

Chernobyl 2

However, this debate is futile: The decision has been made, and, as they say, endorsed by all parties. From now on, relations with the VLKSM will develop on a contractual basis. The program and statute will determine the nature of these relations as well as work inside the republic Leninist Communist Youth League.

Perhaps the congress lacked stringency and consistency from the very beginning. Speakers came to the open microphones with suggestions touching on issues ranging from compliance by the new organization with its name to national military formations, from the Arturas Sakalauskas case to declaring the Baltic Area a nuclear-free zone. However you look at it, all this is very important, but the chaotic character of the discussion made it impossible for any line determining the work of the youth forum to emerge—a line which could become the foundation for a constructive discussion on the prospects for future activities of the union.

We should duly acknowledge the presidium of the congress, which attempted to steer the course of work into a single channel. It would have succeeded had not a discussion with so-called "democrats" inside the Leninist Communist Youth League of Lithuania developed.

The speech by a guest of the congress, "Sajudis" press representative A. Medalinkas, may perhaps be considered the beginning of this discussion. This speech can hardly be referred to as objective or even well-wishing. Having called into doubt any and all services done by the Komsomol to the republic, he charged that the honor of Komsomol members has been besmirched by innocent blood. He portrayed even the Pioneer organization as an extremist one. Let these wholesale, and therefore incorrect, accusations be on his conscience.

Be that as it may, a serious question concerning the democratic faction in the Leninist Communist Youth League of Lithuania arose at the congress. Does not this wording seem strange to you? It seemed illogical to me. Why don't the democrats wish to set up their own organization in defense of their positions? The thought flashed that people have automatically merged the notions "democracy" and "democrats." Apparently, the former is to be understood as a system and nature of social relations, and the latter as an ideological position and a certain type of political thinking.

Others offered a simpler explanation: The democrats want to set up their association using the material facilities of the Komsomol, using its press, funds, and so forth.

Be that as it may, given the words of A. Matsaytis that the Komsomol supports the creation of other youth organizations as long as they do not propagate violence and hostility, and is prepared to cooperate with them for the benefit of Lithuania and its young people, why do the

so-called "democrats" insist on implementing their ideas exactly in the Leninist Communist Youth League, going so far as to replace the word "communist" in its name with "democratic?"

The delegates voiced the justified opinion that the Leninist Communist Youth League of Lithuania should first discuss the principles of its activities before stating its disagreement with somebody or something.

However, I would admit that while listening to the speeches, debates, discussions, and during the breaks I got the impression that time is still needed to consider the strategy and tactics of the league's activities, to set more precise goals, so that in joining it the young people would take a conscious step, being fully aware of the path they are opting for. Certainly, the word "communist" in the name of the union addresses the question about goals; however, at present it is necessary to draw a line between the genuine meaning of this word and its interpretation during the time of social stagnation. Were the several days by which the continuation of the congress was postponed enough for such a consideration?

Today, proceedings are continuing after a break of almost 2 weeks.

A guest of the congress, G. Akopyan, Armenian LKSM first secretary and candidate of economic sciences, voiced his opinion on the course of the congress: "The congress is progressing well. It is natural that many difficulties have developed; after all, the Lithuanian Komsomol is the first on the way to independence. It could be that your experience will not be right for us, because in every republic transformations have to proceed in line with local conditions. However, the initiative, active position, and desire to invigorate the work are important."

G. Akopyan holds the leader of Lithuanian Komsomol members A. Matsaytis in high esteem. "He is a real fighter," maintains G. Akopyan. "He has defended his concepts for a long time in Moscow, and he has never retreated." Many of the delegates with whom I have had an opportunity to talk are also of the same opinion.

Thus, the Lithuanian Komsomol has become an independent organization. It has an acknowledged leader and a draft program of future activities. The proceedings of the extraordinary 22d LKSM Congress are continuing. Will it be able to respond to the questions concerning the young people of the republic? We will see. However, let us also state our hope that it will.

