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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

INDONESIA EVENING EDITION

5:00 P.M. BALI -- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1986 -- 6:00 A.M. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

TRIP NEWS

INDONESIA BARS TWO JOURNALISTS IN REAGAN PARTY -- DENPASAR, Bali -- President Reagan arrived today on this Indonesian island on the first major stop of his trip to the Far East, but the occasion was marred, White House officials said, when the Indonesian government detained two Australian journalists in the party accompanying the President and barred them from the country.

(New York Times, AP, Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN, IN BALI, IS MUM ON SOVIET MISHAP -- BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster on his way to this stopover on his Pacific tour, but Administration officials were tightlipped as they awaited more detailed word from Washington.

(Washington Times, Reuter, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT -- The nuclear nightmare continues tonight in the Soviet Union with reports that as many as 2,000 may have been killed and a dangerous fire continues to burn.

TRIP -- President Reagan had an embarrassing arrival today on the Indonesian island of Bali.

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TRIP NEWS

INDONESIANS WELCOME REAGAN, EXPEL JOURNALISTS

BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan, bearing a "message of freedom" for Asian allies, arrived to a lush welcome in the Orient on Tuesday, but Indonesian authorities promptly expelled two Australian journalists in Reagan's entourage.

A third reporter, Barbara Crossette of the New York Times, who had come on her own, was also ordered out of the country, allegedly because she had written stories critical of Indonesian President Suharto.

President Reagan regretted the decision by the Indonesians to deny entry to the journalists, Larry Speakes said. "The President wishes everyone could have come in," he said.

(Tom Raum, AP)

INDONESIA BARS TWO JOURNALISTS IN REAGAN PARTY

DENPASAR, Bali -- President Reagan arrived today on this Indonesian island on the first major stop of his trip to the Far East, but the occasion was marred, White House officials said, when the Indonesian government detained two Australian journalists in the party accompanying the President and barred them from the country.

The journalists were ordered to leave the country in a move that White House officials said highlighted sharp differences between the United States and Indonesia over press and political freedoms.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

U.S. SAYS REPORTERS BAN WON'T HURT "WINDS OF FREEDOM" TRIP

NUSA DUA, Bali -- The White House said today the deportation of three journalists covering President Reagan's visit to Bali would have no effect on the "winds of freedom" message he is taking to meetings with Asian leaders and the Tokyo economic summit.

At the same time, a senior U.S. official acknowledged the Reagan Administration would like to see more rapid progress in Indonesia on the issue of human rights but declined to say if the President would raise concerns during his meeting tomorrow with Suharto.

"We don't want to take it squarely on the nose. All aspects of U.S.-Indonesian relations will be raised," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

(Patricia Wilson, Reuter)

CRACKDOWN ON REPORTERS OVERSHADOWS REAGAN'S INDONESIAN VISIT

BALI, Indonesia -- A 3-week-old story in an Australian newspaper caused the expulsion Tuesday of three foreign correspondents from Indonesia and cast a shadow over the visit of President Reagan.

Asked how the action squared with President Reagan's repeated claim that his two weeks of Far East travel was a "winds of freedom" tour, Indonesia Foreign Minister Kusumaatmadja told a news conference: "I think the winds are still blowing but there are some who don't like the wind. When a hurricane hits, you don't have to like it."

(Kenneth Whiting, AP)

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AUSTRALIA SUMMONS JAKARTA ENVOY IN MIDNIGHT PROTEST

CANBERRA -- Indonesia's acting ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at midnight last night to hear a protest over the barring of two Australian reporters accompanying President Reagan on his visit to Bali, ministry officials said today.

Prime Minister Hawke and Foreign Minister Hayden agreed early last night to lodge an immediate protest if the Indonesians turned back Richard Palfreyman and Jim Middleton who were traveling with Reagan's press corps, official sources said.

(Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN EXPRESSES DEEP REGRET AT ACCIDENT, SETS UP STUDY GROUP

NUSA DUA, Bali -- President Reagan has expressed deep regret to Mikhail Gorbachev over the nuclear accident near Kiev and set up a U.S. task force to monitor developments, the White House said today.

Larry Speakes said Reagan felt there was no immediate danger to Americans from radioactivity released in the accident, in which Moscow said two people died.

Speakes, traveling with Reagan to the Tokyo economic summit, said the U.S. had offered technical and humanitarian help. "No one in the world has experience in dealing with a situation like this," he told reporters.

(Reuter)

SPEAKES SAYS SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT COULD NOT HAPPEN IN U.S.

BALI, Indonesia -- The kind of massive nuclear accident that occurred in the Soviet Union "could not happen" in the U.S. and President Reagan remains a strong supporter of nuclear power, a Presidential spokesman says.

