

Dita Betere from Balvi and Laura Lapina from Riga in Latvia are responsible for the contribution. Dita presents an article from the newspaper "Cina", which was published on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1986. Laura investigated the newspaper "Dabra Uzvara" (Victory of Work) and found an article about Chernobyl in the number from 17<sup>th</sup> May 1986.

Dita Betere:

Cīņa (8<sup>th</sup> May 1986)

**Sakarā ar notikumiem Černobiļas atomelektrostacijā**

**PSRS ĀM preses centrā**

Mūsu planētas attīstīšana un kodolenerģijas atklāšana ir ļoti sarežģīti un nopietni darbi. Tādēļ mūsu rīcībā ir jābūt visaugstākai uzmanībai un atbildībai. Par to mēs esam gatavi darīt visu, lai nodrošinātu cilvēku drošību un vides tīrību. Černobiļas atomelektrostacija ir izveidota ar visiem nepieciešamajiem drošības pasākumiem, un mēs esam pārliecināti, ka tā nodrošinās drošu enerģijas ražošanu.

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**MŪSU PLANĒTA — 86**

**PSRS delegācijas ieršanās uz Ženēvas sarunām**

Zenāva ir vieta, kur notiek starptautiskie sarunātieši par vides aizsardzību un enerģijas ražošanu. Mūsu delegācija ir gatava diskutēt par visiem jautajumiem, kas saistīti ar Černobiļas atomelektrostacijas drošību un vides tīrību.

**SPORTS**

**PSRS izlase Rīgā**

PSRS sporta izlase ir gatava piedalīties starptautiskajās sacensībās Rīgā. Mūsu sportisti ir gatavi parādīt savu labāko sniegumu un cīnīties par godalgiem.

The rapid progress of science and technologies can bring not only good things, because nothing, neither space orbits, ocean, nor nuclear energy, can be explored without tragic losses.

And the Chernobyl accident which painfully reverberates in millions of people hearts reminds us of that. The Soviet Union announced about that to our nation and many governances and international organizations on the 6th of May in press conference that was held in Moscow where local and foreign journalists also took part.

In the begining of press conference First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs A.Kovaljovs reminded journalists that in the soviet press reports which contains correct information are regularly published by USSR Council of Ministers. N. Rižkovs (Council of Ministers Chairman) end J.Liģačovs (CPSU secretary) visited the region of Chernobyl accident, got acquainted

with situation and now introduced everyone with the actions that are done to liquidate the consequences and help suffered people.

(now talks Kovaļkovs:)

Soviet union sincerely thanks for condolences and understanding from foreign countries and appreciates help that is given with good resolves. but on the other side many cookups (fictions) that are widely spread about the Chernobyl accident and that „pollutes the environment of information” obviously have hostile political aim against Soviet Union and our nation.

All developments connected with accident and it's liquidation strongly shows such soviet quality as sense of responsibility.

Ofcourse that, what happened in Chernobyl is a misfortune. But we can learn not only from achievements but also from disasters. We are not the first ones who suffered from an accident in a NPP, many other countries have experienced that. This proves how careful treatment nuclear energy demands. The usage of nuclear energy makes it unregulated.

In meeting that was held in Tokyo question about nuclear safety also was discussed and we recieved reproaches about the information we gave. this reproach is not true. As soon as we got save facts, they were immediantly reported. We didn't make guesses but were based on the opinions of the best experts and gadgets. We more focused to give proper, thought-out, objective, in one word – honest information.

Experience from prevoius days revealed an important thing – operating hysteria as always is leaded and organised by the USA. They spread lies and fact falsification because they want to destroy international confidence.

The lesson that we learnt from this accident reminds us the hazrd that hides in nuclear weapons (*now follows a speach that shows Soviet Union as a big supporter of forbiding nuclear weapons*)

(After Kovaļkovs has spoken, speaks B. Ščerbina who gives detailed information about how accident happened and explains the reason:)

The council of Ministers (USSR) made a working party thats task was to make actions in order to liquidate the consequences of accident and to find out the reasond why accident happened. Scientists, leaders of ministries and experts took part in this working party. Chemical Protection Element and security staff soon were there and helicopters and other technical materials also were delivered. The condition of situations was strongly watched after in all times. Thanks to those actions situation in Chernobyl became stable. After gained data about radioactive contamination, the radiation level didn't go over the allowed security rate that was defined by International Nuclear Energy Agency and USSR Health ministry. The only place where rate was higher than it should be was in territory that was close connected with the place of accident (*I didn't invent this sentence, that person really said so*). There the radiation level was 10-15 mm roentgen per hour. And on the 5<sup>th</sup> May the level of radiation even reduced two three times. Water objects and reservoir of Kiev are regularly measured and dangerous concentration of radioactive substances isn't detected.

2 people died in the accident and more than 100 people are badly wounded but they all were carried to Moscow where they received good medical help from professors Geils and Taraski who arrived from United States.

All inhabitants from endangered area (30km) are evacuated and medical help is given. They all are provided with job.



All together on May 31<sup>st</sup> *Latvia's linen* would produce goods worth 120 000 rubles and 9000 rubles would be donated to "Chernobyl fund"<sup>1</sup>

The call of heart

Inhabitants and enterprises are donating money to the "Chernobyl fund" in all the branches of the bank of government. Also lots of people who feel the disaster as their own pain have been calling to suggest new ways how to help the victims of accident and many have offered to give shelter to the children of Pripet for the summer holidays. All of this confirms the solidarity of our great soviet nation.

Sincere "thank you" to every comrade for your compassion and nobleness. Your suggestions will be forwarded to executive board of Chernobyl region.

Some comrades have offered to send toys, children clothing, shoes and other things to Pripet. However such help is not necessary- the government has already taken care of the well-being of the children from the affected zone.

*After the request of the journalists of "Victory of work" their fees for this issue are to be donated to "Chernobyl fund" as well.*

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<sup>1</sup> Both articles do not mention the accident as potentially dangerous to the citizens outside of Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic and does not explain the accident more.