

Marica De Natale from Potenza in Italy presents the first article about the Chernobyl catastrophe in the newspaper "Corriere della Sera" from 29th April 1986.

Corriere della Sera (29th April 1986):



Title : " Accident at a nuclear reactor in the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, region of Kiev in Ukraine"

NUCLEAR DISASTER IN URSS

"Some victims", radiations arrived in Scandinavia

The emergency started on Sunday- Dragged by strong winds, the nuclear cloud moved toward Nord-West , investing mostly Finland- Skinny dispatch of the Tass - Aids for the victims, creation of a new Government Commission

Comment of the article

The article was published in the cover page of the newspaper. It starts with the clear expression “*Dramatic nuclear accident in a Soviet nuclear power plant*” in which the world “dramatic” suddenly shows the worrying but still not clear situation in Europe during the days after the accident. Reading this article suddenly seems that something terribly serious had happened in Ukraine but there were so many things that still continued to be hidden to the population. As the date of the article shows, the terribly new was spread only three days after the accident in spite of the deep gravity of the event. The journalist who wrote this article mainly stressed on the lack of information from the Soviet Government which still continued to have a vague and unclear position. In fact he says that the number of the victims, the quantity of dangerous radiations and the propagation of the cloud with all its effects in Europe were still inaccurate or misunderstood. Even the Civil and Military Soviet Authorities denied the accident saying, as it is written inside this article, “...if something serious had happened, we would have known it”. With this article, the journalist wants to make people aware about what was happening in Chernobyl and how the Government was lying in order to cover the accident. At the same time the journalist tries to go beyond the “nebulous” situation considering other parallel “signals” and personal intuitions also due to all the scientific and objective information that some European Monitoring Centers were clearly proving and spreading after the tragedy. In fact first the journalist underlines that the constitution of a Govern Commission represented a clear signal that the nuclear accident was none banal how the Authorities wanted people to believe; after this observation, he focuses his attention on all the radiation level surveys recorded from Sweden and Denmark. In Sweden, after the accident, the level of nuclear radiation in the air was six times higher than the average levels whereas in Denmark it was five times higher. Even some scientists first had thought that the cloud of radiation was maybe the result of a nuclear test, but the too high and worrying levels of radiation were demonstrating that it was certainly more than a simple experiment. The article ends with a comparison between the number of accident that happened in the USA only in 1979 and the lack of accident in URSS until that moment. In fact in the USA there were occurred about 2300 accident, failures and problems only in 1979 whereas the accident in Chernobyl was the first serious problem for the Soviet Government.



The little and circled paragraph inside the main article deals with the local situation in Italy. It is written that until that moment it hasn't been recorded an increasing and worrying level of radiation in the air but certainly the radioactive cloud would have reached Italy as soon as the winds would have blown toward our country. Then the ENEA engineer G. Naschi gives his own opinion about how the reactors in Chernobyl had been built. In fact he says that the four reactors hadn't the external protective covering and this was one of the reasons why the radiations suddenly reached an high concentration in the atmosphere. The little paragraph ends with an opened but also clear consideration: if the level of radiation in those days was really high, it meant that certainly the accident had occurred in the core of the reactor.

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Baltico, rilevazioni vengono di sulla natura e i rischi de- vietiche non ci abbiamo av- Il governo ha



STOCOLMA — Si controllano radiazioni sulle persone

Stockholm: control of radiation on people