Larry Speakes said the accident that seriously damaged a nuclear reactor at Chernobyl appears to pose no threat to the U.S. -- although he said he didn't know whether the same assertion could be made with regard to Europe and Scandinavia. Briefing reporters accompanying the President, Speakes said: "It could not happen in the United States" because of various safeguards.

(Tom Raum, AP)

REAGAN, IN BALI, IS MUM ON SOVIET MISHAP

BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster on his way to this stopover on his Pacific tour, but Administration officials were tightlipped as they awaited more detailed word from Washington.

Chief of Staff Regan said the U.S. "could be helpful and would be if asked" for help by Moscow. "We have a lot of experience in how we handle these things both medically and scientifically," he said.

(Mary Belcher & Marc Lerner, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN OFFERS SYMPATHY AND HELP TO SOVIETS

BALI, Indonesia -- The message of sympathy and offers to help with the disaster were delivered by Assistant Secretary of State Ridgeway to Soviet charge d'affaires Oleg Sokolov, according to Larry Speakes.

The U.S. did not know about the accident until it was announced by Tass Monday, Speakes said. He said the U.S. "does hope the Soviet Union will live up to its international obligations" to keep the world informed about the accident.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

U.S. EXTENDS OFFER OF AID TO MOSCOW

Reaction in the U.S. to the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl was prompt, as the country extended an offer of help to the Soviet Union and immediately began debating the future of its own nuclear power system.

As Charles Redman was announcing the U.S. offer of technical and humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union, a coalition of environmental groups was warning that the accident signaled a need to upgrade nuclear regulations in this country and perhaps shut down nuclear power plants altogether.

(Lucy Keyser & Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A1)

U.S.-USSR TALKS CONCLUDED ON IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

Despite a slump in U.S.-Soviet relations, the two superpowers have concluded talks on upgrading the hot line between Washington and Moscow and are expected to hold discussions soon on reducing the risk of nuclear war, State Department officials said.

The contacts contrast with the Soviets' cancellation of a visit here in mid-May by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to discuss with Secretary Shultz the scheduling of a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

U.S. OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING SOVIETS NUCLEAR REACTOR DISASTER

Although U.S. officials said there was no risk to the health and safety of anyone in the U.S., the EPA was increasing its monitoring of radiation levels throughout the country. The first traces of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine could show up over the Pacific Northwest by the weekend, the EPA said.

U.S. officials told members of Congress that American intelligence data indicated that the accident was started by a chemical explosion at the Chernobyl plant and resulted in the meltdown of the reactor core.

(Otto Kreisher & Robert Edsall, Copley News Service)

MELTDOWN OCCURED, FIRE MAY STILL BE BURNING, INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY

U.S. intelligence sources reported that the Chernobyl nuclear reactor complex in the Soviet Ukraine experienced a meltdown Saturday, was still billowing smoke Tuesday and threatened another reactor at the same site. The White House offered full U.S. assistance, and appealed to the Soviets to provide more information about the accident.

The White House has established a special interagency task force to coordinate the government's response to the accident, Larry Speakes said, and the radiation cloud from the accident is being closely monitored. He said it is not expected to have health effects in the U.S.

(Norman Black & Jill Lawrence, AP)

SOVIET NUCLEAR REACTOR BURNS IN KIEV AREA, TOWNS EVACUATED

MOSCOW -- A Soviet nuclear reactor continued to burn today after releasing a vast cloud of radiation in an explosion U.S. officials said could have been caused by a chemical blast.

Two people were killed, and residents of nearby towns were evacuated, the Soviet Union said in a statement. However, Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said yesterday that the real toll was probably much higher. The Soviet figures "seems preposterous...in terms of an accident of this magnitude," Adelman told a congressional hearing.

(Tony Barber, Reuter)

REAGAN URGES SENATE TO RATIFY TREATY
EASING EXTRADITION OF IRA TERRORISTS

Grateful for Britain's help in the U.S. bombing raid on Libya, the Reagan Administration is applying new pressure on the Senate to approve a treaty allowing easier extradition of suspected Irish terrorists to England.

"The Administration believes the Senate should swiftly ratify the treaty, demonstrating a willingness to support the British on an issue of terrorism of primary importance to them," Charles Redman said.

(James Morrison, Washington Times, A6)

NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN CALLS BIPARTISAN BUDGET PLAN UNACCEPTABLE

The deadlock over a fiscal 1987 spending plan showed no signs of easing Tuesday as President Reagan called a bipartisan budget blueprint pending in the Senate "totally unacceptable" and Bob Dole said he would never vote for it.

"I think we'd like to have a bipartisan budget (but) we haven't gotten one yet," Dole said of private discussions among senators seeking a consensus on a spending plan for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

(Cliff Harris, AP)

ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES ACTION ON ACID RAIN CONTROL BILL

The Reagan Administration, backed by the electric power industry and the nation's unionized coal miners, said Tuesday it opposes congressional action this year on acid rain control legislation.

