



Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: 2:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 5, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

Radiation data from air monitoring networks in the United States and Canada continue to show no increases over normal background levels. For the United States, analyses of samples received at the Eastern Environmental Radiation Facility on May 4 cover 12 samples collected on May 3, 7 samples collected on May 2, 3 samples collected on May 1, 2 samples collected on April 30, and one sample each collected on April 29, April 28, April 24, and April 21. Canadian data cover results from 24 stations collected May 1.

Radioactivity released into the atmosphere as a consequence of the nuclear power incident in the Soviet Union has now reached the area of Japan. Early readings of radioactive contamination taken in Japan of rainwater and locally grown vegetables indicate little or no health hazard. To the extent that the early Japanese findings are predictive of any possible radioactive contamination in the U.S., federal officials continue to believe there will be no public health risk here. Further updates on the situation will be provided as additional information becomes available.

Wind speeds at jet stream levels (about 30,000 feet) have been moving air rapidly west to east across the Pacific Ocean and the United States at speeds of over 100 mph. Small amounts of radioactivity that mixed upward to these levels from the Chernobyl nuclear accident have already been detected by aircraft flying off the northwest U.S. coast. Therefore, patches of activity are now moving across North America at high altitudes. The most likely source of early detection near the ground will be in rainwater, particularly from thunderstorms reaching altitudes of 20,000 to 30,000 feet or more. As of this time, it is believed that concentrations in rainwater will be low. Activity at lower altitudes is being transported less rapidly and will probably move into the U.S. during subsequent days.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has increased its frequency of analysis for all precipitation samples to daily and for milk samples to twice per week.

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The advisory against travel to Kiev and adjacent areas remains in effect. Precise information on radiation levels resulting from the Chernobyl Soviet nuclear power plant incident remains unavailable at this time. The nature of this incident suggests that increased levels of radiation might exist in surrounding areas, causing the greatest potential public health risk in those areas closest to the incident. The U.S. Public Health Service is making interim guidance available for U.S. citizens who may be traveling to these areas. This guidance will be reviewed and updated as further information becomes available and communicated to the media and to public health officials throughout the nation.

1. Americans living or traveling in or around the affected region may wish to take the following precautions to minimize exposure to radiation:
 - o Avoid drinking fresh milk or eating other dairy products;
 - o Eat processed foods when possible and wash or peel fresh produce;
 - o When possible, drink bottled water and other bottled beverages instead of local water.
2. For U.S. citizens who have visited affected areas recently and have departed from them on or after April 26, 1986, routine medical screening procedures are not recommended. If you have concerns, information and answers to specific questions may be obtained from your state radiation control program or your physician.
3. For U.S. citizens who are planning travel to these areas in the near future, carefully monitor press reports of this situation so that you have the most up-to-date information before making a firm travel commitment.

We have sent technical experts to Moscow and Warsaw. They arrived over the weekend. They are there in a technical capacity to evaluate the health environment at our missions. An EPA radiation specialist arrived in Poland Saturday to make measurements of radioactivity at the U.S. embassy in Warsaw. Values were low, perhaps three times normal background.

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The U.S. government welcomes the news that the Soviets have invited International Atomic Energy Agency Director Hans Blix and two of his associates to Moscow in connection with the Chernobyl incident. It is hoped that this indicates that the Soviets are now willing to make available the important information the world community requires to safeguard international health and safety.

The Task Force is receiving information it has requested on radiation readings in air, water and food from many foreign countries. As this information is analyzed, new travel advisories will be issued as needed. Also, to the best of our knowledge (given the continuing lack of data from the Soviets), the situation at the plant appears to remain stable with damage at reactor four only. We will continue to monitor the situation and will update it in the event of major changes.

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Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

Pacific Northwest Laboratories in Richland, Washington, has reported the first increase in radiation at ground level in the United States. A rainwater sample collected on May 5 at 4:30 p.m. PDT measured 500 pCi/l of I-131. This value is believed accurate within a factor of two. This level poses no danger to residents in the area. The radiation dose to an individual drinking one liter of rainwater at this level would be less than one percent of the average annual background radiation dose, and is comparable to less than half the radiation dose received from a single chest x-ray. (A single chest x-ray gives an individual 2.5 mrem, whole-body equivalent). If an individual comes in physical contact with such rainwater the radiation dose is even lower.

Iodine 131 had a half-life of 8.1 days. This means that after a week the radioactivity is reduced by a factor of two.

To date, all other radiation measurements at ground level in the United States and Canada continue to show no increases above normal background levels. The monitoring networks in the United States and Canada are capable of measuring radiation levels much lower than those which would pose any danger to the public. Under the EPA monitoring system excessive levels would be detected within hours. Obtaining exact readings for lower levels requires a more time consuming procedure.

For the United States, data on air particulate samples analyzed May 5 cover 11 samples collected May 4, 8 samples collected May 3, 9 samples collected May 2, 12 samples collected May 1, and an additional 60 samples collected on various dates in April. The Canadian data are based on 3 samples collected May 5 (in the Ontario area), 7 samples collected May 4, 9 samples collected May 3, and 23 samples collected May 2.

The EPA monitoring network is continuing to collect air particulates and rainwater daily and milk twice per week. In addition, the NRC has requested all commercial power plants to report any unusually high environmental readings, and DOE National Laboratories are sampling. The Canadian network is now sampling precipitation and milk weekly; the first results are expected on May 12.

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Air containing patches of radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear accident will continue to move across the U.S. today and tomorrow at upper levels (20,000 to 30,000 feet) with most of the contaminated air over Alaska and in the western and north central U.S. Rainwater, particularly from the rain storms in the western and upper midwestern U.S., is likely to contain radioactivity. Air at lower altitudes (up to 10,000 feet) in the western Pacific where radioactivity was detected over the weekend is moving northeast towards southwestern Alaska. Air at middle altitudes in the western Pacific where radioactivity was detected will move southward and eastward towards the central Pacific during the next several days.

The Task Force's best estimate of the events leading to the release of radioactivity at Chernobyl continues to be the loss of coolant for the number four reactor, followed by the production of hydrogen which then led to the chemical explosion. This was followed by the fire within the graphite core. The core may still be smoldering and there may be continuing releases of radiation. This possible chain of events is consistent with the most recent Soviet description of some of the events surrounding the accident.

