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B-WIRE

14-JUN-86 23:04

USSR -- AGENCIES ON SOVIETS DECONTAMINATING ENTIRE TOWN  
BY ANNA CHRISTENSEN

MOSCOW, JUNE 14 (UPI) -- SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE CONDUCTING A MASSIVE EFFORT TO DECONTAMINATE AN ENTIRE TOWN ADJACENT TO THE CLOSED AREA AROUND THE CHERNOBYL REACTOR WHOSE 7,000 RESIDENTS WEREN'T EVACUATED BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS OF RELOCATION, A NEWSPAPER SAID SATURDAY.

THE NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA COMPLAINED ABOUT DELAYS IN PROVIDING EVACUEES WITH FOOD, WATER, CLOTHES AND LINENS, AND SAID TWO OFFICIALS WERE FIRED AND TWO OTHERS WARNED FOR "UNFORGIVEABLE IRRESPONSIBILITY AND SLACKNESS" IN PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH THE BASICS.

IZVESTIA DESCRIBED THE EFFORT TO DECONTAMINATE ALL THE BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN OF BRAGIN IN BYELORUSSIA, TO REMOVE AND BURY TOPSOIL, AND FIND NEW SOURCES OF WATER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA JUST ACROSS THE LINE OF THE 19-MILE (30 KM) CLOSED ZONE AROUND CHERNOBYL.

"OFFICIALS WERE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE TOWN IN WHICH SOME 7,000 PEOPLE LIVE, SHOULD THEY BE EVACUATED," IZVESTIA SAID. "BUT IT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE TO ACCOMODATE THOSE 7,000 IN THE DISTRICTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED MORE THAN 30,000 OF THE EVACUEES FROM THE 30 KILOMETER ZONE. IT WAS DECIDED TO DEACTIVATE THE TOWN WITHOUT EVACUATING PEOPLE."

NIGHTLY TELEVISION NEWS, VREMYA, DESCRIBED EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT A CONCRETE "REFRIGERATOR" UNDER THE FOURTH REACTOR, THAT EXPLODED APRIL 26, SENDING A RADIOACTIVE CLOUD ACROSS EUROPE. IT SAID MINERS CONTINUED TO MAKE A TUNNEL UNDER THE FOUNDATION OF THE REACTOR TO ENCASE IT AND KEEP RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION FROM SPREADING FROM THE UKRAINIAN POWER STATION 600 MILES (960 KM) FROM MOSCOW.

IN ONE OF THE MOST IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACING SOVIET AUTHORITIES, IZVESTIA DESCRIBED PROBLEMS SUCH AS KEEPING WATER RUNOFF AFTER A RAIN FROM CONTAMINATING RESERVOIRS, WATER OVERFLOWING FROM STREAMS, IRRIGATION AND ENTOMBING RADIOACTIVE GARBAGE AND EVEN COW MANURE, WHICH CONTAINS HIGHER LEVELS OF RADIATION THAN THE SURROUNDINGS.

"THE SECOND STAGE OF THE STRUGGLE HAS BEGUN TO SAVE FOOD PRODUCTS AND WATER FROM CONTAMINATION," IT SAID. "IT IS THE PROBLEM OF ALL PROBLEMS AND IT IS NOT SIMPLE, ESPECIALLY AS FAR AS WATER IS CONCERNED. RADIOACTIVE PARTICLES GOT INTO WATER RESERVOIRS."

IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS FACING OFFICIALS IN BRAGIN INCLUDED BURYING TOPSOIL, RADIOACTIVE BUSHES AND GARBAGE, PRESERVING THE WATER SUPPLY FROM RADIATION AND TEARING DOWN RAMSHACKLE BUILDINGS.

ANOTHER MAJOR PROBLEM IS DUST, IT SAID, SO ALL THE STREETS, GROUNDS AND PUBLIC GARDENS NEAR SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS WERE BEING PAVED TO CONTAIN IT.

"WITHOUT THE MILITARY WE COULD NEVER HAVE COPED WITH THE PROBLEM," SAID A. PROKOPOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. "WE HAD TO DEACTIVATE 1,220 HOUSES, HUNDREDS OF SHEDS, GARAGES, STOREHOUSES, AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES."

IZVESTIA SAID ALL 169 WATER WELLS IN THE TOWN WERE CLEANED AND SEALED AND TWO NEW WELLS WERE DRILLED AND CONNECTED TO THE TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY.

VILLAGES OF NOT LESS THAN 50 HOUSES WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND EACH REQUIRE SCHOOLS, SHOPS, SERVICE CENTERS, BATH HOUSES AND MEDICAL CENTERS, IZVESTIA SAID.

"ALL THIS MUST BE DONE IN THREE MONTHS," IT SAID. "THIS IS THE TERM DETERMINED BY THE BYLORUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND WE MUST NOT PROLONG IT."

"WHAT ABOUT MAN POWER?," THE NEWSPAPER ASKED. "WE SHALL MANAGE ON OUR OWN."

WINTER IS COMING ON.

(PTO)

FF080

B-WIRE

14-JUN-86 23:06

USSR -- (1) AGENCIES ON SOVIETS DECONTAMINATING ENTIRE TOWN  
MOSCOW, JUNE 14 REUTER -- RESIDENTS OF A TOWN IN SOVIET  
BYELORUSSIA HAVE STAYED ON ALTHOUGH RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT FROM THE  
CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT MAKES IT UNSAFE TO LIVE THERE FOR MONTHS  
OR EVEN YEARS, IZVESTIA REPORTED TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER SAID RADIATION LEVELS AT BRAGIN, IN ONE  
OF THE SO-CALLED DIRTY SPOTS JUST NORTH OF THE 30-KM (18-MILE)  
SECURITY ZONE AROUND THE UKRAINIAN PLANT, WERE "NOT DANGEROUS FOR  
LIFE."

BUT, IZVESTIA SAID, "IT IS NOT SAFE ENOUGH TO LIVE HERE FOR  
MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS."

BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN EVACUATING THE 7,000 RESIDENTS, IT  
ADDED, A "BOLD DECISION" HAD BEEN TAKEN TO LET RESIDENTS STAY AND  
HELP WITH DECONTAMINATION WORK.

CHILDREN, HOWEVER, HAD LEFT THE TOWN IN THE GENERAL EVACUATION OF  
ABOUT 92,000 TO 100,000 PEOPLE AFTER THE APRIL 26 ACCIDENT.

IZVESTIA SAID THE CITIZENS OF BRAGIN WERE WASHING STREETS,  
BUILDINGS AND TREES TO REMOVE RADIOACTIVE DUST AND TURNING OVER THE  
PEATY TOP SOIL, ESPECIALLY PRONE TO CONTAMINATION.

IN THE SOUTHERN GOMEL REGION OF THE REPUBLIC, WHERE BRAGIN IS  
LOCATED, A PROGRAMME HAD BEEN LAUNCHED TO BUILD WHOLE VILLAGES OF  
MODERN PEASANT COTTAGES FOR EVACUEES BEFORE THE WINTER.

IZVESTIA QUOTED LOCAL OFFICIALS AS SAYING THE SECOND STAGE OF THE  
CLEAN-UP OPERATION HAD NOW STARTED -- TO SAVE FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES  
THREATENED BY THE LONG-TERM CONTAMINATION OF NATURE.

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