Lee Thomas said stepped-up efforts to combat air pollution must await the completion of two or three more years of scientific research. "We do not believe that the current state of knowledge can sustain any judgment with respect to the level of emission reductions needed to prevent or eliminate (acid rain) damage," Thomas said.

(David Goeler, AP)

SENATE DEMOCRATS HIT REVOLVING-DOOR TACTICS

Several Senate Democrats yesterday accused certain present and former government employees -- including Michael Deaver -- of undermining the public's confidence in government by making money on their positions.

"The Michael Deaver affair is the latest in an escalating series of ethical problems to beset our government," said Sen. Howard Metzenbaum. "Anyone who thinks that this revolving door pattern is not fundamentally affecting people's confidence in the integrity of government is a victim of self-delusion," said Metzenbaum.

(Thomas Brandt & Myron Struck, Washington Times, A2)

DEAVER EARNED \$682,917 FROM FOREIGN CLIENTS

Michael Deaver has been paid handsomely by foreign clients, according to government records. From Sept. 6, 1985, to Feb. 10, the former White House official was paid \$682,917.56 by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, and other clients, according to documents filed with the Justice Department's foreign agents registration unit.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

CHAIRMAN BIDS REAGAN DROP NORFOLK SOUTHERN FROM CONRAIL PLAN

The Reagan Administration should abandon its plan to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern Corp. and act to keep the freight railroad under independent management, a House committee chairman says.

Any new plan offered by the Administration to sell the railroad should include public ownership, Rep. John Dingell, said Tuesday in a statement. "The Administration's proposal to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern is mired in a hopeless swamp of confusion and controversy," said Dingell. "If Conrail is to be returned to the private sector, a new plan must be devised."

(Mike Robinson, AP)

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SAID TO STALL RELEASE OF NIXON PAPERS

Congress is being warned that Reagan Administration legal opinion, if allowed to stand, would let Richard Nixon choose which of his presidential papers can be released despite a 1974 law making them public property.

A legal adviser to Congress told a subcommittee Tuesday that if the head of the National Archives obeys the legal opinion drafted in the Justice Department he "will cede all discretion to former President Nixon, exactly what the statute intended not to happen."

(Harry Rosenthal, AP)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, April 29, 1986)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

NBC's TOM BROKAW: The nuclear nightmare continues tonight in the Soviet Union with reports that as many as 2,000 may have been killed and a dangerous fire continues to burn. (Lead-in to newscast).

That Soviet nuclear disaster is probably the worst in history. There are unconfirmed reports tonight that as many as 2000 people have died as a result of the accident of a huge Soviet nuclear facility at Chernobyl, that's just north of Kiev and 430 miles south of Moscow in the western part of the Soviet Union. After confirming the accident, the Soviets have not released much information, but there are reports tonight that truck convoys are evacuating tens of thousands of people from that heavily populated area, and that an 18-mile security zone has been set up around the site. The Soviets say that only two people were killed, but NBC's Fred Francis reports from the Pentagon tonight that American intelligence analysts believe that that figure is much higher.

NBC's FRED FRANCIS: Spy satellite photographs taken this morning confirm the worst to Administration officials that there is a meltdown at that Soviet nuclear reactor. Administration sources who have seen the first reconnaissance pictures say that the top of the reactor was blown off, that only ragged walls remained and circled by fire that as of this morning was still out of control. The sources said that the spy photographs, apparently taken by a KH-11 satellite, and which will not be released, clearly show towering clouds of smoke and flame that one source said could endanger a second nuclear reactor nearby. Sources are certain from the visual evidence that a chemical explosion occurred sometime on Saturday. They say there are no signs whatsoever of a nuclear explosion, but analysts do not know what came first, the explosion or the meltdown. The sources also say that reports of more 2,000 dead seem about right since 4,000 men work at the reactors, there were construction workers at two more reactors being built, and there are at least 40,000 Soviet citizens living in the immediate area. Administration sources say that all intelligence assets will be focused on the area to get the answers that the Soviets are not giving. Clearly one source said tonight that the Soviets do not have that meltdown contained.

BROKAW: For their part, the Soviets are pulling back from their original description of this as a nuclear disaster. They are now calling it simply an accident. As for that report of 2,000 dead, it came from United Press International quoting a woman in Kiev familiar with the rescue operations. NBC's Steve Hurst in Moscow tells us tonight that the official Soviet line is much less ominous.

NBC's STEVE HURST: Soviet television, after 24 hours of silence on the Chernobyl accident, now says that just two people died when the fourth reactor malfunctioned, blowing apart the structure housing it. The report read on the main evening television news gave few other details. (Soviet TV: "Initial measures to eradicate the consequences have been taken, so the situation at the power station and its vicinity is stabilized. Casualties are being treated and the area has been evacuated.")

