20 people from socialist countries, mainly Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria.

Currently, 26 people are registered as maintaining correspondence with capitalist countries, and 15 are recipients of parcels.

Of the operational contingents identified in the district:

- former OUN-UPA members — 1,
- convicted of PLO crimes — 3,
- former ROA employees: — 1,
- former collaborators with the German occupiers — 67,
- returnee emigrants — 1,
- 14 defectors from the Great Patriotic War are living abroad.

Persons of operational interest:

– Aida (Orinenko) Lyudmila Ivanovna, born in 1940, lives in Paris, works as a Russian language teacher at the Victor Duroy Lyceum; her relatives live in the village of Novy Mir in the Polessiye District.

According to VSU, she maintains constant contact with French intelligence services and carries out their assignments in Moscow. According to agent "Sasha", Aida questioned our citizens about information of interest to intelligence. The KGB Directorate for Kiev and the Kiev Region has an operational file on Aida, "Anaconda."

– Maria Markovna Blishun-Goisman, born in 1926, a defector living in Belgium and maintaining contact with relatives in the urban-type settlement of Poleskoye. According to available information, in 1972, while living in Antwerp, she and a group of people approached a Soviet ship and distributed (possibly on instructions from the NTS) anti-Soviet literature among the sailors.

– Mikhail Yakovlevich Feldman, born in 1939, living in the urban-type settlement of Poleskoye, who has relatives in the United States with whom he maintains correspondence and parcel exchange. According to intelligence, he allegedly maintains contact with the wanted Rybchinsky.

– Khaim Mendemevich Khrizman, born in 1920, is a close associate of Rybchinsky. According to available information, the latter used Khrizman's apartment for temporary residence.

– Adolf Petrovich Andreychenko, born in 1938, resides in the village of Dibrova and receives parcels from Canada, which he sells at high market prices.

– Petr Aleksandrovich Ignatyuk, born in 1920, a resident of the village of Cheremoshnya, receives parcels from England delivered to the poste restante.

During the investigation of operational contingents located in the immediate vicinity of the USSR Ministry of Defence "Long Distance Radio Centre," a repatriate from Korea, Yu-Wan-Tso, has been living there since 1982 and working in a forestry department. His investigation is currently underway.

When identifying operational contingents from the police, DOSAAF, GO, and RVC, which could be used as targets by enemy intelligence services and foreign anti-Soviet centres, it was established that some of them have relatives abroad, and some abuse their official positions. In 1986–87 alone, seven people were dismissed from the Polessiye District Department of Internal Affairs, and criminal cases were opened against two of them.

There are two parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the district: in the urban-type settlement of Polessiye and in the village of Volchkov, where Priest A.A. Kharkovsky previously

made politically harmful and offensive statements; his correspondence is monitored through the "PC."

The former Evangelical Christian Baptist community, numbering over 60 people, moved to the Baryshevsky district due to evacuation.

A new Evangelical Christian Baptist community, approximately 60 people, was registered in the urban-type settlement of Vilcha in June of this year. There are two groups of dissenting Baptists in the village of Denisovichi and the urban-type settlement of Vilcha, which have intensified their activities after the Chernobyl explosion and maintain contact with reactionary-minded individuals living in other regions, targets of operational monitoring.

Data has been received indicating interest in background radiation, spectral analysis of soil, water, human blood, animal meat (both domestic and wild), and so-called burial sites where contaminated equipment is disposed of.

In their efforts to undermine the Soviet economy, enemy intelligence may focus on operational contingents, some of which are working at national economic facilities.

In order to study the situation in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident zone, they are attempting to infiltrate the specialist and support units involved in the clean-up efforts.

In their ideological sabotage, foreign anti-Soviet and nationalist centres are using sectarian groups and recruiting young people into them.

Based on an analysis of the operational situation in the Polesseye region, the following counterintelligence tasks must be addressed:

- studying individuals maintaining contacts with foreigners, identifying enemy agents among them, and suppressing any hostile activities they may be conducting;
- timely detection and prevention of potential negative developments at national economic facilities aimed at undermining the Soviet economy, including at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant facilities from the encirclement position and units involved in the aftermath of the accident;
- identifying the intentions of enemy intelligence services and foreign anti-Soviet centres against the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Civil Defence, and the district military commissariat;
- studying processes occurring among church members and sectarians, identifying individuals inciting religious fanaticism and conducting religious activities disguised as religious dogma;
- searching for illegal agents and identifying state criminals among individuals arriving to live in the area and 30-kilometer zone of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

The district's forested areas include the Polesseye Forestry Department, which could be used by the enemy for the deployment of sabotage and reconnaissance groups or for hiding bandit-nationalist groups. The most likely drop areas are the area bounded by the settlements of Vilcha, Dibrova, Grezlya, Poleskoye, Martynovichi, Denisovichi, Zelenaya Polyana, Novy Mir, the Yakovets farmstead, and Lubyanka. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and a USSR Ministry of Defence facility are located in close proximity to these areas, which are of interest to enemy intelligence agencies and could be targeted for destruction using sabotage groups.

In addition, the enemy's intentions may be aimed at destroying or sabotaging the Vilcha railway station.

To carry out counterintelligence tasks in the Polessyie district, there are 32 agents, 1 resident, 37 trusted persons, 4 safe houses, 5 safe houses, 10 recruitment candidates, and 25 candidates for recruitment as special period agents.

Counterintelligence work in the Polessyie urban-type settlement and the district is carried out by: Major B.P. Nepomnyashchikh, senior detective of the Polessyie regional department of the KGB, and Lieutenant P.M. Panchenko, detective.

Head of the Polessyie regional department of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR for the city of Kiev and the Kiev region

Lieutenant Colonel V.E. Gorovenko