

16.7.90

CHERNBYL

USSR (6) THE USSR THIS WEEK

F-556

### Ukraine Declares Sovereignty

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet declared Ukraine a sovereign state. By a vote of 355 for and only 4 against, with one abstention, the republican legislature declared among other things that "the Ukrainian SSR has the right to [maintain] its own armed forces" and will strive to become "a neutral state that does not participate in military blocs" and that rejects "the production, deployment and use of nuclear weapons." Citizens of Ukraine are, as a rule, to do their military service on Ukrainian territory and may not be used for military purposes outside the republic's borders "without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR." The section on international relations empowers Ukraine to conduct its own affairs in this field. The declaration would also establish Ukrainian citizenship while recognizing the right of residents to retain USSR citizenship (RL Ukrainian service, July 16).

While hailing the declaration, radical Ukrainian parliamentarians were quick to point out that it does not go as far as some would have liked. Deputy Larissa Skoryk told RFE/RL that she wanted to see the elimination of the words "Soviet Socialist" from the republic's name, for instance.

### Estonia Tells Moscow to Rein in the Troops

Tallinn protested about recent Soviet troop movements in the Baltic and called for a direct link with the military, ETA reported. In a note delivered to the Soviet Foreign Ministry by Estonian Deputy Foreign Minister Toivo Kuldsepp, Estonia called on the Kremlin to rein in its troops to avoid a possible clash with the local population. The note also called for the establishment of a commission giving Estonia a direct link with the military in order to avoid "confrontational situations..., examples of which could be observed in Tbilisi and Baku." Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Nikiforov told Kuldsepp that the Soviet Foreign Ministry was willing to mediate in situations of conflict but said that Estonia's status had not yet reached a level that would allow communication via diplomatic notes.

### Chernobyl' Victims from Latvia

According to Radio Riga, sixty-seven persons from Latvia are now listed as victims of the Chernobyl' disaster; thirty-eight have died and twenty-nine are classified as invalids. All the victims had participated in the cleanup efforts after the explosion at the atomic energy plant. Nearly 1,000 other Latvians were also involved in that effort.

(PTO)

F-557

### More Crimes against Foreigners

Crimes against foreigners, especially theft, doubled in the first half of 1990 compared to the same period in 1989, USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Vadim Bakatin said. But he provided no precise number or breakdown of the increase. Bakatin also reported an overall 14.6 percent increase in the crime rate in the Soviet Union, with 1.26 million crimes registered from January to June of this year.

### More Accidents in Siberian Oilfields

Some 400,000 tons of oil were lost as the result of accidents in Siberian oilfields over the weekend, TASS reported. The accidents occurred in the Nizhnevartovsk and Novourengoi regions of Western Siberia. This brings the total loss of crude oil there due to accidents so far this year to 700,000 tons. TASS reported that sixty-five kilometers of pipeline had had to be closed down. According to local officials, there have been more than 1,100 pipeline bursts and leaks in the region's oil fields already this year. Faulty maintenance is to blame, the news service said.

### Chief of General Staff Meets with Woerner

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, in Moscow for talks with Gorbachev and Shevardnadze, met with Soviet Chief of General Staff Mikhail Moiseev, TASS reported. Emphasizing that NATO does not seek unilateral advantages over the Soviet Union, Woerner invited the Soviet Army General to NATO headquarters in Brussels for further discussions. For his part, Moiseev called the meeting "historic, exceptionally useful, and promising." He outlined Soviet military reforms and changes in doctrine and did not rule out the possibility of developing unprecedented direct contacts between NATO and the Soviet military at the level of deputy chiefs of General Staff.

### Moscow Denies Italian Allegations of Spying

The Italian authorities arrested a Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry official and an Italian accomplice last week on charges of trying to steal a technical manual used to decipher NATO messages, according to Reuters. A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied the charges calling them "worthy of the Cold War era." He added that the accusations were aimed at derailing Soviet-Italian trade.

(MORE)