HURST continues: The Soviets say residents of Chernobyl and three nearby towns were evacuated, but gave no figures. Nor did the television report indicate how many people were injured. The nuclear plant is on the shores of a reservoir about 80 miles north of Kiev. There are fears that the fertile Dnepr River Valley below the reservoir might be in danger from the radiation. But Soviet officials are saying nothing. The Soviets reported the incident to the U.N. agency which monitors nuclear power in Vienna.

(U.N. Agency spokesman Hans Blix: "Today I had a cable from the chairman of the atomic energy commission of the Soviet Union which confirmed that the accident has been there, also that persons affected by it had been taken care of and that a government commission was being appointed.")

The graphite fire at the reactor continues to rage and the Soviets have gone to West German and Swedish experts seeking help in putting out the blaze that could endanger three other reactors which are now shut down at the site.

(Blix: "They asked for information on possible help from German institutions on reactor accidents in general and graphite fires in particular.")

In Moscow, citizens expressed concern for their safety.

(Soviet citizen: "Absolutely. How can one not be frightened of such things.")

The Soviets plan to double their nuclear generating capacity within the next five years as part of a major plan to rejuvenate the Soviet economy. This accident could seriously jeopardize those ambitious projects.

BROKAW: American nuclear experts familiar with the Soviet system were saying today that the Chernobyl plant and other Soviet facilities have been plagued for leaks for years now, and they do not have the reinforced containment structures which keep radiation from spreading. NBC's chief science correspondent Robert Bazell is with us to talk about the big problem of the moment for the Soviets -- how to deal with that fire in the plant.

NBC's ROBERT BAZELL: Despite the lack of information from the Soviets, it is clear tonight that a fire is still burning out of control at that plant and that the fuel is melting, emitting radioactivity into the air. American and European scientists have a good idea what happened and why it is so difficult to stop. The Soviet reactor in which the accident occurred is a type not used in the United States for commercial nuclear power. The key difference is that it is filled with graphite, or carbon. In the Soviet reactor, pellets of uranium fuel normally undergo a chain reaction producing heat. Water circulates around the pellets, cooling them down and carrying away the heat, which is then used to generate electricity. The graphite normally prevents the uranium chain reactions from getting out of control. What apparently caused the accident was a break in the water supply. This caused some or all of the fuel pellets to become so hot they melted through the pipe and ignited the graphite. Because the graphite is carbon, like coal, it burns easily and intensely. This burning mixture of molten uranium and graphite would then emit huge amounts of radioactive smoke and steam. Experts say the fire would be difficult to put out, both because the intense radiation would make it difficult to get near the fire and if water were sprayed on the fire it

BAZELL continues: would create much more radioactive steam. Joseph Henry is the former head of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency... (Henry: "After all there is a finite amount of graphite to burn there, but I'm afraid it's a large amount and it could go on for some extended time.") In 1957, a fire at the Windscale Graphite Nuclear Plant in England burned for several days and led to widespread contamination. That plant and the fire were much smaller than the one in the Soviet Union. Experts say the only way to put out that fire is to pour large amounts of water on it with robot equipment shielded from radiation. But the Soviets don't seem to have that equipment, and it's not clear anyone does.

BROKAW: Radiation, of course, is the big fear tonight. It is the silent killer and apparently it continues to pour forth from Chernobyl. Polish officials say that a cloud of radioactivity has passed through that country. Higher than normal levels continue to be recorded in Sweden, even a small amount in the milk from a Swedish mother's breast.

NBC's ROBERT HAGER: In the U.S., radiation monitoring stations were on alert in Olympia, Washington, in Portland, Oregon, and as far east as Montgomery, Alabama. The National Weather Service poured over maps and suddenly the main radiation cloud seemed to be drifting back toward the Soviet Union. Earlier winds had blown out to Scandinavia; now they're blowing the other way, toward less populated areas of the Soviet Union. Weathermen predicted the cloud would thin out with time over northern Europe and the Arctic basin, and could in a very diluted form reach the northwest U.S. in several days, by which time the Energy Department's James Vaughan reassured a congressional committee there should be no health problem for the U.S.

(Vaughan: "Good technical judgment that this particular event in that location, with the circumstances we know, should have no effect on the environment in the United States or the health and safety of our public.") But for those in the Soviet Union, one U.S. government source estimates there may have been enough radiation to kill within a one-mile radius of the plant. For those farther away, the most susceptible would be unborn children, small children, and older people. All have more vulnerable immune systems.

(Health specialist Kitty Tucker: "After the increase in infant mortality, we might expect increases related to bone marrow damage which is caused by exposure to ionizing radiation. It weakens the immune system and we may see more infectious diseases occurring.")

(Georgetown University's Dr. Kenneth Mossman: "Individuals who have damage to the gastrointestinal tract would be expected to become malnourished, dehydrated and susceptible to infections.")

