

Report on the shortcomings in the conduct of decontamination work in Kiev during 1988–1989

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Secret

Regarding the shortcomings of decontamination work in Kiev in 1988-1989

The KGB Directorate of the Ukrainian SSR for Kiev and Kiev Region is implementing measures to ensure reliable operational monitoring of the environmental and radiation situation in the city in order to identify potential deterioration factors. As a result, data has been obtained indicating certain shortcomings in the decontamination work carried out in Kiev in 1988-1989.

Since 1987, the Kirov Production and Geological Association (PGO "Kirovgeologiya" of the USSR Ministry of Geology) has been conducting radiometric surveys of radioactive contamination sites in Kiev for the purpose of decontamination and improving the ecological and radiation situation in the city.

The identification of radioactive "hot spots" was carried out in accordance with the "Control Levels of Gamma Radiation Dose Rate and Surface Contamination with Beta-Emitting Radionuclides" (approved by the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Kiev on June 1, 1989).

According to the "Control Levels..." for open city surfaces and the exterior surfaces of buildings, levels should be no more than 0.65 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ and 200 beta particles/min/cm². For preschool institutions and schools, levels should be no more than 0.2 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ and 20 beta particles/min/cm² indoors, and 0.4 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ and 50 beta particles/min/cm² outdoors.

Specialists from the Kirovgeology Production and Geotechnical Organization (PGO) conduct a survey of the territories using the appropriate methodology, and map out identified hotspots, which they submit to the City Sanitary and Epidemiological Station (GorSES).

In turn, City Sanitary and Epidemiological Station specialists prepare methodological recommendations for decontamination and send them to district executive committees and territorial civil defence headquarters for implementation. Decontamination is considered complete when its effectiveness is documented by a specialist from the Kirovgeologiya Industrial and Epidemiological Station.

As of January 1, 1990, 650 of the 779 preschool institutions in Kiev had been inspected (the inspection of the remaining 129 will be completed in 1990).

Of the 650 preschool institutions surveyed, contamination in the courtyards of 565 preschools was identified and required decontamination. However, only 66 were decontaminated in 1988–1989. The most unfavourable situation was in the Minsk district of Kiev, where none of the 69 preschools slated for decontamination had completed the required work. A similar attitude on the part of the relevant services toward these issues was observed in the Dneprovsky, Kharkovsky, Shevchenkovsky, and Leninsky districts.

Furthermore, during the survey of the city's "open" areas (streets, sidewalks, etc.), specialists from the Kirovgeologiya Industrial and Geophysical Organization issued 396 orders to district executive committees and civil defence headquarters to conduct decontamination work in areas where radioactive contamination anomalies were detected.

In 1988-1989, 286 areas were decontaminated (another 110 are subject to decontamination). This issue is not receiving sufficient attention in the Minsk and Vatutinsky districts, where not a single one of 16 and 13 areas, respectively, was decontaminated during the specified period. Progress on these issues is slow in the Pechersky and Leningradsky districts of the city.

The problem of radiometric survey and decontamination of the city's "closed" areas, i.e., the sites of factories, plants, and other industrial facilities, remains pressing. According to specialists from the City Sanitary and Epidemiological Station and the Kirovgeology Industrial and Geophysical Organization, this issue can be quickly resolved using existing resources, which acquired certain skills during 1988-1989 and do not require training or preparation. One proposed option is the creation of a single industrial contribution fund under the City Executive Committee to finance these efforts.

An analysis of the available and obtained data, taking into account the increased public interest in the ecological and radiation situation in the city and the urgency of improving living conditions, allows us to conclude that it is necessary to intensify the activities of the relevant city services in the spring and summer of 1990 to restore order in this area with the definition of deadlines and measures of responsibility not only for City Sanitary and Epidemiological Station specialists, but also for employees of district executive committees and territorial civil defence headquarters, as the direct executors of the work.

This has been reported to the Kiev City and Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

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