Yesterday's Task Force Report contained interim guidance for U.S. citizens living in or traveling to areas affected by the reactor accident. This guidance remains in effect; no additional guidance has been issued.

Levels of radiation in this country are not expected to cause any problems relating to consumption of domestic products. Food and drug items from affected countries which were produced subsequent to the April 25-26 nuclear accident are not expected to arrive in large quantities in the U.S. for several weeks. The Task Force agencies are taking steps to insure that the quality of these products will meet health standards. The Food and Drug Administration issued recommended protective action guides in 1982 on the level of radioactive contamination in food at which action should be taken by public health officials to avoid any radioactive dose that would occur from future ingestion of contaminated food.

The teams at our missions in Moscow, Warsaw and Bucharest continue to take readings. Initial assessments of these readings continue to suggest no significant health concerns at this time. Data from the teams' readings are being subjected to complete evaluation, the conclusions of which should be available soon. Members of the team in Moscow traveled to our mission in Leningrad last night and should be providing data from their initial readings soon. Additionally, a team went to Cracow last night and should be going to Poznan, another of our consulates in Poland today.

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Until more comprehensive data on radiation levels in Poland are available, the State Department is continuing to recommend for the time being that women of child-bearing age and children put off their travel. Preliminary data at points measured to date indicate radiation levels are low and pose no hazard to health.

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE BY WORLD LEADERS
PARTICIPATING IN THE TOKYO SUMMIT

Following is the text of the May 4 Tokyo summit statement on the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major industrial nations and the representatives of the European community, have discussed the implications of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. We express our deep sympathy for those affected. We remain ready to extend assistance, in particular medical and technical, as and when requested.

Nuclear power is and, properly managed, will continue to be an increasingly widely used source of energy. For each country the maintenance of safety and security is an international responsibility, and each country engaged in nuclear power generation bears full responsibility for the safety of the design, manufacture, operation, and maintenance of its installations. Each of our countries meets exacting standards. Each country, furthermore, is responsible for prompt provision of detailed and complete information on nuclear emergencies and accidents, in particular those with potential transboundary consequences. Each of our countries accepts that responsibility, and we urge the government of the Soviet Union, which did not do so in the case of Chernobyl, to provide urgently such information, as our and other countries have requested.

We note with satisfaction the Soviet Union's willingness to undertake discussions this week with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We expect that these discussions will lead to the Soviet Union's participation in the desired post-accident analysis.

We welcome and encourage the work of the IAEA in seeking to improve international cooperation on the safety of nuclear installations, the handling of nuclear accidents and their consequences, and the provision of mutual emergency assistance. Moving forward from the relevant IAEA guidelines, we urge the early elaboration of an international convention committing the parties to report and exchange information in the event of nuclear emergencies or accidents. This should be done with the least possible delay.



Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

One rainwater sample collected in Olympia, Washington, on May 5 showed 170 pCi/l of iodine-131. This value is approximately one third as high as the value in rainwater collected at Richland, Washington, reported yesterday. As stated in yesterday's report, iodine-131 at these concentrations poses no danger to area residents. As a precautionary measure, the State of Oregon has issued an advisory that people who normally use rainwater as their sole source of drinking water should not drink rainwater at this time. Nineteen other samples of rainwater from various locations in the United States analyzed on May 5 and 6 showed no increase in radiation levels above normal background.

All the latest air particulate samples in the United States and Canada show no increase in radiation levels above normal background. For the United States, this includes 44 samples collected May 5, 27 samples collected May 4, 22 samples collected May 3, 3 samples collected May 2, 5 samples collected May 1, and 5 samples collected on various dates in April. For Canada, it includes 3 samples collected May 6, 20 samples collected May 5, 22 samples collected May 4, 22 samples collected May 3, 27 samples collected May 2, and 27 samples collected May 1.

Canadian authorities have reported the detection of elevated levels of radionuclides in a shipment of vegetables which arrived in Vancouver on May 5 from Italy. Canadian officials have ordered this shipment destroyed. The Canadian government has issued an alert to their Customs officials to hold all shipments of fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs of European origin and to notify the health protection branch of shipments of any other fresh foods or food ingredients.

The U.S. is continuing its program of inspecting imported foods.

Patches of contaminated air continue to move across the U.S. from the west to the northeast at upper levels (above about 20,000 feet). Air flowing across the Pacific Ocean also contains patches of radioactivity and continues to be monitored by aircraft off the west coast. Radioactivity detected by aircraft Monday night at about 20,000 feet in the Gulf of Alaska has moved toward the east, crossing southeastern Alaska. Yesterday's flights along the west coast of North America reported very low or no radioactivity. If additional radioactivity moves into the Gulf of Alaska or off the northwest coast of the U.S., it will be carried southeast into a large storm system in the western U.S. Rainwater from high-reaching rainstorms in the west and in New England may contain detectable radioactivity from the Chernobyl accident.

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None of the data available to the Federal Aviation Administration about the Chernobyl accident provides any concern for any flights of any U.S. carriers anywhere in the world. The only area the FAA would be potentially concerned about is flight in the vicinity of the reactor site near Kiev at altitudes below 20,000 feet. Flight above 20,000 feet at this location near Kiev or other flights at any altitude anywhere in the world is not expected to present any public health or safety problems due to radiation contamination which might exist as a result of the accident. There is no reason for special flight precautions. No further notifications on this subject are planned at this time.

In 1982, the Food and Drug Administration established what are known as recommended protective action guides for public health officials dealing with contaminated human food or animal feeds. These guides can be used to determine whether levels of radiation encountered in food after a radiological incident require any preventive measures to protect public health. These guides for five different radionuclides (Iodine 131, Cesium 134, Cesium 137, Strontium 90, and Strontium 89) in three types of concentrations (initial deposits, foliage concentration, and peak milk levels) offer a basis to compare readings of these radionuclides in rainwater and milk samples that may be found as a result of radiation contamination from the Chernobyl incident.

