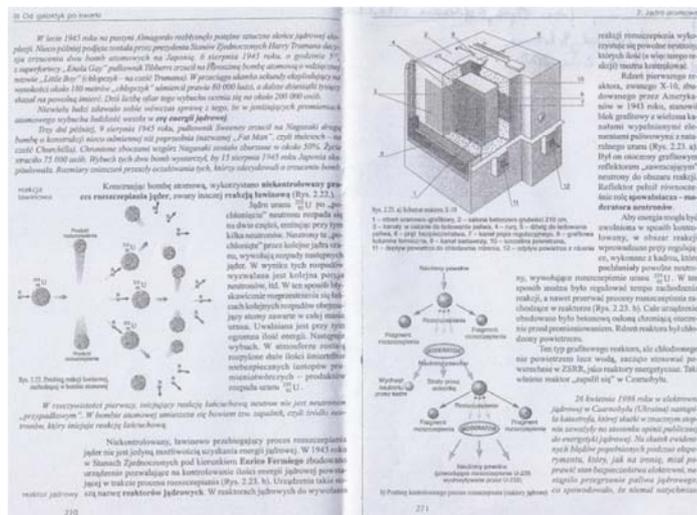


Michał Przeperski from Sopot in Poland presents in his contribution two high school Physics school books and a Biology school book for junior high school, where he found references to the Chernobyl issue.

1.



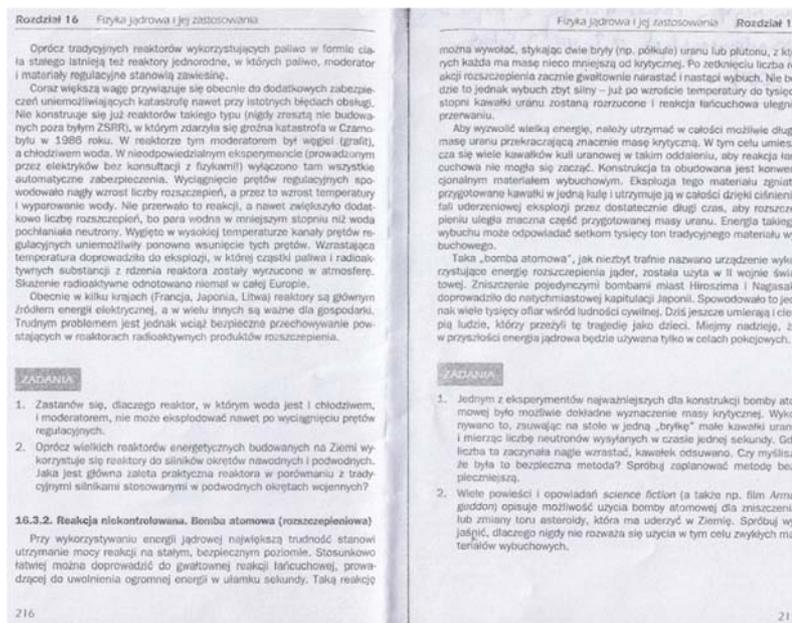
K. Chyla, A. Warczak, B. Warczak, *Fizyka z astronomią [Physics with Astronomy]*, Bielsko Biala: Debit 2003, p.271-272. – High school textbook.

On 26th April 1986 in the nuclear plant in Chernobyl (Ukraine) the catastrophe took place, the outcomes of which become of a vital importance to the public opinion's attitude towards nuclear energy. As the effect of evident mistakes made during the experiment which, ironically, was supposed to en-

*hance security of the plant, the nuclear fuel reached too high temperature. It caused an almost immediate evaporation of the steam from the cooling circulation and the fire of graphite, lasting for ten days, started. Because of the destruction of badly made covers, the radioactive dusts got out and, together with the evaporating gases, reached destinations placed some hundreds of kilometers away from the plant. Having sloped down the dusts caused serious contamination. In the very moment of the catastrophe only three people were killed, yet during the next month some 28 firemen died because of having been exposed to the huge radiation. It is very hard today to even estimate the number of people who suffered because of the catastrophe because of a lack of reliable sources of information.*

It is worth noticing that the information about Chernobyl in this textbook is both quite comprehensive and added as a kind of additional information. That is visible in the fact that the whole text is written in italics and a different colour is used (which is not noticeable unfortunately, because I had to upload xerox copy).

2.

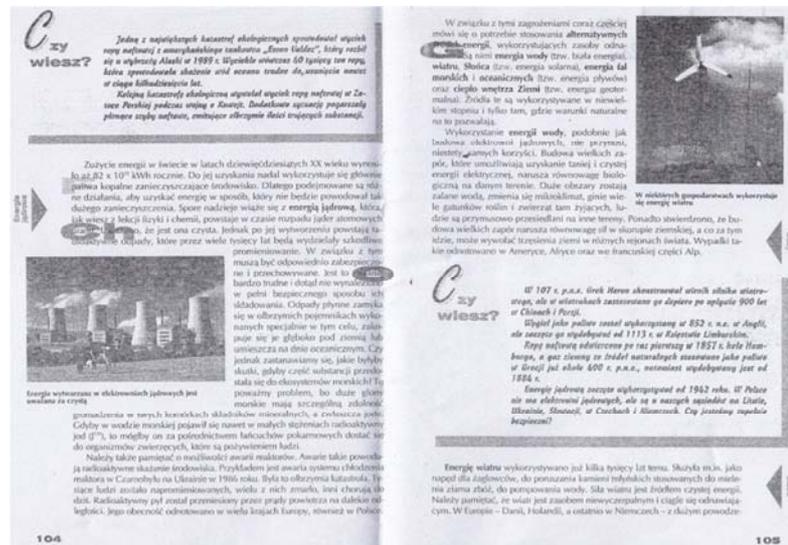


J.Salach (red.), *Wybieram Fizykę [I Choose Physics]*, Kraków: Zamkor 2007, p.216 – High School Textbook for the pupils especially interested in physics.

*More and more attention is paid nowadays to the additional security measures which would make the nuclear catastrophe even when some serious mistakes of the people were involved. The reactors of the type which was involved in the Chernobyl catastrophe are no longer built (they were actually never produced anywhere outside USSR). In that reactor carbon (graphite) served as the moderator and water served as a cooler. In the irresponsible experiment (conducted by the electricians without consultation with the physicians!) all the automatic security measures were turned off. Holding out of the regulatory bars led to the increase of the number of fissions and, by that, temperature increase and evaporation of the water. It did not interrupt the reaction but rather boost its pace,*

because steam absorbed less neutrons than water. The place for the bars in reactor was destroyed and that was why the bars could not have been put on their place again. Increasing temperature led to the explosion in which the particles of fuel and radioactive compounds were emitted to the atmosphere. Contamination was noted in the whole Europe.

3.



M.Kłyś, K.Żbikowska-Zdun, *Biologia dla Gimnazjum [Biology for Junior High School]*, cz.3, Warszawa: Nowa Era 2001, p.104 – Textbook for Junior High School Pupils

One has to remember about the possibility of the malfunction of nuclear reactor. Such malfunctions cause the radioactive contamination of environment. The malfunction of the cooling system of nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, Ukraine in 1986. It was a huge catastrophe. Thousands of people were exposed to the radiation, a lot of them died; others suffer from diseases till today. Radioactive dust was moved by the air drifts to the areas remote from the area close to Chernobyl. The presence of that dust was spotted in many countries all around Europe, also in Poland.