**Belorussians Appeal Abroad for Chernobyl Aid**  
*LD0208093589 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian*  
0900 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Belorussian public organizations appealed to their compatriots abroad to help the people of the republic to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

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Our correspondent reports that Belorussia has already spent over R1 billion on its aid program to those who suffered. However, the consequences of the Chernobyl tragedy have turned out to be much more serious than the scientists supposed. Particularly now, dosimeters and ultrasonic diagnostic equipment are needed. Expressing hope in their appeal, the public of Belorussia pledges to strictly check [kontrolirovat] the use for that special purpose [tselovov izpolzovaniye] of such aid in the interests of the population which suffered.

**Moldavian Appeal for Ethnic Unity Published**  
*PM1307113989 Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 23 Jun 89 p 1*

["Address to the Republic's Population by the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee and the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers"—SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA headline]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

We are currently living under the tremendous impact of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies which stirred literally the whole country and marked the beginning of the implementation of the main idea of political reform—the full transfer of power to the soviets.

History has yet to fully evaluate its momentous role in our society's development. But even today we have perfect reason for saying that it taught us all an open lesson of democracy and revealed the revolutionary essence not only of our transformations but also of our thinking.

The supreme forum of people's deputies convincingly demonstrated the dynamism and deepening of perestroika and proved that the democratic processes of renewal are penetrating deeper the economic, political, and spiritual spheres increasingly deeply and that the process of assimilating new forms of social life is under way, albeit with difficulty.

Our own republic can offer tangible confirmation of this. Its present is distinguished by glasnost, democratization, enhancement of social awareness, people's lofty civic stance, and the implementation of changes in virtually all spheres of our daily life. Open and trenchant presentation of the problems perturbing working people and a critically demanding approach to the evaluation of party, state, and economic organs' activity have become the norm of life. Labor collectives are playing an increasingly large role in the implementation of economic and political tasks. Problems of spiritual culture, including those of national language, are being solved.

Perestroika generated great hopes, but so far it has not produced the desired results, especially in the economic and social spheres. For a number of objective reasons, a substantial gap opened up in the republic between the

planned tasks and their actual implementation. The food and housing problems remain acute, many consumer goods are still in short supply, the ecological situation is becoming more complex. A specific and principled discussion on this topic unfolded at the 13th Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum, which appraised the prevailing situation and mapped out ways to remedy it.

Naturally, negative phenomena in our economy engendered by anomalies and mistakes in the past, and omissions and shortcomings in the work of state and economic organs even today cause a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the population. Taking advantage of this, certain groups of people with extremist leanings are inflaming public opinion, fanning unhealthy emotions, and sowing confusion in the population's minds.

They especially stepped up their actions just before the upcoming memorable date—28 June, the day when Bessarabia was reunited with the USSR. Denigrating the importance of this event for the Moldavian people's destiny, rejecting all that has been achieved in the region's socioeconomic development, and exploiting the shortcomings which are the burdensome legacy of the times of arbitrariness and illegality, these people are striving to give the forthcoming event political overtones which grossly distort the historical truth.

In pursuit of this goal, attempts are being made to make the Moldavian people forget that back in 1918 a large part of their territory was captured by monarchical Romania which, during the 22 years of its rule, plundered productive forces and dealt a heavy blow to the region's culture, subjecting the people to the most cruel exploitation and humiliation. At the same time, 1940—the year when freedom finally dawned, Soviet power in Bessarabia was restored, and the dream of Moldavians living on the right and left banks of the Dnestr about reunification within the single socialist state of the USSR came true—is presented by these people as the year when the Moldavian people were supposedly deprived of their autonomy and independence and their territory was occupied.

Such opinions, persistently promoted among the broad masses of the people, destabilize further still the situation in the republic, undermine people's unity, prevent them from living and working in tranquility, divert attention and efforts from the solution of urgent economic and social tasks, and essentially retard perestroika.

In view of the prevailing situation, the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers appeal to all citizens of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] not to succumb to provocative distortions of the essence of historical events associated with the Moldavian people's reunification, not to let themselves become involved in adventurist actions urged by

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79

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

of the so-called ideological subversion, was disbanded. On the other hand, security bodies' involvement in efforts to fight organized crime, smuggling, narcotics trafficking and industrial espionage is becoming increasingly relevant today.