FDA protective action guides are designed for the most sensitive elements of the population (pregnant women and infants) and are used primarily for relatively short-term radiological incidents such as the current situation. The guides are established well beneath any onset of health effects. It should be noted that the FDA's guides are more conservative (i.e., more protective) than those established by others, e.g., the European Common Market and Sweden, and become even more protective when they are applied cumulatively across all isotopes under the regulation.

The following table lists the FDA response levels for the recommended protective action guides:

	Iodine 131	Cesium 134	Cesium 137	Strontium 90	Strontium 89
Initial Deposits (Rainwater) [picocuries per square meter]	130,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	500,000	8,000,000
Forage Concentration (on grass, etc.) [picocuries per kilogram]	50,000	800,000	1,300,000	180,000	3,000,000
Peak Milk Levels [picocuries per liter]	15,000	150,000	240,000	9,000	140,000

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As an example, the Iodine 131 measurement in the rainwater sample taken in Portland, Oregon on May 6 (630 picocuries/liter) would equate to less than 1,500 picocuries per square meter since the amount of rainfall was quite small. This level of 1,500 picocuries per square meter is approximately 1 percent of the FDA guide of 130,000 for initial deposits (rainwater) and may roughly equate to less than 1 percent of peak milk levels.

The Task Force reiterates their earlier advisory that the levels of radioactivity expected to reach the ground in the U.S. are considered to be no health threat and recommends against the taking of potassium iodide (KI) to minimize the uptake of radioiodine.

Based on the fact that no harmful levels of radioactivity are expected to reach the continental United States, it is highly unlikely that potassium iodide (KI) will be needed to minimize the uptake of radioactive iodine from the Russian nuclear power plant accident. KI, although relatively harmless, has been associated with certain allergic reactions; thus, since the use of KI is not without some risk to the population, the U.S. Public Health Service recommends against taking KI as a precautionary measure. Federal authorities do not believe there is any reason for concern at this time about the safety of either our domestic food or drug supplies. Nor should there be concern over imported products already in the United States or on their way to the United States at the time of the nuclear accident in the Soviet Union.

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Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

The EPA monitoring network is continuing to collect air particulate and rainwater samples daily. We have now received the first data showing traces of radioactivity from Chernobyl in the air at ground level in the United States. The Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS) station in Cheyenne, Wyoming reported 0.012 pCi/m³ of iodine-131 in the air sample collected May 6. The Denver, Colorado station reported 0.0057 pCi/m³ of iodine-131 and 0.0002 pCi/m³ of cesium-134. These levels are barely detectable and represent no danger to area residents. All other air particulate samples show no increase in radiation levels above normal background levels. The results include one sample collected on May 7, 41 samples on May 6, 14 samples on May 5, 5 samples on May 4, and 17 samples on earlier dates. The Department of Energy has reported that one air particulate sample collected in Richland, Washington on May 5 and three samples collected in Richland on May 6 showed iodine-131 levels between 0.003 pCi/m³ and 0.015 pCi/m³.

In addition to the two rainwater samples from Olympia and Richland, Washington reported in previous Task Force Reports, iodine-131 has been detected in five additional rainwater samples (two collected at ERAMS stations on May 6 - 6.7 pCi/l at Bismark, North Dakota, and 47 pCi/l in a second sample from Olympia, Washington; three from DOE facilities - 62 pCi/l at Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 6 and 45 pCi/l and 50 pCi/l in two additional samples at Richland, Washington on May 5 and 6). Iodine-131 was not detected in rainwater collected at the following ERAMS stations and collection dates: May 6 - Madison, Wisconsin; May 5 - Syracuse, New York; Miami, Florida; Montpelier, Vermont; Concord, New Hampshire; Bismark, North Dakota; May 3 - Berkeley, California; May 2 - Painesville, Ohio; Nashville, Tennessee; Syracuse, New York; May 1 - Toledo, Ohio; Austin, Texas; Little Rock, Arkansas; April 30 - Chicago, Illinois; Montpelier, Vermont; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and April 29 - Middletown, Pennsylvania.

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Canadian officials report slightly elevated radiation levels in air samples from towns and cities in southern Canada collected May 5 and 6. One rainwater sample collected in Ottawa May 7 contained 1647 pCi/l of iodine-131, 51 pCi/l of cesium-137, and 38 pCi/l of ruthenium-103.

Patches of contaminated air from the Chernobyl nuclear accident were detected by aircraft yesterday, May 7, at middle altitudes (about 10,000 to 12,000 feet) along the northwest U.S. coast to southeastern Alaska. Similar patches have been flowing across the Pacific Ocean for the past several days. Those at the higher altitudes have moved across the U.S. from the west to the northeast, as evidenced by reports of radioactivity in rainwater in the United States attributed to high-reaching rainstorms. Radioactivity entering the west coast will be carried into the southwestern U.S. It will then be carried northward through the midwestern U.S. where especially intense rains are expected. Both this midwestern U.S. region and the low pressure system over the upper-middle Plains States are likely to have contaminated rainwater and ground level air.

The latest information available on the reactor is that the number four unit continues to show signs of smoldering. As the Task Force has noted, stabilizing a reactor by bringing it to a "cold shutdown" carries inherent risks and the situation there will continue to be monitored by the Task Force. We have no confirmation of reports in Pravda and the Western media about tunneling or about hot materials at the base of the reactor. These reports are plausible and we have no basis to dismiss them. However, the exact circumstances are still unclear.

The question has been raised whether American citizens touring Europe for several weeks following the Soviet accident should seek medical screening procedures from United States military hospital facilities there.

The Public Health Service does not recommend such screening on a routine basis. Rather, upon return, if they have concerns, travelers should obtain information and answers to their specific questions by contacting their State Radiation Control Program (located either in their State Health Department or State Environmental Protection Agency) or from their physician.

Travelers are urged to keep in contact with the United States Embassies to assure themselves they have the most up to date public health guidance for that part of Europe.

In the Task Force Report of May 5, 1986, interim guidance was provided to Americans living or traveling in or around the affected region regarding precautions to minimize exposure to radiation.

