

CHERNOBYL

FF050

B-WIRE

14-JUL-1990 07:36:53

UN - ECOSOC IN APPEAL FOR COOPERATION, AID TO CHERNOBYL VICTIMS

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, JULY 14 (NCA/JEFF ENDRST) - THE U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, MEETING IN GENEVA, YESTERDAY UNANIMOUSLY APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1986 SOVIET NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT AT CHERNOBYL.

THE 54-MEMBER COUNCIL ACTED ON A REQUEST BY THE SOVIET UNION, UKRAINE AND BYELORUSSIA. U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON HOW BEST TO COORDINATE EFFORTS BY U.N. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND SYMPATHETIC FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH THE SCIENTIFIC, GENETIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS ASKED TO SEND AN INTER-AGENCY MISSION TO THE AFFECTED AREAS TO EVALUATE THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF THE VICTIMS. THE FACT-FINDING REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT FALL.

SPEAKERS IN THE DEBATE ON CHERNOBYL STRESSED THAT THE ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT WERE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF NEIGHBORING AND OTHER EUROPEAN TERRITORY WAS A SOURCE OF "GREAT ALARM."

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, SWEDEN SAID CHERNOBYL'S SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES EXTENDED ALSO TO THE NORDIC AREA. IT URGED ALL COUNTRIES WITH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO UPGRADE THEIR NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SAFETY.

A SIMILAR APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH SAID PEREZ DE CUELLAR SHOULD URGE ALL COUNTRIES TO MAKE FULL USE OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S (IAEA) MECHANISM TO VET THEIR POWER PLANT ACTIVITIES. THE U.S. TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO WORKING THROUGH U.N. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER ARE WELL COORDINATED. JAPAN SUPPORTED THE U.S. VIEW, SAYING THAT DUPLICATION AMONG U.N. AND OUTSIDE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD BE AVOIDED BY ALL MEANS.

ITALY, REPRESENTING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, SAID THE 12 MEMBERS HAD LEARNED WITH "DEEP CONCERN" THAT THE AREA IN THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ALREADY CLEANSED OF RADIOACTIVITY HAS BEEN "RECONTAMINATED AS A RESULT OF NATURAL FACTORS."

CANADA CALLED FOR AN "INDEPENDENT" REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC MEASUREMENTS PROVIDED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES SINCE 1986 IN ORDER TO "CORROBORATE AND EVALUATE" THEM. IT SAID THAT U.N. TEAMS WILL VISIT MANY LOCALITIES IN THE AFFECTED AREAS TO "VERIFY BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS, INDIVIDUAL DOSE ASSESSMENTS AND ACTUAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES." CANADA SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DRAW UP A "CAREFUL PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY" THROUGH IAEA TO PLACE COMPLEX TECHNICAL DATA IN A PERSPECTIVE UNDERSTANDABLE TO NATIONAL DECISION-MAKERS AND LAYMEN ALIKE.

PRESENTING A REPORT ON THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT, THE U.N. OFFICE FOR DISASTER RELIEF SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE HUGE VOLUME OF POST-ACCIDENT DECONTAMINATION AND LARGE-SCALE AGROCHEMICAL AND LAND IMPROVEMENT OPERATIONS, THE SITUATION REMAINED "SERIOUS." IN BYELORUSSIA ALONE, IT SAID, A TERRITORY INHABITED BY 2.2 MILLION PEOPLE, WITH 27 CITIES AND TOWNS, HAS INCURRED RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF VARYING DENSITY. THAT REPRESENTS 70 PERCENT OF ALL AFFECTED AREAS IN THE EUROPEAN PART OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNDR0 AGENCY SAID. IN UKRAINE, IT ADDED, AN AREA OF FIVE MILLION HECTARES HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED, ENDANGERING 1,614 INHABITED LOCALITIES WITH MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE. IT SAID FOREIGN AID IS REQUIRED FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL AND DATA-PROCESSING EQUIPMENT, DRUGS, EXPERTISE, EQUIPMENT FOR ANALYSIS OF FOOD PRODUCTS, AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY SPECIALLY DESTINED FOR THE MITIGATION OF RADIATION EFFECTS. (PTO)

GELB

GELB

GELB

FF051

B-WIRE

14-JUL-1990 07:39:03

UN -(1)- ECOSOC IN APPEAL ...

KONSTANTIN MASIK OF UKRAINE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT HAD DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WHOLE SOVIET UNION, WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

ALEXANDRE KICHKAJLO OF BYELORUSSIA ANNOUNCED THAT THIS REPUBLIC WAS DECLARED TWO DAYS AGO "A ZONE OF NATIONAL DISASTER." HE SAID THAT "COMPULSORY RESETTLEMENT" OF 120,000 PEOPLE IS UNDER WAY FOR MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL REASONS.

SOVIET DELEGATE BORIS KOLOKOLOV SAID THAT 116,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN EVACUATED FROM AREAS NEAR CHERNOBYL AND THAN 10,000 MILLION RUBLES HAS BEEN COMMITTED DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS IN AREAS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN MOVED. HE ALSO SAID THAT MOSCOW INTENDS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTER IN CHERNOBYL AND THAT 25 COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE.

GELB

GELB

AM/TA
GELB