

АТОМНАЯ ЭНЕРГИЯ -- мирное
использование

RUSS - GIVE DETAILS OF MOBILE ATOMIC REACTOR

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N1 NEW YORK AUGUST 31 (RFE) THE AUGUST 31 ISSUE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES THIS REPORT BY THEODORE SHABAD FROM MOSCOW.

MOSCOW, AUG. 30 ¹⁹⁶⁴ -- THE SOVIET UNION GAVE DETAILS TODAY OF A MOBILE ATOMIC REACTOR PLANT MOUNTED ON SELF-PROPELLED TRACKED VEHICLES FOR USE IN SIBERIA, THE ARTIC AND OTHER REMOTE AREAS.

AN ARTICLE IN PRAVDA, THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, SAID THAT "SO FAR AS IS KNOWN" THE 1,500-KILOWATT UNIT WAS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS TYPE IN THE WORLD.

THE REACTOR HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS AT OBNINSK, AN ATOMIC RESEARCH CITY 60 MILES ^(100 KMS) ~~SOUTH~~WEST OF MOSCOW.

TODAY'S DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE REACTOR ARE PART OF A WAVE OF PUBLICITY ON THE SOVIET NUCLEAR PROGRAM. THE PUBLICITY IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING TOMORROW IN GENEVA OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. (TWO PARS GARBLED)

THE SOVIET MOBILE REACTOR DESCRIBED TODAY CONSISTS OF FOUR TRACKED VEHICLES. WEIGHING A TOTAL OF 350 TONS. THEY WERE SAID TO BE CAPABLE OF BEING TRANSPORTED ON FOUR RAILROAD FLAT CARS AND OF TRAVELING "HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS" CROSS COUNTRY.

AT AN OPERATING SITE THE REACTOR VEHICLE AND AN INTERCONNECTING POWER CONVERSION VEHICLE REQUIRE NATURAL SHIELDING OR MUST BE BURED UNDER CONCRETE AND EARTH TO GUARD AGAINST RADIATION.

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THE OTHER TWO VEHICLES, ONE CARRYING A STEAM TURBINE AND AN ELECTRICAL GENERATOR, THE OTHER EQUIPPED WITH A CONTROL BOARD, MAY BE PARKED IN THE OPEN AIR.

PRAVDA SAID THE COMPONENTS COULD BE QUICKLY CONNECTED UPON ARRIVAL AND PUT INTO OPERATION. AFTER THE REACTOR HAS BEEN STOPPED, THE NEWSPAPER SAID, THE INSTALLATION IS AGAIN READY TO MOVE WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

ACCORDING TO PRAVDA THE MOBILE REACTOR CONSUMES 14 GRAMS OF URANIUM 235 A DAY AND CAN OPERATE MORE THAN A YEAR WITHOUT A RECHARGE OF THE CORE.

THE REACTOR IS OF THE PRESSURIZED WATER TYPE ALSO USED IN CIVILIAN POWER PLANTS AND NAVAL REACTORS.

THE EXISTENCE OF THE MOBILE REACTOR HAD BEEN KNOWN, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A DETAILED DESCRIPTION HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET PRESS.

MOBILE REACTORS ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER AN ARMY PROGRAM AT THE NATIONAL REACTOR TESTING STATION IN IDAHO, WHERE A SMALL PROTOTYPE IS BEING TESTED.

IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH PRAVDA LAST WEEK. MR PETRUYSANTS DISCLOSED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A 750,000-KILOWATT BREEDER REACTOR PLANT OF AN ADVANCED TYPE THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO USE THE FULL POTENTIAL ENERGY AVAILABLE IN NUCLEAR FUELS.

A SIMILAR UNITED STATES INSTALLATION HAS AN ELECTRICAL CAPACITY OF 60,000 KILOWATTS. - LEN 0550164