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Based on more recent information, it should be re-emphasized that persons in or around the affected region should avoid drinking fresh milk or eating other dairy products, particularly soft cheeses. In lieu of fresh milk, the following should be used; canned milk, powdered milk, commercial infant formula, or imported fresh dairy products. In addition, Americans in these areas (especially pregnant women and young children, due to their possibly higher sensitivities to radiation) should contact the local U.S. Embassy for more specific information available from local governments.

Both the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Food and Drug Administration have in place routine procedures which allow them to properly monitor these kinds of products being imported from all foreign countries. Working closely with U.S. Customs Bureau officials, inspectors of both agencies either routinely review the customs records for all commercial shipments of food products offered for entry or directly examine each shipment. Based on this action, decisions are made whether to detain and further test the products prior to release into U.S. commerce.

Following the Soviet nuclear power accident, both agencies have expanded and raised the priority of their monitoring of food products from the affected countries. Copies of documents associated with these initiatives can be obtained directly from the public affairs office of each agency. Briefly, letters and assignments issued to date provide for:

- ° Increased monitoring and analysis of fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh fish and selected dairy products as they are offered for entry; and
- ° Notification to countries exporting meat and poultry products to the United States of special procedures for monitoring prior to shipment.

If products from any one country present a concern to either agency, those products will automatically be detained and analyzed before release.

Preliminary plots showing estimates of the adult thyroid dose, the whole-body dose and the surface deposition due to the release of iodine-131 and cesium-137 from the Chernobyl power plant accident have been released by the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. These initial estimates provide a prediction of the spatial distribution of the emissions over a six-day period following the event. At this time, there is some uncertainty about the quantity of I-131 and Cs-137 that was actually released as well as the thermal energy that was involved in the release. The Livermore estimates are

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based on predicted activity being injected at heights below 2,000 meters. However, aircraft measurements over Europe, Japan and the U.S. reveal activities at much higher altitudes, and these measurements have been included in the Interagency Task Force's forecasts which are supplied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Questions on the preliminary Livermore calculations should be directed to Dr. Joseph Knox at the Livermore Laboratory, 415-422-1818. The preliminary plots, which are being supplied for informational purposes only, are available to reporters only from the EPA Press Office, room 311 West Tower, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; 202-382-4355.

Initial radioactivity measurements from data supplied by American embassies abroad are available today. This information summarizes air, water, and forage data for the period April 28 through May 5, 1986. The sources of the data are considered to be reputable health protection organizations in the host countries. Though the data are considered to be of reasonable quality, they are listed as received through the embassies and have not been subjected to quality assurance by EPA's Office of Radiation Programs. The listing includes data from the following countries:

Austria	Hungary	Norway
Belgium	Italy	Spain
Czechoslovakia	Japan	Sweden
Finland	Korea	West Germany
France	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

Data from additional countries and more current readings are being processed and are expected to be available soon. Copies of the country-by-country embassy data summary are available from the EPA press office. Questions may be directed to Chris Rice, phone (202) 382-4355.

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Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

The first results from the U.S. milk monitoring network show no detected radioactivity in any sample. Sample collection dates and locations are as follows: May 7 - Atlanta, Georgia; St. Louis, Missouri; May 6 - Portland, Maine; Concord, New Hampshire; Louisville, Kentucky; Tampa, Florida; Baltimore, Maryland; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Kansas City, Missouri; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Las Vegas, Nevada; Charleston, West Virginia; Laramie, Wyoming; Charleston, South Carolina; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; May 5 - Manchester, New Hampshire; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Hartford, Connecticut; Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Wichita, Kansas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Omaha, Nebraska; Charlotte, North Carolina; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Rapid City, South Dakota; Des Moines, Iowa; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Knoxville, Tennessee; May 4 - Spokane, Washington; May 1 - Iowa City, Iowa; April 30 - Montpelier, Vermont.

Yesterday's Task Force Report identified trace radioactivity in air samples collected May 6 in Denver, Colorado and Cheyenne, Wyoming. Air samples collected in these two cities on May 7 show radiation levels have returned to normal background. All other EPA air particulate samples show no increase above normal background levels. DOE has reported that an air sample from Richland, Washington collected on May 8 showed traces of iodine-131 (0.165 pCi/m^3), tellurium-132 (0.02 pCi/m^3), ruthenium-103 (0.02 pCi/m^3) and cesium-137 (0.028 pCi/m^3).

In addition to the results of rainwater analyses contained in previous Task Force Reports, two additional EPA rainwater samples have been found to contain iodine-131. The sample collected in Portland, Oregon on May 5 contained 460 pCi/l , representing a deposition of 138 pCi/m^2 . The sample collected in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 6 contained 120 pCi/l , representing a deposition of 38.4 pCi/m^2 . These levels are similar to those reported in previous reports and pose no danger to the public. All other EPA rainwater samples analyzed since the last report show no activity detected. DOE has reported that two rainwater samples collected at

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Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 8 showed 113 pCi/l and 620 pCi/l of iodine-131 and 24 pCi/l and 130 pCi/l of molybdenum-99. The State of New York has reported that two rainwater samples collected May 7 contained 36 pCi/l and 90 pCi/l of iodine-131. The Task Force will include in its daily update results reported to it by state agencies. There may be additional results from these agencies that have not yet been reported to the Task Force.

Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng notes that the Commodity Credit Corp. has large inventories of non-fat dry milk which could be made available or donated under certain circumstances to replace milk which is being discarded in countries affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The latest information available on the reactor is that the number four unit may still be smoldering. We have no confirmation of late reports that the smoldering has been extinguished. We also have no reason currently to suspect problems at the number three unit, although we repeat that any time a reactor must be brought to a "cold shutdown" there are inherent risks, and we will continue to monitor the entire facility. We do believe that there is remedial activity taking place under the number four reactor, but the exact scope and nature of that activity remains unclear.

Both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service have routine procedures in place to monitor food from foreign countries. Working with U.S. Customs Bureau officials, the agencies are now giving particular attention, as a result of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl April 25-26, to products originating in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, East Germany, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Poland, the Soviet Union, Sweden and West Germany. Countries may be added to or removed from the list as further data are obtained. FDA has increased monitoring and analysis of these country's fresh dairy products (soft unripened cheese, for example), fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh fish for radioactive contamination. Countries exporting meat and poultry products to the United States are being provided special procedures by the Food Safety and Inspection Service for monitoring before shipment to the United States. If sampling and testing of foods, or other information, present a concern to either agency about a product from a country, all shipments of other products will be automatically detained and analyzed before they are released.

