

Information about social problems in the city of Slavutych

October 14, 1990

Secret

Regarding the situation in Slavutych

In September of this year, the KGB Directorate of the Ukrainian SSR for Kiev and Kiev Region, through its KGB capabilities, continued to study the situation in Slavutych and monitor its developments.

As of October 1, 1990, the city's population was 15,900, including 5,820 children, 6,640 of whom were Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (CNPP) workers and their families.

Housing remains one of the city's most pressing and intractable social problems, with a waiting list of 3,095 people, including 317 Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (CNPP) workers.

This month, 12 apartments in the Bakinsky, Moskovsky, and Tallinn districts were identified as requiring major repairs due to poor construction and finishing work. The already challenging housing situation was somewhat exacerbated by the fact that a 50-apartment building was transferred to Construction and Installation Department No. 6 of the USSR Ministry of Atomic Energy (Zholtse Vody, Dnepropetrovsk Region) to serve as a dormitory for invited construction specialists.

In September, 43 orders were issued to Chernobyl NPP personnel and 62 to employees of city organisations and services.

The state of construction remains unchanged.

According to experts, the failure of construction companies to meet quarterly plans for housing, social and cultural facilities, and industrial zones is one of the factors negatively impacting the city's situation. The clear trend toward increasing construction delays will inevitably lead to the failure of city-centre facilities (sports complex, indoor market, special communications building, art school, cinema, etc.) to be built in the coming years.

Along with the fact that approximately 280 people (mostly second family members) cannot find jobs in their specialties, a number of city organisations and services are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers and specialists (ORS - 75 people, ATP-1 - 12 people, the bread factory - 24, MPKH - 25, CMSH - 126-82). Employment issues have not been resolved for approximately 180 of the 260 employees of the ATP, scheduled for dissolution in mid-November of this year.

The situation at the Slavutychatomenergostroy Trust (SPP) remains uncertain. This is primarily due to a chronic shortage of building materials.

At the same time, a critical transport situation has developed. Only one concrete-mix truck is being used for the city's construction, and there are not enough trucks and cranes. The lack of vehicles is due to the fact that the leadership of the USSR Ministry of Atomic Energy

transferred the equipment to other sites, citing the upcoming transfer of the Smolensk Nuclear Power Plant Trust to the Zheltovodsk Construction Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Atomic Energy (Zholtye Vody, Dnepropetrovsk Region).

During the process of transferring the trust to the Zheltovodsk Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Energy and Industry, it was decided to reduce the management staff by 50%, as the salary overrun in this category amounted to more than 100,000 roubles. At the same time, due to low salaries for the trust's specialists and the lack of housing, staff turnover has reached 40% since the beginning of the year. There are 450 people on the housing register at the Smolensk Nuclear Power Plant, who will be assigned to the Zheltovodsk Directorate. To avoid conflict, a bilateral decision was made by the workforce to provide benefits to the Smolensk Nuclear Power Plant trust employees.

The situation in the construction teams of the Armenian SSR and Azerbaijan SSR is normal; no data on the preconditions for the emergence of negative manifestations has been received.

Currently, 42 people are employed at the construction site of Construction and Management Unit No. 6 of the Armaviastroy Trust, including 24 people of Armenian nationality. Completion of the construction of four cottages and landscaping of the area is scheduled for November of this year.

Azslavutichstroy Construction and Management Unit employs 38 people, including 19 Azerbaijanis. Construction of a 60-apartment building by Azerbaijani builders is proceeding extremely slowly due to a lack of supplies of building materials. There is a shortage of building materials needed for major repairs in 58 apartments, where serious construction defects were previously discovered.

The lack of a positive decision on additional payments related to living in a radiation-contaminated area continues to negatively impact city residents.

The continued construction of a subsidiary farm on the lands of the Kotsyubinsky State Farm, which is located in a contaminated area, and the protracted resolution of the issue of further decontamination work in the city's neighbourhoods and adjacent areas is problematic. The significantly deteriorated supply of fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, furniture, and other items to the city, compared to last year, is alarming.