Studies of the World War II A-bomb blast in Japan indicate the long-range dangers in the immediate vicinity -- after five years a wave of leukemia cases; after 12 years thyroid disorders; after 20-30 years bone marrow cancers. But outside East European borders, based on radiation levels measured so far, no health effects are currently predicted.

BROKAW: While the Soviets have asked West Germany and Sweden for help in extinguishing that fire at Chernobyl -- which is extraordinary since they never ask or welcome outside assistance -- they have not asked the United States for anything tonight. Nonetheless, American officials have offered radiation measuring systems and medical experts, but so far no response from Moscow.

BROKAW (after break): That nuclear disaster, of course, was in the Soviet Union, but the fallout tonight is over Europe. The clouds of radioactivity that drifted over the continent showed no discrimination between East and West. And as NBC's John Cochran reports, Europeans are fearful of what was registered in Sweden -- atmospheric radioactivity 100 times normal levels.

NBC's JOHN COCHRAN: In Stockholm, the Geyberg family, like a lot of Swedes starting their May Day vacation wanted a day of fresh air, but wondered whether that's possible anymore.

(Mrs. Geyberg: "I'm worried about my child and I'm worried about the child that I'm carrying.")

Mr. Geyberg: "There's little we can do except pray.")

The Swedish Energy Minister, Brigitte Dahl, was furious with the Soviets for withholding news of the accident until yesterday.

(Energy Minister Dahl: "...that we demand full information. We should have received that when it occurred last Friday...")

The Swedish criticism of the Soviets was echoed by other West Europeans.

(Stanley Davis of Common Market: "That is a matter of very deep concern, indeed, and it does seem to be a breach of its duty under international law.")

In Poland, even closer to the accident than Sweden, the government assured Poles today there was no danger, but tonight a Polish spokesman urged children and pregnant women to avoid milk that might be contaminated and told housewives to wash all vegetables. In Vienna, Austrian Airlines said it would check a plane just arrived from Moscow for contamination. West Germany, the home of many anti-nuclear demonstrations like this one last year, will see another protest tomorrow when the Green Psychological Party tries to use the Soviet disaster to mount another campaign against all nuclear reactors in all countries.

In Britain, while researchers tested the air for any sign of Soviet radiation, and found none, the government of Margaret Thatcher was already defending its support of nuclear power from attacks by the group Greenpeace. But tonight the political fallout from the Soviet accident is of less concern to 89 British families than the safety of their children studying at a university in Kiev. The parents want their children out of the Soviet Union but have been unable to reach Kiev by telephone.

BROKAW: Over the past quarter-of-a-century, there have been 10 nuclear accidents in this country -- the most serious at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island in 1979. The United States has 100 operating nuclear reactors, most of them in the East. And most of the commercial reactors in this country are protected by containment vessels to prevent the release of radioactivity. Someone who has been paying a great deal of attention to the safety factors at U.S. facilities is Dan Ford, a writer for the New Yorker and a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Mr. Ford, all day long American officials have been saying it couldn't happen here because we do have those containment facilities -- we'll never have a complete core meltdown. Do you agree with that?

DAN FORD: No, I think the containment used to be some help when we had small reactors. The containment can help deal with small accidents, but in a large meltdown, I'm afraid all the containment provides is some type of psychological reassurance. It's no barrier to the massive release of radioactivity.

BROKAW: But the fact is, combined with the technical expertise we have in this country and the redundancies -- that is, the backup of other parts of the system -- isn't the chance of a complete meltdown like we've seen in the Soviet Union quite remote in the United States?

FORD: To the contrary, there is at least a 50% chance if you look at the engineering estimates that have been made that we'll have a meltdown in this country in this decade. The utility companies are violating the safety rules left and right. The Federal government is not enforcing the safety rules. The so-called "containment" buildings are built with substandard concrete; they forget to put in the reinforcing bars; they leave the doors open. So I don't think we can sit here smugly and say that we have a magic safety system to protect us against this type of catastrophe. We do not.

BROKAW: As I understand it, we only have one facility in the United States that has a graphite system similar to what is being used in Chernobyl, that is Hanford, Washington?

FORD: Yes, we have another gas-cooled reactor in Colorado.

BROKAW: What, in your judgment, is the facility that is most likely to have an accident of one kind or another? Or can you make that kind of an estimate?

FORD: You can certainly look at the safety records. The Davis-Bessey plant in Ohio has one of the worst safety records in the country. The Indian Point Plant near New York is the plant that frightens me the most. Ten to twenty million people live in proximity to that plant and, it seems to me, that it is negligent in the extreme for Federal nuclear safety authorities to continue to allow that plant, with its bad safety record, to operate near our largest metropolitan area.

