

Report on the impact of the level of radiation contamination on the operational situation in the Polessiya District

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Secret

On the Impact of Radiation Contamination Levels on the Operational Situation in the Polessky District of the Kiev Region

In populated areas of the Polessky District of the Kiev Region, military personnel of the Kiev Military District, as well as workers from construction organisations of the Oblremstroy Trust, are continuing decontamination of areas contaminated by the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident.

Roofs, fences, and topsoil are being replaced, and the least contaminated soil areas are being repopulated.

However, the radiation situation in the area has not changed significantly. According to the district sanitary and epidemiological station, gamma radiation levels in populated areas remain high (up to 7.5 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$). Radionuclide concentrations in agricultural products and feed also exceed temporarily permissible levels (TPL - 88).

According to experts, the main reasons for the low effectiveness of decontamination efforts are:

- the high density of radioactive contamination throughout the Polesie district and adjacent territories of the Narodichi (Zhytomyr region), Narovlya (Belarusian SSR) districts, as well as the 30-kilometer zone of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant;
- the prevailing wind direction from the aforementioned areas to Polesie, resulting in the introduction of radioactive isotopes along with dust and precipitation;
- decontamination work is carried out only in populated areas (and then selectively), without affecting adjacent territories;
- the thickness (up to 10 centimetres) of the replaced soil, which, furthermore, is being carried out in the most contaminated areas, where the radionuclide contamination exceeds 1,480,000,000,000 Bq/km² [1.48 TBq/km²];
- failure to comply with the Order of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR No. 4125/24 of April 27, 1989 and the Decision of the Government Commission No. 8 of June 6, 1989 on the allocation of equipment (loaders, cranes, bulldozers, excavators, etc.) from other regions of the Ukrainian SSR for the work;
- the unsatisfactory condition of "burial sites" for contaminated vehicles, equipment, and waste. The disposal sites for excavated soil, biomass, roof debris, and similar materials are constructed like storage facilities for the feed of the livestock, which is not reliable. There are no instructions for equipping these sites.

The current situation has been repeatedly discussed at joint meetings of the district's party and Soviet bodies with representatives of civil defence forces and research institutes, as well as other interested organizations and institutions (the Combine Production Association, Hydromet, the Radiology Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, etc.), which

ultimately determine specific decisions. However, measures aimed at fundamentally improving the radiation situation in the district have not been developed.

At the most recent such meeting, attended by:

- Major General L.A. Beskorovayny, Commander of the 2nd Sector;
- Lieutenant General Bondarchuk, Chief of Staff of the Civil Defence of the Ukrainian SSR;
- Comrade Skripnik, Director of the Hydrometeorological Service of the Ukrainian SSR;
- Samoilov, Head of the Operational Group of the USSR Civil Defence Production Association "Combinat";
- Representatives of the Radiology Research Institute of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences –

Similar issues were raised, but no concrete measures have been developed.

Given the increasing incidence of diseases in the region, especially endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, oncological, and some other diseases, the need to provide medical institutions with qualified personnel is increasing. As of July 1, 1989, the medical staff was short of more than 50 employees.

The above, as well as other facts we have previously reported, do not contribute to a reduction in moral and psychological tension among the district's population, but rather lead to its increase. The flow of letters, signed by hundreds of people, to various authorities and printed media continues unabated.

At enterprises and organisations, pockets of social tension are emerging everywhere, potentially escalating into group-wide negative manifestations. There are instances of direct unhealthy statements directed at party and Soviet bodies of the district, region, republic, and the USSR.

The district police department's operational staff, with the help of agents and trusted individuals, monitors and influences the situation in the district, taking necessary measures to prevent and contain negative sentiments among the population.

Head of the Polesie Regional Department of the Ukrainian State Security Committee for the city of Kiev and Kiev Region
Lieutenant Colonel V.V. Kondratyuk