Speakers pointed to the state security committee's interest in forming and strengthening ties with secret services in other countries to achieve such common goals as to stamp out terrorism, drug trafficking and smuggling. In this regard, they cited as positive the example of the coordination of efforts by the USSR and Israel to detain and extradite the terrorists who took hostage children in the city of Ordzhonikidze, Northern Caucasus, with the aim of hijacking a plane and commandeering it to Israel.

It was reported that the State Security Committee studies the issue of establishing working contacts with Interpol. However, conditions of a political nature, which are set forth by Interpol, hamper this at present.

#### More Gorbachev TV Addresses Urged

PM1608124989 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian  
16 Aug 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Reader's letter under the rubric "Mail on Last Page":  
"Leader's Address to the People"]

[Text] When I learned that M.S. Gorbachev would speak on the "Vremya" program I turned on the television set without knowing what the head of state would talk about. Although the theme of his speech could probably have been announced in advance. I listened with great interest to his thoughts on problems of our interethnic mutual relations.

It is a good thing that our leader communicates with people a lot and speaks on television from time to time. But do there really need to be extraordinary circumstances for this? Why should it not be made a rule that, for instance, on every last Friday of the month the head of state should address the people and the nation to describe the problems of the past month and what awaits us in the immediate future.

It is true that all kinds of conferences, aktivs, and plenums are often held in our country. And often lengthy reports on them are published in the newspapers. But nothing can take the place of a direct address to the people by the head of the party and state. That form seems to me more democratic.

I think that other political leaders should also address a television audience more frequently and comment on important events.

[Signed] G. Kobrisenko, Donetsk

#### Chernobyl Radiation Affects Plants, Wildlife

LD1408082889 Moscow TASS in English 0755 GMT  
14 Aug 89

[Text] Minsk August 14 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Aleksandr Kryzhanovskiy:

Authorities in Belorussia have decided to set up a special sanctuary on the territory of three regions, stricken by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, from where the population was evacuated.

Specialists want to know how radiation affects wildlife and plants, and what its present and future consequences are. High levels of radiation in the first period seriously damaged pines and spruces within 6 to 7 kilometers of the nuclear station. Nearly 1,000 hectares of forest are expected to die in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster.

With radiation levels in the affected forests reaching 300-450 rads (man develops acute radiation sickness at levels of 300 rads and more) and needles of a pine-tree retain the same shape but increase their mass ten times. On the border between the dead, or the so-called "red", forest, there are giant conifers, whose growth was affected by the tragedy. Oak leaves are half of the size of burdock and there are acacia trees with blades as large as a child's palm.

High concentrations of radioactivity were found on the bottom of water reservoirs. Belorussian specialists in hydrobiology and ichthyology studied invertebrates and fish and discovered a high concentration of radioactivity in fish of prey, like pike and perch. Water bugs and leeches were found to have the same high dose. In bream and roach, the liver is most contaminated, with the skin, skeleton and muscles affected to a smaller extent.

Hedgehogs, shrews, as well as bank voles which are rather common in the republic, were found to have high concentrations. Although rodents developed genetic abnormalities, no marked changes occurred in their condition and behaviour.

High concentrations of radionuclides were found in teals, mallards and coots, the main objects of hunting. Wild ducks are comparatively "clean", as they moved from the zone to fish breeding farms where they feed on combined fodder.

Among the mammals, wild boars, foxes and rabbits have the highest level of radioactivity, while elk, deer, roe deer and wolf are least affected. Specialists have not so far noted abnormal behaviour which could be traced to radioactivity.



**Nuclear Safety Committee on July Stoppages**

*LD1308001289 Moscow World Service in English  
2100 GMT 12 Aug 89*

[Text] The recently created Committee for Control of Safety in Industry and Nuclear Power Engineering says July was a quite month for the Soviet nuclear power plants. Only four sudden stoppages and five unforeseen energy slumps were registered across the country last month. No safety regulations were violated and there were no radioactive leaks. Information about the performance of nuclear power plants is supplied to the committee by its own inspectors at each plant.