(NBC-LEAD)

ABC's PETER JENNINGS: Today, even the Soviets call it a disaster. A senior Reagan Administration official said there has definitely been a meltdown at the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, near Kiev. The accident occurred, we learned, on Saturday. The Soviet government told its people on television tonight that only two people have died. There are other reports, and they are very much unconfirmed, that more than 2,000 people have died. The Soviets have asked West Germany and Sweden for help in fighting a fire at the reactor. We don't know yet what kind of a fire it is. It is an accident with enormous ramifications, and we're going to devote most of this broadcast to it. We begin with what the U.S. does know.

ABC's STEVE SHEPARD reports there is some concern the fire could spread to another nearby reactor building. Administration officials say the disaster began Saturday, two full days before the Soviet Union officially acknowledged it had any kind of problem. Unlike American nuclear plants, there was no containment facility around the Soviet reactor. Once the building was damaged, radiation was released to the atmosphere. Sources say radiation contamination at Chernobyl is heavy and that could affect a lot of people. Over the weekend, prevailing winds carried radioactive emissions to the northwest, cutting across the Baltic into Scandinavia.

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SHEPARD continues: Those winds have now shifted towards Moscow, possibly taking some radioactivity there. All four power plants at Chernobyl are now shut down. U.S. experts say that could have a serious long-term impact on Soviet energy supplies.

ABC's WALTER ROGERS reports from Moscow that the Soviets gave their people a little more news on the accident. But Soviet newscasters deliberately played down the incident, reporting it after the latest five-year plan and crop reports. Eight or nine minutes into the news, an announcer finally said only two people had been killed in the incident, contradicting one news report that the casualties numbered in the thousands. The Soviets also confirmed earlier Western reports of large-scale evacuation of several towns and said three other nuclear power generating units had been shut down. Western diplomatic sources here report the entire area within an 18 mile radius of the reactor has been evacuated and sealed off. The Soviets have closed the city of Kiev to journalists and diplomats, although tourists there do not appear to be affected. Soviet newspapers avoided almost any mention of the incident, although Radio Moscow said:

(Radio Moscow: "The...disaster was the first one at Soviet nuclear power plants in more than 30 years.")

But this Soviet engineer disputed that, saying he knew of numerous nuclear mishaps here, shoddy materials and radiation leaks at nuclear power stations. In fact, the Soviet people have been given no sense of just how serious a reactor meltdown can be and they know far less about what's happening and the hazards involved than what's being reported in the West.

JENNINGS reports the cloud also went over portions of Poland. Polish government authorities warned pregnant women and young children not to drink cow's milk or eat fresh vegetables. Children were given a one-time dose of iodine so as to create resistance to any iodine from the explosion.

ABC's DEAN REYNOLDS reports on the reaction in Western Europe. All across the northern tier of Western Europe, they were testing the wind, checking the atmosphere for fallout. So far, the levels have been low and no threat to life. But officials in Sweden, in the direct path of the cloud, said the readings show no reductions from yesterday, meaning the atmosphere may still be partially contaminated. And the volume of the radioactivity so far from the accident, together with the chemical elements of the debris, removed all doubt that a major disaster has befallen the Soviets. Much effort was focused on how to help the Soviets out of their nuclear nightmare. To date, the Soviets are only asking for advice on how to battle the blaze. Sweden had been approached, along with the Germans, and Britain has offered its expertise -- as have official atomic energy organizations. But there is still simmering indignation at the heavy-handed Soviet attempt to keep the mishap a secret.

JENNINGS says that because of the weather patterns in the jet stream, experts say that the movement of radiation is likely to approach the U.S. from the West, possibly reaching this country in a few days' time. It is not clear how much, if any, might actually fall to earth. The Department of Energy said the U.S. has absolutely nothing to worry about.

JENNINGS reports senior U.N. officials demanded the Soviets release all of their information to the West.

ABC's RICHARD THRELKELD reports on what the experts say. There are 50 nuclear reactors in the Soviet Union, low-budget no-frills reactors that lack many of the safety features the American ones have. And many Soviet reactors, like the one at Chernobyl, use graphite, rather than water as we do, to control the nuclear reaction. That is a fatal difference. The fire could burn for days or weeks. As it burns, it's spreading clouds of radioactive material into the air.

JENNINGS discusses the situation with PETER POTTER in London, a nuclear scientist and former overseas manager of the British National Nuclear Corporation. Potter says there will be a large release of radioactivity that will pollute the ground around Chernobyl, but the rest will be diluted as it gets further away from the plant and will add to the store of radiation that is there naturally anyway.

ABC's GEORGE STRAIT reports that in Chernobyl, there is the potential for very serious human damage.

JENNINGS: To help deal with this disaster, the U.S. has offered the Soviet Union humanitarian and technical assistance. So far, there has been no response. There has been an immediate political response in the U.S.

