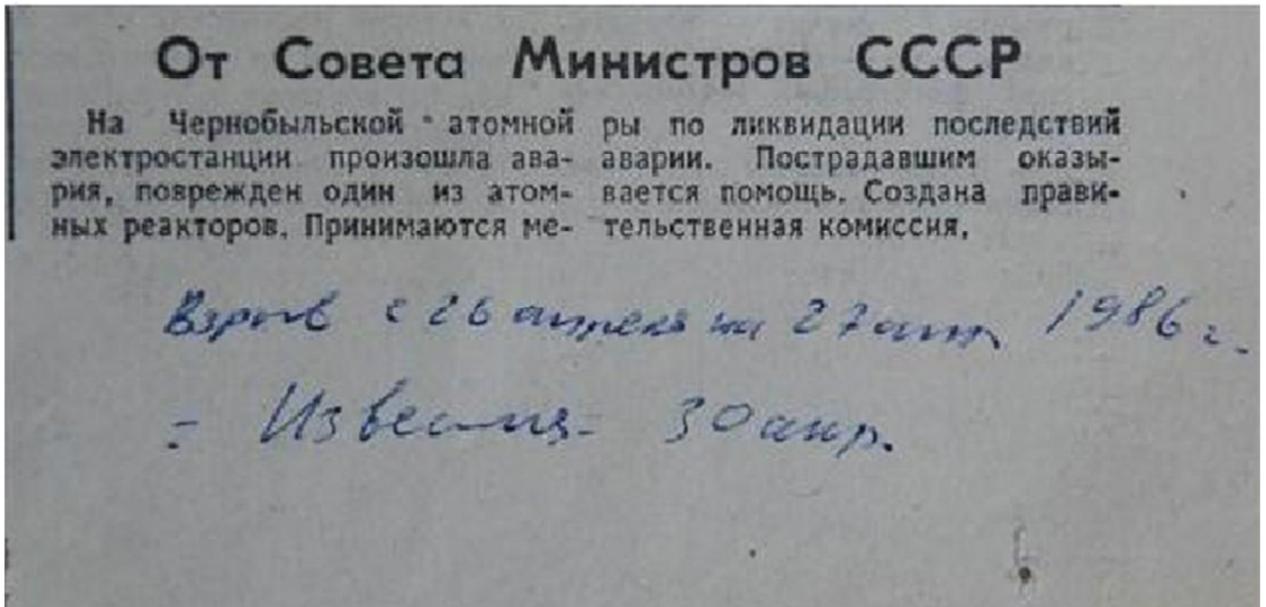


Elena Sermaksheva and Tanja Shmarlovskaya, both of them from Minsk in Belarus, worked on this contribution. They present the present the first announcement about the Chernobyl catastrophe from the news agency TASS and two following articles from the newspaper Pravda.

Elena Sermaksheva:

News (30th April 1986):



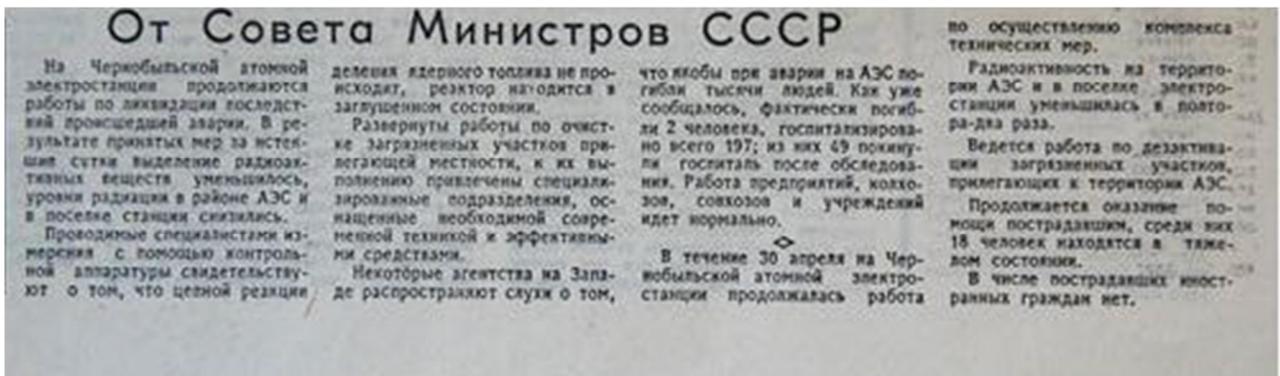
"FROM THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS"

On the Chernobyl NPP there was an accident, one of nuclear reactors is damaged. Measures on liquidation of consequences of accident are taken. The help appears for the victims. The governmental commission is created. "

Tanja Shmarlovskaya:

Pravda (1st May 1986):

The first report on the Chernobyl accident in the Belarusian newspaper was in the newspaper "Pravda" (which literally "True") on first of May:



“At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant work is continuing in the aftermath of the accident. As a result of measures taken over the past day the allocation of radioactive substances has decreased, the radiation levels around nuclear power station and in the village Prip'yat declined.

Conducted by specialists measurements using monitoring equipment showed that the fission chain reaction of nuclear fuel does not occur, the reactor is in the OFF state.

Initiated work to clean up contaminated sites adjacent areas, to their implementation annotated specialized units equipped with necessary modern equipment and efficient way. Some agencies in the West are spreading rumors that the accident killed thousands of people. As previously reported, in fact, killed 2 people, hospitalized 197 total, out of which 49 have left the hospital after the test. The work of enterprises, collective and state farms, and institutions are going well.

During the 30 April at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, work on the implementation of the technical measures continued.

Radioactivity in nuclear power plant and in the village fell in half to two times. The work is being done for decontamination of contaminated sites adjacent to the territory of the plant. Continue to provide assistance to the victims, among them 18 people were in serious condition. There is no people's foreign national among the affected. “

Pravda (4th May 1986):



“During the May, 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant the complex of measures to address the consequences of the accident continued, the remediation of the 4th nuclear power plant units continues.

Allocation of radioactive substances continues to decline. Radiation situation in the territories of Ukraine and Belarus is stabilized with a tendency to its improvement. The population has been evacuated from the 30-km zone and independently employed temporarily to other plants, collective farms.”