**Myasnikyan Chemical Works To Remain Closed**

*LD0708094889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian  
0600 GMT 7 Aug 89*

[Summary] The Myasnikyan chemical plant in Kirovakan is not to be restored in its present form because of its harmful effect on the environment. Correspondent Koryun Khumaryan says the plant was not wrecked by the recent earthquake, otherwise a huge disaster would have resulted. Karlen Danylyan, secretary of the Kirovakan city party committee, says in interview that the city's ecology has been improved 50 percent. It was once a spa. Of the works' 3,000 employees, about 2,000 are now jobless; efforts are being made to find work for them.

**Orenburg Pipeline Explosion Kills Three**

*LD1608135189 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian  
1300 GMT 16 Aug 89*

[Text] Here is a report from Orenburg: There has been a mighty explosion on a section of the gas pipeline serviced by the Orenburgtransgaz Directorate as a result of the zealotness of a group of workers and builders collecting scrap metal. They discovered two large pieces of pipe alongside the pipeline. Thoughtlessly, the driver brought his mobile crane close and picked up the load. At that moment the walls of the pipeline were breached and the gas, at 48 atmospheres of pressure, rushed out. A few seconds later there was an explosion and a fire started.

Three people were seriously burned and subsequently died at the hospital. Fire consumed the vehicle and the crane. Because of basic carelessness and equipment safety rules being broken, we again have grieving families and material damage.

It turns out that the team did not have the necessary special permission to carry out work in the restricted zone around the pipeline.

**Organized Crime Suspected in Death of Journalist**

*18001459 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA  
in Russian 2 Aug 89 p 2*

[Article by Aleksandr Levikov: "Murder of a Journalist"]

[Text] The son of the executive secretary of OGONEK, Vladimir Glotov, was killed a few days ago. He was 26, also named Vladimir, and also a journalist.

Late in the evening, he was telephoned at his apartment and called away under some pretext and cruelly disposed of. Volodya was found under a tree next to his house in a puddle of blood with a broken skull and larynx and a face deformed beyond recognition. Nothing was taken. A certificate of a military veteran of the Afghan war was in his pocket. He returned alive from the terrible war only to die at the hands of criminal scum in Moscow! His mother, father, and those close to him said their final farewells with the coffin lid closed, as was the case of the dead from Afghanistan.

Members of the Criminal Investigations Office arrested a suspect. Did he commit the crime alone? How could he inflict such bizarre injuries? Who is behind it? The young journalist was in contact with dangerous circles. Before his military service he was a teacher, and after he returned from Afghanistan he went to work at the "Soviet Trade," at the "Fact" press center, collected materials on the Mafia, spent some time for that purpose in Transcaucasus and Fergan, from which he returned recently, and sought contact with one of the gangs of racketeers. He already had been attacked by a group. But Volodya Glotov is a handsome, strong man, practiced karate—that time he managed to stand up for himself. He came back beaten up, told about the attackers' threats: "We have been paid for you, you have your job, we have ours."

Such threats are not always empty. The world of the criminals is becoming more insolent and cynical. A murderer for hire, in prison for another reason, even gave an interview to a popular television program telling prices for a human life then current in that bloody market.

Is there a connection between the professional activities of Glotov, the threats against him, the previous attack, and the tragic events of his last night? This I do not know and cannot confirm. This will be investigated and the court will tell. It is possible that other motives will be found for the bestial execution. Why didn't he let the militia know? He used to say: "Business among men." Why did he leave his house at midnight, in response to a phone call, leaving his grandfather and a female guest in the apartment? Much remains to be clarified.

But this is what I want to ask you, my colleagues: Haven't they recently started to kill journalists too frequently? We just heard the horrible news about the execution of the young regional newspaperman Nikolay Nikiforov in Chuvashiya, and here is another...Coincidence? Or is somebody intimidating the press, trying to cut its throat?

It is our professional and moral duty to pursue this to the end.