The most recent Canadian rainwater and milk samples show no increase in radiation above normal background levels.

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The Task Force has received a very large number of questions about the precise location of the radioactivity in the air at various altitudes above ground level and the predicted movement of this radioactivity across the United States. By now, the releases from the Chernobyl accident have become so dispersed that exact forecasting is not possible. We will continue to monitor air, water, and milk for increased radiation levels. We expect that any increases will be comparable to the low levels already seen.

Preliminary interpretation of May 8 LANDSAT data indicate that the "hotspot" at the Chernobyl number four reactor is no longer apparent. A full analysis will be available early next week by LANDSAT.

Revised advice on tourist travel to Poland: The State Department is no longer recommending that women of child bearing age and children defer travels to Poland. Data, including that collected in the past week, by an EPA expert in Poland, indicate that radiation levels in the air currently pose no health hazard. However, the U.S. Public Health Service continues to urge certain health precautions for travelers in the countries affected. Information on these precautions is available from U.S. embassies and consulates in the region.

The EPA Press Office will be open for reporters' calls on the Chernobyl nuclear accident from 10:00 a.m. to noon EDT over the weekend of May 10-11. The Press Office also will issue an updated report on the accident on those days.

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AIR SAMPLING DATA 5/8/86

Sampling Station	Date Started	Date Removed	Gross Beta Act (pci/m**3)		Gamma Emitter (pci/m**3)
			Lab	Field	
ALBANY, NY	4/22/86	4/29/86	0.01	<10	---
NASHVILLE, TN	4/29/86	4/30/86	0.01	<10	---
ASHFORD, AL	4/24/86	5/ 1/86	0.01	NA	---
CHARLESTON, WV	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.00	NA	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.02	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.00	<10	---
ILAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.02	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.00	<10	---
MIAMI, FL	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.02	<10	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.01	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.00	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 4/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---
MONTPELIER, VT	5/ 4/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---
MONTGOMERY, AL	5/ 2/86	5/ 5/86	0.02	<10	---
GOLDSBORO, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.13	<10	---
BISMARCK, ND	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
PORTLAND, OP	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
JUNEAU, AK	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.01	<10	---
TMI, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.10	<10	---
TOPEKA, KS	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.23	<10	---
ANCHORAGE, AK	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.01	<10	---
PIERRE, SD	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
MONTGOMERY, AL	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.10	<10	---
HARRISBURG, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.09	<10	---
LITTLE ROCK, AR	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.04	<10	---
LANSING, MI	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
SPOKANE, WA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
MONTPELIER, VT	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.06	<10	---
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
SANTA FE, NM	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.06	<10	---
HELENA, MT	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
PITTSBURGH, PA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.04	<10	---
AUSTIN, TX	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
HARTFORD, CT	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.05	<10	---
INDIANAPOLIS, IN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.28	<10	---
LYNCHBURG, VA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.46	<10	---
AUGUSTA, ME	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
SYRACUSE, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.17	<10	---
CHEYENNE, WY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.31	<10	---
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.10	<10	---
LINCOLN, NE	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.25	<10	---
CHICAGO, IL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.37	<10	---

LITTLE ROCK, AR	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.13	<10	---
SALT LAKE CITY, UT	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---
LOS ANGELES, CA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.09	<10	---
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.28	<10	---
TOLEDO, OH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.13	<10	---
KNOXVILLE, TN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.39	<10	---
JACKSONVILLE, FL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---
NEW ORLEANS, LA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	NA	---
HELENA, MT	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.16	<10	---
TOPEKA, KS	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.23	<10	---
MADISON, WI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.29	<10	---
WILMINGTON, NC	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
OLYMPIA, WA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.01	<10	---
FRANKFORT, KY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.34	<10	---
SPOKANE, WA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.21	<10	---
COLUMBUS, OH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.39	<10	---
DENVER, CO	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.32	<10	---
BERKELEY, CA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
JACKSON, MS	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.24	<10	---
PAINESVILLE, OH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	<10	---
GOLDSBORO, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.40	<10	---
CHARLESTON, WV	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.45	<10	---
PHOENIX, AZ	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.10	<10	---
HONOLULU, HI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.06	NA	---
HARRISBURG, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.16	<10	---
COLUMBIA, SC	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.17	<10	---
YAPHANK, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.05	<10	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.23	<10	---
CHARLOTTE, NC	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.29	<10	---
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
NEW YORK CITY, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.08	<10	---
MIAMI, FL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.01	<10	---
NIAGARA FALLS, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.11	<10	---
NASHVILLE, TN	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.31	<10	---
WILMINGTON, DE	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.16	<10	---
TMI, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.30	<10	---

ND = Not Detected

NA = Not Available

MILK DATA
5/7/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity pCi/l
Manchester, NH	5/5	ND
Portland, OR	5/5	ND
Salt Lake City, UT	5/5	ND
Grand Rapids, MI	5/5	ND
Hartford, CT	5/5	ND
Cincinnati, OH	5/5	ND
Portland, ME	5/6	ND
Chicago, IL	5/5	ND
Montgomery, AL	5/6	ND
Wichita, KS	5/5	ND
Spokane, WA	5/4	ND
Indianapolis, IN	5/5	ND
Montpelier, VT	4/30	ND
Concord, NH	5/6	ND
Iowa City, IA	5/1	ND

ND = Not Detected

MILK DATA
5/8/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity pCi/l
Louisville, KY	5/6	ND
Tampa, FL	5/6	ND
Oklahoma City, OK	5/5	ND
Omaha, NE	5/5	ND
Charlotte, NC	5/5	ND
Baltimore, MD	5/6	ND
San Francisco, CA	5/6	ND
Seattle, WA	5/6	ND
Milwaukie, WI	5/6	ND
Kansas City, MO	5/6	ND
Minneapolis, MN	5/5	ND
Minneapolis, MN	5/6	ND
Chattanooga, TN	5/5	ND
Las Vegas, NV	5/6	ND
St. Louis, MO	5/7	ND
Rapid City, SD	5/5	ND
Des Moines, IA	5/5	ND
Atlanta, GA	5/7	ND
Charleston, WV	5/6	ND
Philadelphia, PA	5/5	ND
Laramie, WY	5/6	ND
Charleston, SC	5/6	ND
Knoxville, TN	5/5	ND
Albuquerque, NM	5/6	ND
Harrisburg, PA	5/6	ND
Pittsburg, PA	5/6	ND

