

Nadya Sporysheva from Moscow and Julia Seeleva from Tomsk in Russia worked on this contribution. Nadya found a short article about Chernobyl in the "Pravda" from 2nd May 1986. In the number from 15th May, there was another article on the first page of the "Pravda". Julia presents two articles from the "Izvestia" from 30th April 1986.

Nadya Sporysheva:

Pravda (2nd May 1986):

In the soviet period the "Pravda" was the most important communist newspaper for the soviet people. I found that the article "FROM THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS" appeared in "Pravda" on May, 2 because the 1st May newspaper was completely dedicated to the Labor Day.



On May, 4 "Pravda" published a little bit more detailed article concerning the Chernobyl disaster. The article under the headline "Visit to the Chernobyl Region" reports that on May, 2 the member of the Communist party and the chairman of the Council of Ministers N. Ryzhkov and the secretary of the Communist party E. Ligachev visited the Chernobyl region. They got to know about the situation in this region and analyzed the measures, taken for the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, improvement of the situation and providing relief actions. It was pointed out that the liquidation of the consequences was well-organized and enough funds were obtained for this. It was decided that supplementary measures should be taken in this region. Ryzhkov and Ligachev visited the people evacuated from the Chernobyl region. They were interested in their new life, medical and food care, their employment assistance, the functioning of schools and kindergartens. The last paragraph deals with the names of the officials who arrived for a visit to the Chernobyl area. They were secretaries of the communist party, officials from the Council of Ministers. It was very important to give a considerable amount of space in this tiny article about the Chernobyl to the names of these officials. In conclusion it should be mentioned that first articles about the catastrophe did not appear on front pages and they were unnoticeable.



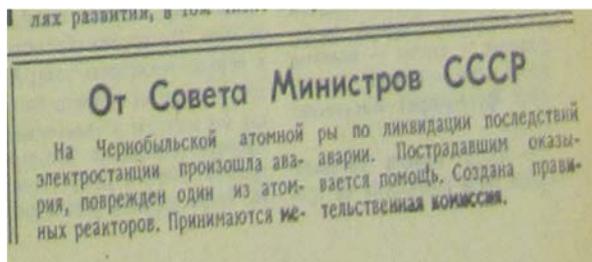
Julia Seeleva:

As we know the Chernobyl disaster was happened on 26th of April in 1986. But the Soviet government was very frightened and didn't know what they must do. So in this time the situation had been worse and worse with every hour. The Soviet Government didn't want public official news about so sad event. But they should do this. So....

Izvestia (30th April 1986):



All Soviet official newspapers wrote about Chernobyl on 30th of April 1986. (I take as example one of the official newspaper "Izvestia")



The first official report wasn't very informative. It includes these facts as: "On Chernobyl NPP was happened accident, was damaged one of the reactors. Measures for liquidation are taken. Help is given for injured persons. Governmental commission was created." That's all(((It was very official, drily.

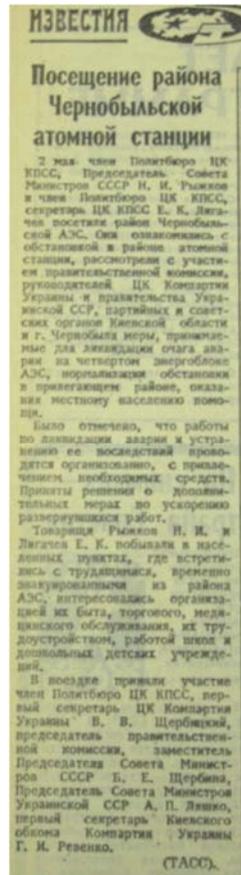
Interesting facts: Izvestia is daily newspaper. And every day before and some days after Chernobyl catastrophe, information about the atomic situation in the world were printed. For example information about nuclear accidents in USA and Great Britain were reported. This article was written in ironic style.

After first report about Chernobyl every day short information about situation the situation were printed. One of the issues was the rumors in Western Europe about the high number of dead people. But this is false and died only 2 men and 197 was in hospital(2th May). And words of commendation for official messages

with condolence from Argentina, India, Switzerland, Mexico, Greece.

I want to say that all information and articles in this period were written in official style. Not words with emotions or another feelings. They were very ideologically. Now when I read this reports which was full of unreal information. I can understand what mean that people in soviet period lived under Iron Curtain when they didn't know what happened in their country.

Izvestia (30th April 1986):



This message is about first visit to the Chernobyl region. Under this report, first official men of USSR and Ukraine SSR visited Chernobyl on 2nd of May 1986. They acquainted with the situation in region, considered which measures were taken for the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, improvement of the situation and providing relief actions. Liquidation of the consequences was well-organized and enough funds were obtained for this. It was decided that supplementary measures should be taken in this region. USSR "Prime minister" and secretary of Central committee Communistic party visited cities, towns and villages in Chernobyl region, met with people who were evacuated, interested about their lifestyle, trade and medical service, work, children education.

On 10th of April 1986 in Izvestia was written that in European mass media appeared information that products from USSR had been polluted. But USSR Government guaranteed that all goods and autos from USSR were not polluted and situation was under control.

Then on the 11th of April we can see report about press-conference which named "Chernobyl NPP: situation is stabilized". Where we can read about first reasons of disaster, visit IAEA, measures and future acts.

Then every day was printed information about Chernobyl and new facts. After two weeks Soviet citizens could see first photos from Chernobyl.