

"About 3,000 Greeks live in the Crimea now. There were 20,000 of them before the war," said Deputy Chairman of the new society Konstantin Apostolidi. During the German occupation he led an underground youth group and is well acquainted with the Greeks' struggle against Nazism. His mother and brother were killed because of contacts with the anti-fascist underground.

After the war, Crimean Tatars and Greeks were falsely accused of collaborating with the invaders and forcibly deported from the peninsula. Apostolidi managed to return to his motherland only in 1964. "Many Greeks want to return to their ancestors' land. The society is going to help them find home and work in the Crimea. It also plans to restore our cultural monuments."

### Odessa Plant Goes Independent

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[Text] An industrial amalgamation of food machine-building in the city of Odessa (southern part of the Ukraine) became independent from the USSR Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry to which it once belonged. From now on more than 3,000 workers of the enterprise have begun to work as leaseholders. The bilateral agreement envisages that the lease will last 10 years, and after that time the workers will become the owners of the enterprise.

### Gorbachev Signs Physicist's Obituary

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["Obituary of Academician Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov"]

[Excerpts] World science has suffered a grave loss. The outstanding physicist, member of the CPSU, Hero of Socialist Labor, and Nobel and USSR State Prize winner Academician Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov has died in his 86th year. [passage omitted describing Cherenkov's career before 1958]

In subsequent years P.A. Cherenkov's scientific interests were connected with the study of cosmic rays, charged-particle accelerators, and the electromagnetic interaction of particles and atomic nuclei. His services in installing Europe's first electron synchrotron and his contribution to the study of photonuclear reactions were marked by two further USSR State Prizes (1952 and 1977).

For his outstanding scientific achievements P.A. Cherenkov was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1964 and in 1970 a full member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. [passage omitted]

[Signed] M.S. Gorbachev, V.I. Vorotnikov, L.N. Zaykov, Yu.D. Maslyukov, V.A. Medvedev, N.I. Ryzhkov, A.N. Yakovlev, G.P. Razumovskiy, I.T. Frolov, G.I. Marchuk, Ye.P. Velikhov, V.I. Ilichev, V.A. Koptuyg, V.N. Kudryavtsev, N.P. Laverov, A.A.

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### Survey Reveals Novosibirsk Radiation Sources

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[Interview with B.V. Tigin, chief of Novosibirsk Oblast Sanitation and Epidemiology Station Radiation Hygiene Department, by own correspondent A. Illarionov in Novosibirsk: "Radiation Phobia and Radiometry. What Is Behind the Rumors Circulating in Novosibirsk"—no date of interview given]

[Text] Novosibirsk would seem to be far enough from Chernobyl. But rumors about various manifestations of radiation start circulating in the city every 2-3 months. That was the topic of my conversation with B.V. Tigin, chief of Novosibirsk Oblast Sanitation and Epidemiology Station Radiation Hygiene Department.

[Illarionov] Boris Vladimirovich, sundry rumors about radioactive meat being on sale are circulating in the city.

[Tigin] A very instructive case. One of the stores offered 3 kg of meat instead of 1 kg per ration coupon. That should have caused nothing but joy. But it made purchasers suspicious: The meat must be bad. And so, associates of a scientific research institute in Akademgorodok, without being specialists in sanitation hygiene studies of foodstuffs, decided to test the meat for radioactivity without the leadership's knowledge. The study was based on total ignorance, and the result was—huge doses of radiation. And the rumor spread around the city: "Watch out for the meat!!!"

When the meat was subsequently tested by specialists, it was found to be radiation-clean.

[Illarionov] Until quite recently, radiation was treated with amazing carelessness. Now everyone detects radiation where there is no such thing.

[Tigin] It is not hard to explain this strange phenomenon. Until the recent past, information on radioactive contamination was secret. Moreover, radiation itself has neither taste, nor color, nor smell. All this engendered a sense of enhanced danger.

[Illarionov] Nonetheless, radiation phobia is not promoted by just idle rumors. Let us look no further than the recent case involving tea.

[Tigin] A trivial case, but unfortunately it did occur. Some packets of tea in consignment No 36, made by the "Adishi" Combine (in Zugdidi), did contain—instead of a blend of Georgian and Indian tea as prescribed—a blend of Georgian tea plus... cesium 137 and 134. The cesium fell on the plantation back in 1986, out of the Chernobyl cloud when it passed over the Caucasus.