ND = Not Detected

PRECIPITATION DATA 5/8/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity	
		pCi/l	pCi/m**2
Concord, NH	5/2	ND	ND
Berkeley, CA	5/4	ND	ND
Topeka, KS	5/6	ND	ND
Little Rock, AR	5/7	ND	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/5	ND	ND
New York City, NY	5/4	ND	ND
Montpelier, VT	5/6	ND	ND
Portland, OR	5/5	460 +/- 67%	138 (I-131)
Concord, NH	5/6	ND	ND
Topeka, KS	5/7	ND	ND
Salt Lake City, UT	5/7	ND	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/6	120 +/- 91%	38.4 (I-131)
Berkeley, CA	5/7	ND	ND
Columbus, OH	5/7	ND	ND
Harrisburg, PA	5/6	ND	ND
Indianapolis, IN	5/7	ND	ND
Montpelier, VT	5/7	ND	ND
Augusta, ME	5/7	ND	ND

ND = Not Detected



Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

Weekend Update

The EPA monitoring network is continuing to monitor air and rainwater daily and milk twice per week. The latest milk samples show no detected radioactivity for the following sample locations and collection dates: May 8-Anchorage, Alaska; Salt Lake City, Utah; Hartford, Connecticut; May 7-Anchorage, Alaska; Austin, Texas; Buffalo, New York; May 6-Boston, Massachusetts; Honolulu, Hawaii; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Los Angeles, California; May 1-Idaho Falls, Idaho.

The latest precipitation data show iodine-131 present in rainfall collected over May 5-8 in Painesville, Ohio; Lansing, Michigan; Montpelier, Vermont; Portland, Oregon; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Augusta, Maine; Salt Lake City, Utah; Concord, New Hampshire; and Helena, Montana. Concentrations of iodine-131 range from 11 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) to 240 pCi/l. Deposition of iodine-131 is estimated to range from 54 pCi/m² to 700 pCi/m². One additional rainwater sample collected in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 7 and analyzed by the EPA/ORP Laboratory there showed 500 pCi/l of iodine-131. These values are comparable to the other low values we have been seeing in the U.S. this week.

One air particulate sample collected in Chicago, Illinois, May 7 contained a slight trace of I-131 (0.0018 pCi/m³). The EPA Las Vegas Laboratory also has detected slight traces of I-131 (0.09-0.29 pCi/m³) in samples collected May 7-9. All other air particulate data are showing no increase above normal background levels.

To summarize, all of the positive readings listed above for this country and those noted by EPA previously pose no hazard to public health or the environment due to the extremely low concentrations at which they have been detected.

A complete listing of EPA data is attached to today's report. The reader should note that normal background readings for gross beta activity on air filters are highly variable. Readings less than 1.0 pCi/m³ are not considered elevated above normal background unless specific radionuclides emitted from the Chernobyl reactor accident are identified in the "Gamma" column. In other words, readings from the cities in this list are all within the range of background levels of radiation experienced normally.

#

Air Samples
9-MAY-86 18:31

Sampling Station	Date Started	Date Removed	Gross Beta Act (pci/m**3)		Gamma Emitter (pci/m**3)	
			Lab	Field		
LAWRENCE, MA	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.01	NA	---	*
LAWRENCE, MA	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.01	NA	---	*
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	5/ 3/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---	*
LAWRENCE, MA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.03	<10	---	*
BOISE, ID	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.01	<10	---	
IOWA CITY, IA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	NA	---	
BISMARCK, ND	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.09	<10	---	*
EL PASO, TX	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.05	<10	---	*
LANSING, MI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.06	<10	---	
JEFFERSON CITY, MO	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.17	<10	---	*
PROVIDENCE, RI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---	*
CONCORD, NH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---	*
PIERRE, SD	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.12	<10	---	*
HARTFORD, CT	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---	*
ALBANY, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	<10	---	*
AUSTIN, TX	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.04	<10	---	
SANTA FE, NM	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	<10	---	*
ANCHORAGE, AK	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.01	<10	---	
LAS VEGAS, NV	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.10	<10	---	*
JUNEAU, AK	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.00	<10	---	*
CHICAGO, IL	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.37	<10	I-131 0.0018 +/- 84	
PITTSBURGH, PA	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10		
BOISE, ID	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.04	<10	---	
GOLDSBORO, PA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.13	<10	---	
PROVIDENCE, RI	5/ 7/86	5/ 8 ---				
OLYMPIA, WA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.04	<10	---	
NEW ORLEANS, LA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.06	NA	---	
NASHVILLE, TN	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.13	<10	---	
NEW YORK CITY, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.07	<10	---	*
COLUMBIA, SC	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.28	<10	---	*
LYNCHBURG, VA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.26	<10	---	
FRANKFORT, KY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.14	<10	---	
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.19	NA	---	
AUGUSTA, ME	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.04	<10	---	
HARTFORD, CT	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.10	<10	---	*
SPOKANE, WA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.22	<10	---	
INDIANAPOLIS, IN	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.13	<10	---	
ALBANY, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.05	<10	---	

