

Information on the radiation situation in the city of Slavutych and other settlements of the Kiev region

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Secret

Regarding the radiation situation in the city of Slavutych and some other settlements in the Kiev region

The Special Department of the KGB of the USSR for the Kiev Military District has received information indicating that the city of Slavutych and some other settlements in the Kiev region are experiencing an unfavourable, dangerous situation for permanent residence, caused by elevated gamma background radiation, the average level of which ranges from 2 to 28 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$.

Thus, the 1039th Scientific Centre of the USSR Ministry of Defence investigated two forest radioactive contamination spots in the areas adjacent to the city of Slavutych, delimited by an isoline with a gamma background level of 1 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$.

One spot, 500 meters east of the city, is oval-shaped, with a total area of 50 hectares; the other, 3 km west of the city, is near water intake wells, with an area of approximately 60 hectares. The maximum gamma background at the eastern spot is 1.9 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, and at the western spot, 1.6 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ (according to DP-58).

Measurements within the city limits showed that in areas with cleared forest, gamma radiation levels were 0.15-0.50 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, while in areas with small remaining forest areas (parks, small groves) they were 1.0-1.2 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$. Near the windows of residential buildings in the Estonian Suburb: the gamma radiation exposure level at the first-floor level was 1.1 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, and at the fifth-floor level, 1.8 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$. According to the "Temporary Permissible Standards" of the USSR Ministry of Health (No. 32/1747-DSP dated July 9, 1987), the temporary permissible exposure dose rate in the territory of rotational camps from the external surfaces of buildings (outside the 30-km zone) is 2 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$.

In order to reduce the gamma radiation level in the city of Slavutych for safe habitation, the 1039th Scientific Centre of the USSR Ministry of Defence recommended replacing the preserved forest areas with new, fast-growing plantings within the city, clear-cutting the forest in the area of both radioactive contamination spots within the isoline greater than 1 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, and removing litter and soil to a depth of 10 cm within the cleared forest area.

As established in a conversation with Colonel N.P. Gordeev, head of the USSR Ministry of Defence's Scientific Centre, the radiation assessment of the site chosen for the city's construction was carried out by specialists from the State Hydrometeorological Committee of the USSR and Ukrainian SSR, the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy, and the Dosimetry Monitoring Directorate of the Production Association "Combinat." The assessment was superficial and of poor quality.

Currently, these organisations are exaggerating the true state of affairs in every possible way, insisting that settlement in the city is safe and will not adversely affect human health.

However, it is sufficient to note that the report of September 20, 1987, on the radiation situation in the area of the city of Slavutych, which was under construction and signed by representatives of the aforementioned institutions, does not mention the need to remove areas of contaminated forest and soil. This report was used as the basis for deciding whether to resettle the city.

The radiation situation remains challenging in certain settlements in the Kiev region. During the certification of 45 settlements in the Polesie, Ivankov, and Chernobyl districts by specialists from the USSR Civil Defence Special Department, elevated radiation levels dangerous for permanent habitation were detected in 38 of them. The situation is particularly unfavourable in the village of Yasen in the Polesie district, where the gamma radiation level is up to 25 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, and the contamination of the outer clothing of the population, including children, with radioactive elements is many times higher than the permissible limit.

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