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CHERNOBYL

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REGIMENT WITHDRAWN FROM CHERNOBYL BECAUSE OF HEALTH HAZARDS

(AMPLIFIES CN 107)

MUNICH, FEB. 2 (CMD) -- RADIO MOSCOW REPORTED TODAY :

A SESSION OF THE CHIEF MILITARY PROCURACY HAS TAKEN PLACE IN MOSCOW. ANATOLIY FEDOROV, OUR CORRESPONDENT, TALKS TO ALEKSANDR FILIPPOVICH KATUSEV, CHIEF MILITARY PROCURATOR, DEPUTY USSR PROCURATOR GENERAL, AND STATE COUNSELLOR OF JUSTICE FIRST CLASS.

((FEDOROV)) THE ARMY HAS ALWAYS COME TO THE PEOPLES AID. THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, FOR IT IS THE PEOPLES, TO THE CORE: TODAYS EVENTS IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS, THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA, CHERNOBYL, OUR PAIN AND, ALAS, OUR REALITY OF TODAY TOO. AS YOU KNOW, BOTH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE COUNTRYS MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MEN CALLED UP FROM THE RESERVE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL TRAGEDY. THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT WAS THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION AT THE SESSION OF THE CHIEF MILITARY PROCURACY. HONESTLY, ALEKSANDR FILIPPOVICH, I, AS A PERSON, WAS SHAKEN TO THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL BY WHAT I HEARD AND SAW ON FILM CLIPS HERE OF THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH SOLDIERS AND SERVICEMEN FIND THEMSELVES, THE UNSANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY WORK AND, MOST FRIGHTENINGLY, THEIR DEFENSELESSNESS AGAINST THAT DREADFUL DANGER FOR ANY PERSON, RADIATION. IN ESSENCE, THEY ARE NOT PROTECTED AGAINST IT. I AM NOT EVEN TALKING ABOUT THE POSSESSION BY EACH OF THEM OF AN INDIVIDUAL DOSIMETRIC DEVICE. IT IS TERRIBLE. I AND PROBABLY MANY JOURNALISTS HERE -- I EXCHANGED IMPRESSIONS WITH THEM IN THE INTERVAL OF THE COLLEGIUM -- HAVE FORMED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ARMY IS BEING USED AS CHEAP LABOR, AND WITHOUT PROTECTION OR RIGHTS, WHAT IS MORE.

((KATUSEV)) OUR SOLDIERS AND SERVICEMEN CALLED UP FROM THE RESERVE FOR COMPULSORY SERVICE ARE DOING A GREAT DEAL AND LABORING SELFLESSLY, ONE COULD EVEN SAY HEROICALLY. HOWEVER, INJUSTICE IS BEING COMMITTED AGAINST THEM -- I WOULD NOT SAY EVERYWHERE, BUT, IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS BAD FOOD, BAD ACCOMODATION, RADIATION INFECTION, AND SO ON. AFTER ALL, PEOPLE CALLED UP FOR REFRESHER COURSES ARE THE SAME CIVILIANS, JUST DRESSED IN GREEN TUNICS.

((FEDOROV)) AND TORN AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES.

((KATUSEV)) AND TORN AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES. BUT THERE IS SOME KIND OF UNJUST AND UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF SERVICEMEN AND THOSE LIABLE TO CALL-UP, COMPARED TO CIVILIAN SPECIALISTS AND WORKERS.

((FEDOROV)) ABOVE ALL, BY THE USSR MINISTRY OF ATOMIC POWER?

((KATUSEV)) UNDOUBTEDLY. IT IS A CUSTOMER, FIRST AND FOREMOST, AND IT OUGHT TO GIVE IDENTICAL TREATMENT, BUT OUR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OUGHT ALSO TO TAKE CARE OF ITS OWN PEOPLE. HOW CAN THIS BE? THE RADIATION DOSE FOR CIVILIANS IS 2 REMS...

((FEDOROV)) THE MAXIMUM DOSE.