Air Samples
5/9/86 15:48

Sampling Station Emitter	Date Started	Date Removed	Gross Beta Act (pci/m**3)		Gamma
(pci/m**3)			Lab	Field	
LAWRENCE, MA	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.01	NA	---
LAWRENCE, MA	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.01	NA	---
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	5/ 3/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---
LAWRENCE, MA	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.03	<10	---
JEFFERSON CITY, MO	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.17	<10	---
PROVIDENCE, RI	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
CONCORD, NH	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---
HARTFORD, CT	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.03	<10	---
PIERRE, SD	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.12	<10	---
LAS VEGAS, NV	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.10	<10	---
ALBANY, NY	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	<10	---
JUNEAU, AK	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.00	<10	---
SANTA FE, NM	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.07	<10	---
BISMARCK, ND	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.09	<10	---
EL PASO, TX	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.05	<10	---
JACKSONVILLE, FL	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.05	<10	---
NEW YORK CITY, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.07	<10	---
HARTFORD, CT	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.10	<10	---
LOS ANGELES, CA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.11	<10	---
MONTGOMERY, AL	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.73	<10	---
KNOXVILLE, TN	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.24	<10	---
CHARLOTTE, NC	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.37	<10	---
SYRACUSE, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---
COLUMBIA, SC	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.28	<10	---
MADISON, WI	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.18	<10	---
LINCOLN, NE	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.36	<10	---
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---

ND = Not Detected

NA = Not Available

* = Gamma Results Previously Reported

CHEYENNE, WY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.19	<10	---	
PAINESVILLE, OH	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---	
PHOENIX, AZ	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.55	<10	---	
CHARLESTON, WV	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.10	<10	---	
CONCORD, NH	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.03	<10	---	
NIAGARA FALLS, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.05	<10	---	
HARRISBURG, PA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.05	<10	---	
TOPEKA, KS	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.57	<10	---	
CHICAGO, IL	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.04	<10	---	
HELENA, MT	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.12	<10	---	
PORTLAND, OR	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.05	<10	---	
LOS ANGELES, CA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.11	<10	---	*
LITTLE ROCK, AR	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.16	<10	---	
IOWA CITY, IA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.19	NA	---	
MADISON, WI	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.18	<10	---	*
WILMINGTON, NC	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.06	<10	---	
WILMINGTON, DE	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.07	<10	---	
MONTGOMERY, AL	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.73	<10	---	*
SYRACUSE, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---	*
JACKSONVILLE, FL	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.05	<10	---	*
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---	*
CHARLOTTE, NC	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.37	<10	---	*
HONOLULU, HI	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.15	NA	---	
EL PASO, TX	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.21	<10	---	
LINCOLN, NE	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.36	<10	---	*
TMI, PA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.06	<10	---	
KNOXVILLE, TN	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.24	<10	---	*
DENVER, CO	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.35	<10	---	
MIAMI, FL	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.02	<10	---	
YAPHANK, NY	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.09	<10	---	
TOLEDO, OH	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.10	<10	---	
SALT LAKE CITY, UT	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.04	<10	---	

ND = Not Detected

NA = Not Available

* = Gamma Results Previously Reported

Precipitation Sampling
5/9/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity	
		pCi/l	pCi/m**2
Painesville, OH	5/7	11 +/- 43%	530 +/- 43%
Lansing, MI	5/7	40 +/- 37%	54 +/- 37%
Middletown, PA	5/7	ND	ND
Minneapolis, MN	5/8	ND	ND
Toledo, OH	5/5	ND	ND
Boise, ID	5/5	ND	ND
Juneau, AK	5/7	ND	ND
Albany, NY	5/7	ND	ND
Montpelier, VT	5/7	120 +/- 30%	480 +/- 30%
Providence, RI	5/6	ND	ND
Las Vegas, NV	5/7	ND	ND
Knoxville, TN	5/8	ND	ND
Jacksonville, FL	5/8	ND	ND
Portland, OR	5/5	46 +/- 49%	452 +/- 49%
Idaho Falls, ID	5/7	66 +/- 63%	120 +/- 63%
Augusta, ME	5/8	72 +/- 29%	430 +/- 29%
Salt Lake City, UT	5/8	36 +/- 46%	700 +/- 46%
Olympia, WA	5/7	ND	ND
Portland, OR	5/8	240 +/- 74%	210 +/- 74%
Iowa City, IA	5/8	ND	ND
Yaphank, NY	5/8	ND	ND
Concord, NH	5/8	63 +/- 75%	70 +/- 75%
Helena, MT	5/8	27 +/- 53%	220 +/- 53%
Indianapolis, IN	5/8	ND	ND

All detectable activity was I-131.

ND = Not Detected

(More)

Milk Data
5/9/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity pCi/l
Boston, MA	5/6	ND
Honolulu, HI	5/6	ND
Oklahoma City, OK	5/6	ND
Anchorage, AK	5/7	ND
Anchorage, AK	5/8	ND
Austin, TX	5/7	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/1	ND
Los Angeles, CA	5/6	ND
Buffulo, NY	5/7	ND
Salt Lake City, UT	5/8	ND
Hartford, CT	5/8	ND

ND = Not Detected



Soviet Nuclear Accident

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1986

A Task Force Report

CONTACT: DAVE COHEN (202) 382-4355

Weekend Update

Attached is a listing of air particulate, precipitation, and milk samples processed by EPA's Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS) through late Saturday, May 10, 1986.

In the daily national air sampling network, only Phoenix, Arizona indicated detectable amounts of fallout above normal background levels in that fresh fission products were detected in Phoenix for the period May 7-8. Phoenix detected iodine-131 levels of 0.091 picocuries per cubic meter (pCi/m³), cesium-134 levels of 0.015 pCi/m³, and cesium-137 levels of 0.028 pCi/m³. These are considered very low levels that pose no danger to health or the environment. All other cities submitting air samples show no levels above the normal range for background.

The daily precipitation (rainwater) samples reported several cities showing detectable levels of iodine-131 from the nuclear reactor accident at Chernobyl. The listing indicates the concentration of I-131 in picocuries per liter (pCi/l) and also relates it to deposition in picocuries per square meter (pCi/m²) which takes into account the amount of rainfall. As a frame of reference, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's preventive action guide for deposition for I-131 which would cause public health officials to take action to withhold food products from the market is 130,000 pCi/m². The highest deposition level reported in today's listing of EPA's laboratory analysis comes from Idaho Falls, Idaho collected on May 8. That I-131 deposition level was 440 pCi/m². This level represents much less than one percent of the FDA guide and is not considered to pose any threat to health or welfare.

Public health officials in Portland, Oregon reported rainwater samples taken Friday, May 9 showed elevated levels of I-131 but indicated that they posed no threat to health or welfare. Those samples are currently being processed by EPA's laboratory and should be reported Monday.

