

First Deputy Minister of Energy and Electrification of the USSR

Regarding the accident at Reactor No. 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

URGENT REPORT

On April 26, 1986, at 1:21 o'clock, as reactor No. 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was taken into routine maintenance, an explosion occurred in the upper part of the reactor compartment after it was shut down.

According to the director of the Chernobyl power plant, as the result of the explosion the roof and parts of the reactor compartment wall panels collapsed, as well as several roof panels of the turbine island and auxiliary systems of the reactor compartment. The roof also caught on fire.

At 3:30 o'clock the fire was eliminated.

The personnel of the nuclear power plant are taking measures to cool down the reactor core.

It is the opinion of the Third Main Directorate of the Ministry of Health that special measures, including the evacuation of the city, are not necessary.

Nine members of the operational staff have been hospitalized, as well as 25 members of the paramilitary fire brigade.

Measures are being taken to eliminate the consequences and investigate the incident.

[Signed]

A.N. Makukhin

[Translated by Anna Melyakova for the National Security Archive.]