

clear power plant outside Kiev in Ukraine. "Help is being offered to the affected", the statement said, thereby indirectly revealing that the catastrophe has claimed victims.

The Soviet Union has not offered any insights as to when the disaster happened or how bad it is. According to Swedish experts, the accident must have happened between Friday morning and Sunday morning. Politiken's reporter in Stockholm, Henrik Kaufholz, confirms that the radioactive cloud over the Baltic Sea grew to ten times its size yesterday. This caused the Swedish authorities to alarm the population even though the level of radiation is not directly harmful. At first, the Swedish authorities feared that there had been an accident at the Forsmark nuclear power plant 100 kms north of Stockholm and evacuated the 600 people working there. However, the Swedish experts quickly found out that the radioactive cloud came from the other side of the Baltic Sea and the minister of energy, Brigitta Dahl, asked the Swedish embassy in Moscow to look into the matter. However, the Russian authorities "had no knowledge of a nuclear accident in the Soviet Union" at that time. Last night, Brigitta Dahl demanded more information. Erik de Geer from the Swedish military research institute said yesterday that the accident at Chernobyl must have been quite severe, "when we have received so much already".

LONG TERM DAMAGES

Even a light exposure to radioactivity can have serious long term health damages, an expert tells Politiken. "Therefore, I doubt that the accident in Chernobyl will not have any health consequences in Denmark," says Tarjei Haaland from OOA, the Organization of Information about Nuclear Power. There is no lower limit for long term damages, the so-called late-damages. We must also be aware that the risk is not over when the cloud drifts away. The radioactive fallout stays and will emit radiation for years. Also, we do not know if it is over or if there is more to come, Tarjei says. The nuclear physicist professor Ove Nathan says that the question of an international warning system must now be debated again. "It is unfair that there have been no warning. Radioactive clouds do not stop at the Iron Curtain. It would be a good idea if the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested admission to the damaged reactor for an expert group" Ove says. The Chernobyl power plant 130 kms North-west of Kiev consists of four reactors with 1000 megawatt each. Two of them are so-called light water cooled graphite moderated reactors, and they are according to Politiken's information, not covered by a shell of concrete.

THE GOVERNMENT DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION

"We need an explanation: Why were the Danish authorities not warned? This is highly unsatisfactory," says minister of environment, Christian Christensen. The Soviet nuclear accident reinforces Danish demands that Barsebäck only 20 kms from Copenhagen should be shut down. The minister of Environment met yesterday with representatives from DDR and nuclear power experts, discussing a warning agreement concerning the nuclear power plant Greifswald located only 100 kms from Denmark. If this agreement is signed, it will be the first warning agreement between an East Country and a West Country.

A NEW MEASUREMENT TODAY

The radioactive fallout over Finland and Sweden has now reached Denmark as well. A routine measurement yesterday confirms radioactive levels higher than usual. According to health expert at Risø, Svend Nielsen, is there no health risk yet. "The problem is that it is very difficult to measure fluctuations in radioactive levels. Therefore, we will initiate a new measurement tomorrow."

IODINE IS POPULAR

The four pharmacies in Copenhagen open 24/7 could Monday morning confirm an increased sale of iodine tablets. Eating iodine tablets can hinder the ingestion of radioactive iodine which can lead to cancer.