The twice-weekly milk sampling network reports no detectable levels of radioactivity.

(More)

(All readings on the attached lists other than those cited above showed no readings above background from samplings.)

In summation, EPA's nationwide radiation monitoring network has recorded sporadic and small detectable levels of radiation from the Soviet reactor accident in most areas of the country except the Southeastern U.S. through this past week. It is expected that the sensitive instruments may detect very low levels in rainwater, air, and possibly milk samples for some weeks to come, but that these levels will pose no threat to human health or the environment.

#

Air Samples
10-MAY-86 16:52

Sampling Station	Date Started	Date Removed	Gross Beta Act (pci/m**3)		Gamma Emitter (pci/m**3)
			Lab	Field	
TRENTON, NJ	4/30/86	5/ 1/86	0.01	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 1/86	5/ 2/86	0.01	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 2/86	5/ 3/86	0.01	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 3/86	5/ 4/86	0.01	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 4/86	5/ 5/86	0.01	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 5/86	5/ 6/86	0.02	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 6/86	5/ 7/86	0.02	<10	---
PHOENIX, AZ	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.55	<10	I-131 0.091 +/- 7% Cs-134 0.015 +/- 2% Cs-137 0.028 +/- 1%
BERKELEY, CA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.02	<10	---
ANCHORAGE, AK	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.03	<10	---
PIERRE, SD	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.09	<10	---
LAS VEGAS, NV	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---
JUNEAU, AK	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.04	<10	---
BOISE, ID	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.03	<10	---
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.08	<10	---
BISMARCK, ND	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.25	<10	---
JEFFERSON CITY, MO	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.13	<10	---
PITTSBURGH, PA	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.02	<10	---
TRENTON, NJ	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.03	<10	---
AUSTIN, TX	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.04	<10	---
LANSING, MI	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.02	<10	---
SANTA FE, NM	5/ 7/86	5/ 8/86	0.22	<10	---
LAS VEGAS, NV	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.23	<10	---
CONCORD, NH	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.05	<10	---
IDAHO FALLS, ID	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.11	NA	---
OLYMPIA, WA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.05	<10	---
TOLEDO, OH	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.10	<10	---
JACKSON, MS	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.25	<10	---
SPOKANE, WA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.26	<10	---
COLUMBIA, SC	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.10	<10	---
HELENA, MT	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.08	<10	---
IOWA CITY, IA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.16	NA	---
MIAMI, FL	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.02	<10	---
KNOXVILLE, TN	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.35	<10	---
NEW ORLEANS, LA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.08	NA	---
PHOENIX, AZ	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.67	<10	---

CHARLOTTE, NC	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.18	<10	---
PAINESVILLE, OH	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.06	<10	---
WILMINGTON, NC	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.02	<10	---
AUGUSTA, ME	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.18	<10	---
SPRINGFIELD, IL	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.11	<10	---
PROVIDENCE, RI	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.11	<10	---
TOLEDO, OH	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.10	<10	---
BERKELEY, CA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.15	<10	---
SALT LAKE CITY, UT	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.02	<10	---
NASHVILLE, TN	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.21	<10	---
JEFFERSON CITY, MO	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.48	<10	---
GOLDSBORO, PA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.15	<10	---
JACKSONVILLE, FL	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.04	<10	---
COLUMBUS, OH	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.17	<10	---
LITTLE ROCK, AR	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.14	<10	---
CHARLESTON, WV	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.19	<10	---
TOPEKA, KS	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.18	<10	---
TMI, PA	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.12	<10	---
WILMINGTON, DE	5/ 8/86	5/ 9/86	0.05	<10	---

ND = Not Detected

NA = Not Available

* = Gamma Results Previously Reported

Precipitation Data
5/10/86

Station	Date Collected		Activity	
			pCi/l	pCi/m**2
Pierre, SD	5/6		ND	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/6	I-131	78 +/- 49%	25 +/- 49%
Cheyenne, WY	5/8		ND	ND
Portland, OR	5/2		ND	ND
Olympia, WA	5/8	I-131	270 +/- 60%	190 +/- 60%
Charleston, WV	5/7		ND	ND
Pierre, SD	5/8		ND	ND
Bismark, ND	5/8		ND	ND
New York City, NY	5/9	I-131	100 +/- 33%	100 +/- 33%
Juneau, AK	5/8		ND	ND
Minneapolis, MN	5/9		ND	ND
Boise, ID	5/7	I-131	36 +/- 71%	340 +/- 71%
Jefferson City, MO	5/7		ND	ND
Pittsburg, PA	5/7		ND	ND
Atlanta, GA	5/7		ND	ND
Frankfort, KY	5/8		ND	ND
Augusta, ME	5/9	I-131	89 +/- 56%	210 +/- 56%
Idaho Falls, ID	5/9	I-131	27 +/- 65%	110 +/- 65%
Concord, NH	5/9	I-131	33 +/- 52%	99 +/- 52%
Salt Lake City, UT	5/9	I-131	21 +/- 91%	380 +/- 91%
Jefferson City, MO	5/9		ND	ND
Iowa City, IA	5/9		ND	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/8	I-131	120 +/- 22%	440 +/- 22%
Las Vegas, NV **	5/7	I-131	530 +/- 33%	180 +/- 33%

** Correction of data reported 5/9/86

Milk Data
5/10/86

Station	Date Collected	Activity pCi/l
Montgomery, AL	5/9	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/8	ND
Chattanooga, TN	5/9	ND
Charlotte, NC	5/9	ND
St. Paul, MN	5/6	ND
Sacramento, CA	5/6	ND
Seattle, WA	5/8	ND
Idaho Falls, ID	5/8	ND
Syracuse, NY	5/5	ND
Memphis, TN	5/7	ND
San Francisco, CA	5/8	ND
Atlanta, GA	5/9	ND
New York City, NY	5/5	ND
New York City, NY	5/7	ND
New York City, NY	5/9	ND
Norfolk, VA	5/8	ND
Norfolk, VA	5/7	ND
Charleston, SC	5/8	ND
Denver, CO	5/6	ND
San Juan, PR	5/8	ND
Cleveland, OH	5/6	ND
Louisville, KY	5/9	ND

ND = Not Detected