Fortunately, nobody suffered from this tea in Novosibirsk: Only some of the packets were found to be contaminated. As a matter of fact, it would have taken 10 liters or so of really strong tea to deliver a dangerous dose.

[Illarionov] It is well and good that everything had such a happy end. But accident was instrumental also in this case—the cesium in the tea was detected accidentally when tea was being made in one of the laboratories. And now you have the city residents asking: Why is it that not all foodstuffs are tested for radiation?

[Tigin] There is no chance of doing this today. The irradiation dose could be measured, given sufficient time. But when you are talking about a specific proportion of some supposed radioactive element in some product, the analysis is much more complex. For example, the dry tea in consignment No 36 showed radiation close to normal background levels. The cesium content had to be determined once the tea was made, using the norms set for drinking water (no special norms have been set for tea).

In order to fully clarify the “tea” incident, we had to ask for help from the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Department Geology and Geophysics Institute. In any case, we had to check at the same time 28 other tea blends which had been offered for sale. This took 2 weeks, and all that time impatient city residents besieged the Sanitation and Epidemiology Station with telephone calls and personal visits. Purchasers returned more than 60 tonnes of tea to trade network enterprises—a quantity equal to several months’ stock. The slow progress of the investigation was due to the shortage of accurate, fast and modern equipment.

[Illarionov] Proceeding from this not-so-pleasant fact, some city residents suggest: Why not supply everyone with a radiation measuring instrument?

[Tigin] I believe that personal dosimeters will be almost useless today. These instruments will require an entire network of workshops for calibrating them, repairing them, and monitoring them. We lack the necessary specialists, and especially the equipment, for such new services.

Here is my opinion: Today we need a small, reliable, and cheap radiation monitoring instrument for every enterprise, institution, or hospital which could not only measure the dose of irradiation but could also distinguish between beta-particles. Such an instrument, as a matter of fact, has been developed by an institute in Leningrad. We like it very much. It costs just over R300, but is manufactured in extremely inadequate quantities. There is no chance of acquiring it even for rayon sanitation and epidemiology stations.

[Illarionov] You insisted that VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK should publish a radiation map of the city. What were you banking on?

[Tigin] I was banking on the fact that the way to people’s minds and hearts lies through glasnost. An aerial photograph taken from a helicopter using highly sensitive instruments makes it possible to see even the tiniest radioactive objects, ranging between 6 and 12 millimeters in size, at a depth of up to 0.5 meters underground. A total of 84 radiation anomalies were detected, and it soon became clear that they were caused by the people of Novosibirsk themselves. They included 14 radioactive ampoules from used-up radioisotope instruments which should have ended up at the radioactive waste interment station. But they were mindlessly and recklessly thrown out into streets and yards.

Dozens of anomalies were due to the activities of pilferers. They were caused by radioactive bricks, wooden beams, slates, and metal constructions in sheds, garden plots, and even private homes (for example, an elderly pair who had bought a home built with radioactive bricks had to be resettled in a communal apartment).

There are dozens of such “homemade spots”—radioactive soil which drivers had failed to deliver to interment stations because they were in a hurry, or at times even because they acceded to some homeowner’s request: Come on, kid, fill the ditch around the house!

A detachment of workers wearing special protective clothing worked hard all through the fall to literally dig these 84 anomalies out of the city’s body. Almost all were successfully eliminated... But a large pollution spot—800 by 200 meters—still remains at the mouth of Yeltsovka-Vtoraya River, brought down by the river itself from its upper reaches where contaminated soil had been irresponsibly dumped at some time in the past. I felt especially sad when the helicopter detected long-distance water pipes in the “Zarya-1” market garden cooperative near Pashino Settlement, which were used in the past to carry radioactive pulp to production units. Many years ago, a total length of 1 kilometer of pipes was stolen from the enterprise and sold to the market garden cooperative. And the gardeners watered their plots with the residue of radium-226 in the pipes. Until the last few days, these pipes were radiating up to 2,000 microroentgens per hour.

[Illarionov] Yes, our past will be affecting our health today and tomorrow. There was the explosion in Kyshtyma, there were other explosions. Data on radiation pollution has finally been declassified. So why not publicize the regions and corridors of such pollution, giving the years when pollution occurred and the duration of radiation pollution, so that everyone knows whether he may be exposed to a dangerous dose?

[Tigin] I fully agree. Speaking about high legal and ethical standards of relations between state and people, people who may have been contaminated in the past should not just be notified but should be actively sought out. They should then be investigated using the best possible methods. Apart from anything else, this will produce invaluable material for studying the long-term