ABC's CHARLES GIBSON reports that price and safety considerations have brought the nuclear power industry in this country to a nuclear standstill. In the last seven years, not one single utility has ordered construction of a new plant and in the past 14 years, 101 nuclear plant orders have been canceled. Energy Department officials were on Capitol Hill today maintaining 1) that American plants are safe, far safer than Soviet plants, and 2) that there is no danger to the U.S. from this accident.

(James Vaughan of the Energy Department: "This particular event in that location, with the circumstances we know, should have no effect on the environment in the United States or the health and safety of our public.") But the nuclear power critics were saying this could well end the industry.

(Rep. Markey: "The Soviet accident could be a radioactive Mt. St. Helen's.")

(Critic Larry Sinkin: "The Russian accident, the Three Mile Island accident and the dozens of other accidents in the United States, I think, have put the nail in the coffin of nuclear power. It's only a matter of how quickly we end it.")

(Critic Nora Bredis: "The worst can happen. That's what the accident in the Soviet Union says to us here in the United States.")

ABC's BETTINA GREGORY reports from Three Mile Island. After seven years, things are slowly returning to normal.

JENNINGS reports the Soviets build and export reactors to places like Finland.
(ABC-LEAD)

CBS's DAN RATHER: U.S. officials believe the nuclear accident in the heart of Soviet farm land began Saturday and isn't over yet. Amid widely conflicting casualty reports, a U.S. spy satellite photo today picked up some of the physical damage. Correspondent David Martin's report tonight showed this: a gaping hole in the reactor building roof, caved-in walls, smoke rising from the reactor building in what is apparently a still out of control fire. Much remains unknown.... This is what we're hearing tonight, a United Press International reports so far, unconfirmed, that more than 2,000 may be dead. Soviet government-controlled television officially puts the number of dead at two. In Sweden, officials are convinced there was a nuclear reactor core meltdown at Chernobyl. They say radiation may still be spewing into the air.... The radiation cloud, at last report, is blowing back over Soviet territory.... U.S. government trackers are monitoring radiation levels at all 50 states. The first wave expected in this country will be this weekend in the west -- no danger to people in the U.S. they predicted. The Soviets have appealed to Sweden and West Germany for help. U.S. offers to give Moscow technical and medical help still go unanswered.... The tightly controlled Soviet government media are telling their own people next to nothing....

CBS's WYATT ANDREWS reports from Moscow that for most of the day the Soviet policy was silence. There was no coverage -- nothing in the Soviet morning newspapers. Only Radio Moscow reported a disaster, saying this: "Efforts are being applied to eliminate the consequences of the accident and help the victims." Tonight, on the nine o'clock news the first detailed confirmation of one of the worst nuclear accidents ever; two dead was the report. It is clear there is much more here that is not being reported. On the streets of Moscow the public was mostly unaware. Both the Swedish and Danish embassies sent envoys to the Soviet Foreign Ministry today asking the Soviets to be forthcoming. Polish television tonight warned all of its citizens to wash all fresh vegetables and some milk sales will be restricted.

CBS's DERRICK BLAKELY reports from Stockholm scientists monitoring the aftermath of the nuclear said they are certain the core of the Soviet reactor has melted down -- by far the worst nuclear accident in history. The Soviets have turned to Sweden and West Germany for advice on how to fight the fire raging in the core of the reactor. The Swedes could only tell the Soviets to contact Great Britain. In London today, radiation levels were completely normal. In Sweden, radiation has begun to fall from levels that reached ten times normal readings. The Swedes are calling for all nuclear programs to be placed under international supervision.

RATHER: U.S. officials say tonight they are convinced the Soviet reactor building is still on fire -- graphite burning 4,000 degrees hot. It is their view that it will keep burning for days and that nothing can be done to stop it.

CBS's SUSAN SPENCER reports Administration officials now believe a chemical, not a nuclear blast, probably led to the Soviet disaster which is complicated by the very design of Soviet reactors. The design makes it very difficult to control either escaping radiation or the inferno caused by what experts fear was a meltdown. It may take weeks before the immediate death toll from the accident is known and will literally take years before anyone can judge the long-term effects.

RATHER reports the Chernobyl catastrophe is probably the worst nuclear accident and it is one the worst places possible. Why build reactors so near Kiev? That question was asked in the February issue of Soviet Life. (TV coverage: President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev on the cover of Soviet Life.)

The answer was quote, "The odds of a meltdown are one in 10,000 years. The plants have safe and reliable controls that are protective from any breakdown." What happened near Kiev three days ago today caused the Chicago Board of Trade grain prices to jump, even though experts don't know yet how badly Soviet agriculture will be affected.

CBS's BOB SCHIEFFER reports from New York on the potential Chernobyl-type disaster in America's own future. Some experts and officials say yes.

(Rep. Edward Markey: "The probability of a core meltdown in a U.S. nuclear plant could be 45% in the next 20 years.")