((KATUSEV)) YES, THE MAXIMUM. BUT FOR SERVICEMEN, WHO ONLY YESTERDAY WERE CIVILIANS AND PUT ON GREEN TUNICS, IT IS 5 REMS.

((FEDOROV)) AND THEIR SALARY AND CONDITIONS ARE ALWAYS...

((KATUSEV, INTERRUPTING)) I THINK THAT THE COLLEGIUM WAS BENEFICIAL. YOU SAW THAT WE INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS INTERESTED MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS HERE, AND THERE WAS A FRANK CONVERSATION ON THE FACT IT IS TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS OUTRAGE.

76-1-1000

REGIMENT WITHDRAWN ... (2)

I PROMISE YOU THAT THE CHIEF MILITARY PROCURACY AND THE PROSECUTORS SUBORDINATE TO IT -- AND WE ALSO HAVE A PROSECUTORS OFFICE IN CHERNOBYL ITSELF -- THAT WE SHALL TAKE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE PROSECUTORS SUPERVISORY POWERS AND SEE THROUGH TO THE END EVERYTHING WHICH WE HAVE PLANNED AT TODAY'S COLLEGIUM.

((FEDDROV)) ALEKSANDR FILIPPOVICH, WE ALL KNOW THE TERMS FORGOTTEN VILLAGE AND FORGOTTEN SETTLEMENT, BUT HERE IS A NONSENSE -- A FORGOTTEN GARRISON: THE 17TH REGIMENT OF INTERNAL TROOPS OF THE USSR INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN THE 20-KILOMETER ((FIGURE AS HEARD)) ZONE AND PARTICIPATES IN GUARDING THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER STATION. LIVING CONDITIONS THERE, TO JUDGE BY THOSE CLIPS, ARE ALSO ON THE VERGE OF A FOUL, IF I MAY USE SPORTING LANGUAGE. WHAT CAN ONE THINK OF SUCH TREATMENT OF OVER 2,000 PEOPLE?

((KATUSEV)) A REGIMENT OF INTERNAL TROOPS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS BEEN DEPLOYED SINCE 1987 IN THE 30-KILOMETER ZONE AROUND THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, FROM WHICH THE RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN MOVED. THE PERIOD OF SERVICE FOR SERVICEMEN IN THAT CATEGORY IS 2 YEARS. THE FORGOTTEN GARRISON DEFINITELY SOUNDS DREADFUL. WE IMMEDIATELY CONDUCTED A PROSECUTORS CHECK WITH THE FORCES OF THE DISTRICT PROSECUTORS OFFICE AND MADE RELEVANT PROPOSALS, BUT THE GARRISON REMAINED FORGOTTEN, AS IT HAD BEEN.

((FEDDROV)) LET ME INTERRUPT YOU HERE, WITH JUST SOME FIGURES I HEARD AT THE COLLEGIUM. IF I UNDERSTOOD IT CORRECTLY, OVER 2,000 PEOPLE SUFFERED FROM VARIOUS BLOOD DISORDERS IN 1987 AND OVER 1,000 IN 1988= THREE PEOPLE HAVE DIED OF LEUKEMIA= AND MOREOVER, 50 PERCENT HAVE SUFFERED VARIOUS STOMACH DISORDERS -- AND ALL THAT IN THE ZONE OF INCREASED DANGER FROM RADIATION.

((KATUSEV)) THAT IS WHY WE HEIGHTENED ATTENTION AT THE COLLEGIUM AND I WAS OBLIGED TO ISSUE AN INSTRUCTION TO COMRADE SHATALIN, WHO COMMANDS THE INTERNAL TROOPS OF THE USSR INTERIOR MINISTRY, ON THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THAT REGIMENT FROM THE 30-KILOMETER ZONE AROUND THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. WE SHALL WATCH TO SEE THAT THIS INSTRUCTION IS FULFILLED. ABOVE ALL, THERE MUST BE HEALTHY PEOPLE.

(RADIO MOSCOW DOM/B, 1100, FEB. 2/90) gf

-75- (P.T.C.)