According to medical statistics, out of the 1,130 children examined who were evacuated from Prip'yat and living in Slavutych, 136 require ongoing medical observation, and 917 have persistent abnormalities and require systematic preventive health care. Cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases are prevalent among the city's residents.

There have been no significant changes in the radiation situation in the city and surrounding areas.

In September of this year, radiation situation maps were received and published by the Operational Group (OG) of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology. The maps were based on aerial measurements conducted by the Moscow Experimental and Methodological

Cosmoaerological Expedition (MOMKAGE) in 1989–1990. The maps show zones of external radiation dose rates and the levels of radioactive contamination in the areas. A radiation situation document was compiled for the city's residents.

The document, signed by the heads of the USSR State Hydrometeorological Committee, the USSR Ministry of Health, the USSR Ministry of Atomic Energy, the USSR Ministry of Forestry, and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, is based on the conclusions of specialists from these agencies and confirms that the radiation situation in the city of Slavutych and the surrounding area is characterised by the following indicators.

The average gamma radiation dose rate in the city is 0.15 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, reaching up to 0.6 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ in individual spots covering several square meters.

The gamma radiation dose rate in the city area averages 0.45 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$, reaching 1.2-1.3 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ in certain forested areas in the eastern and western "spots."

The average cesium-137 contamination density in the area around Slavutych (in areas unaffected since the accident) is 118,400,000,000 Bq/km² [118.4 GBq/km²].

Within the city itself, in areas where soil was removed during construction and decontamination, cesium-137 contamination levels do not exceed 37,000,000,000 – 55,500,000,000 Bq/km² [37.0-55.5 GBq/km²]. Maximum contamination levels are observed in the forested area adjacent to the city to the west and east, reaching 555,000,000,000 Bq/km² [555 GBq/km²] for cesium-137. Strontium-90 contamination density averages approximately 22,200,000,000 Bq/km² [22.2 GBq/km²], reaching maximum values of up to 74,000,000,000 Bq/km² [74 GBq/km²] in localised areas of increased contamination (plutonium-239, 240, up to 1,480,000,000 Bq/km² [1.48 GBq/km²]).

According to personal dosimetry data, external radiation doses for most city residents are 0.5-0.6 mSv, and for construction workers, up to 0.8-1.0 mSv.

The internal radiation dose estimate is based on the assumption that Slavutych is supplied centrally, and the contribution of locally produced food to the residents' diet is insignificant.

Studies of locally produced foods, particularly forest products, have shown elevated radionuclide levels. Therefore, increased consumption of products from the Kotsiubynsky State Farm's subsidiary plot and private farms, as well as wild fruits, berries, and mushrooms, will lead to increased radiation doses for the population of Slavutych.

According to the external dosimetry laboratory of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant's radiation safety department and the All-Union Research Institute of Nuclear Power Plants (VNIIAES, Moscow), the radionuclide content of mushrooms collected in local forests adjacent to the town of Slavutych is approximately 740 Bq/kg, which corresponds to the maximum values of the "Temporarily Permissible Contamination Standards for Food Products" (TPS-90). Individual measurements recorded values of 90,650 Bq/kg.

In accordance with paragraph 9.5 of the "General Sanitary Rules" (OSP 72/87), a product with such a concentration should be considered solid radioactive waste and must be disposed of in a "repository."

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the population is actively consuming mushrooms collected in the immediate vicinity of the city.

Experts believe it is necessary to conduct a 100% screening of the entire population of Slavutych using an SBC device and conduct educational outreach. At the end of September, a series of programs featuring leading radiation safety experts aired on local television, and SBC screening of children attending preschools has begun.

According to the Slavutych City Department of Internal Affairs, 14 criminal cases were opened in September of this year, 13 of which were opened by the Criminal Investigation Department and one by the Economic Crimes and Social Protection Department. Twenty-seven people were brought to administrative responsibility for various offenses, 11 of which were Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant workers.

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