

Agent's message about the problems of people living in the exclusion zone

June 21, 1989

Secret

On June 8-9, the agent was in the 30-kilometer zone in the villages of Ilyintsy, R-Ilynetskaya, Razyezzheye, Spichanka, Andreyevka, and Terekhov. The status of these villages has not yet been resolved. 230 people live in Ilyintsy, 100 of whom are able-bodied. They work in the village of Dibrova (Kuibyshev Coal Plant, chaired by Romanchenko) at various jobs. The work is casual.

In the village of Ilyintsy, residents are criticising the regional committee secretary, Revenko, the executive committee chairman, Plyushch, and the head of the environmental protection department, Andryushchenko, for not having fulfilled any of their requests, and for fearing to appear in their villages.

In all the villages, people are hostile toward officials, as well as toward any radiological examinations. They are asking to be left alone and allowed to allow relatives to visit. Medical care in the villages remains poor, transportation is non-existent, roads are closed, and approximately 1,500 people are effectively living outside the region.

A study of food products (milk, meat, vegetables) conducted by several organizations revealed no products contaminated above the maximum permissible level.

For example, milk and vegetable samples collected on March 8-9 revealed that milk had cesium-137 and 134 activity levels ranging from 37 to 289 Bq/L, while vegetables generally had levels no higher than 74-93 Bq/kg (the maximum permissible level is no more than 370 Bq/kg).

The background level in these villages ranges from 0.3 to 1.0 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$, and soil contamination is no more than 111,000,000,000 Bq/km² [111 GBq/km²]. A comparison in the Polesky District (Poleskoe urban-type settlement, Yasen village, and Shevchenkovo) reveals background levels 5–10 times higher, and soil contamination exceeds 555,000,000,000 Bq/km² [555 GBq/km²]. In the Vyshgorod district, in the villages of Lyubidva, Vakhovka, Bogdany, and Rykhta, milk is contaminated from 444 to 1,813 Bq/L (the maximum permissible level is 370 Bq/L).

There are children in all of these villages, and they are not being evacuated.

In the Polesie District alone, about ten villages have food contamination, gamma radiation and soil contamination higher than in the 30-km zone where the squatters live. And in these villages, children live, running barefoot in the dust, and there is virtually no way to move them out during the summer. The population of the 30-km zone knows all this.

The agent provides the names and addresses of people who want to send a delegation to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow with their complaints regarding the village of Ilyintsy.

They had previously written a letter to Gorbachev, but Andryushchenko from the regional executive committee responded. This (official) response is located in the village of Ilyinty. I list the names and addresses: Ilyinty village, Struk F.D., Lenina, 47; Korshak N.E., Lenina, 89; Yushchenko M.M., Lenina, 95; Antonenko I.D., Gagarina, 8; Korshak I.D., Chapayeva, 15; Shalorenko N.F., Franko, 2; Lozinsky A.N., Lenina, 47; Lozinskaya G.D., Lenina, 47.

All these people say that the village of Ilyinty and other villages were inspected by a group from Leningrad and Moscow, and they said that your village is cleaner than Moscow and Leningrad, and that it's perfectly safe for them to live. The source couldn't determine who these groups were.

Furthermore, the listed residents said that, according to reports, land reclamation had already been carried out and money had been paid, but the soil around the villages hadn't been recultivated at all. They are asking for an official from the regional executive committee or the regional party committee to come and talk to them.

They said Andryushchenko showed up and ran away, didn't talk to the residents or listen to them, but instead intimidated them and repeated that they needed to be evacuated immediately.

The agent had previously outlined the residents' main complaints, but they have not yet been addressed.