Markey's statement is based on a little noticed report issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year.

(Markey: "It is inherently unsafe technology that requires constant attention.")

Since the Three Mile Island accident, not a single new plant has been started here and the Soviet accident is sure to cause new problems. At TMI, huge containment facilities which surround commercial U.S. reactors trapped most of the escaping radiation. That's not the case in the Soviet Union. At a congressional hearing today, the Administration argued other procedures make such (plants without containment facilities) plants safe enough. (CBS-LEAD)

FAR EAST TRIP

BROKAW: President Reagan had an embarrassing arrival today on the Indonesian Island of Bali -- the expulsion of two Australian correspondents traveling with the President, and earlier a New York Times correspondent was kicked out -- all three expulsions related to news reports critical of Indonesia's government. Chris Wallace reports American officials were outraged. (NBC-2)

NBC's CHRIS WALLACE: (TV coverage: President and First Lady deplaning) The President arrived on the island of Bali tonight for what was billed as part rest stop, part celebration of Asian democracy. It turned out to be neither, because moments before Mr. Reagan was greeted by President Suharto, Indonesian authorities came onto the press plane to take two Australian reporters into custody. (TV coverage of officials removing reporters from plane). Australians were banned from covering this visit after a Sydney newspaper said the Suhartos may be as corrupt as the Marcos family, with a fortune of more than \$2 billion. Tonight the Australians were taken off the plane, police blocking American TV crews. The reporters were lead to a holding room at the airport and hours later put on the next plane out of the country to Japan. A U.S. official said the White House asked repeatedly that the Australians be permitted to stay.

(White House Deputy Press Secretary Ed Djerejian speaking to reporters: "...that we felt that all journalists accredited to the presidential party should have the opportunity to cover the proceedings. They said their decision was firm.")

WALLACE continues: The Reagan party was furious with the Indonesians, in large part because the President has been talking about "Winds of Freedom" spreading democracy through Asia. Earlier today in Guam:

(TV coverage of President Reagan: "The foreign ministers that I will meet with in Indonesia represent nations that have each, in large part, embraced human liberty.")

In fact, during his 20 years in power, Suharto has had a poor human-rights record. Dissidents are jailed, charged with subversion. The government is especially concerned about suppressing any Moslem radicalism. Critical articles in newspapers often have sections blacked out -- the reporters who write them facing expulsion. Today, Barbara Crossette of the New York Times was kicked out. And later, those two Australians. The President will emphasize here that human-rights abuses in pro-Western countries like Indonesia are far less serious than those in Communist countries, like Cambodia. While that may be true, it won't mean much to reporters prevented from covering what Mr. Reagan has to say.

RATHER: Happily island hopping as he meanders his way to the Tokyo summit, President Reagan arrived tonight on the exotic Indonesian island of Bali. The Reagans and Indonesia President Suharto watched a performance by traditional Balinese dancers.

(TV coverage: President Reagan watching the dancers.)

Image conscious aides have been trying to get reporters to call this Mr. Reagan's "Winds of Freedom" journey. Even as the President arrived, Indonesia expelled one American and two Australian journalists because of reports the Suharto government said were critical.

CBS's BOB SIMON presents a profile on the complex nation of Bali. Oil accounts for 70% of Indonesia's foreign earnings and every dollar drop in the price of oil cost the country close to \$400 million. For the first time in two decades the government has been forced to cut its budget -- that means hard times for the Indonesian people -- reduction in development programs in which almost inevitably translates into political pressures.

(CBS-6)

JENNINGS: President Reagan arrived in Bali on his way to Tokyo for the economic summit meeting. The President spoke of a message of freedom, but in somewhat of an embarrassing development, Indonesian authorities expelled two Australian journalists who had arrived on the White House press plane and a New York Times reporter. They had all written articles critical of the Indonesian president.

(TV Coverage: President and Mrs. Reagan de-planing. Indonesian authorities escorting reporters away.)

(ABC-6)

TERRORISM-CHILE

BROKAW: Once again today, terrorism touched American interests -- this time a bomb in Chile's capital of Santiago. The bomb went off near the residence of U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes, breaking windows and demolishing a wall next door. A woman in the area was injured. There was no claim of responsibility. The Ambassador said that at first an earthquake had hit.

(NBC-3)

TERRORISM-ISRAEL

BROKAW: Police in Israel today arrested a gang of Palestinian guerrillas in the terrorist killing of a British tourist on Sunday. Officials said the gang belonged to a faction linked to Abu Moussa, a pro-Syrian Palestinian based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The suspects are also linked to the killing of an Israeli woman and the wounding of two tourists -- one American, the other West German. (NBC-4)

RATHER reports Israeli police said today they captured the alleged guerrillas who have confessed to killing a British tourist in Jerusalem two days ago. (CBS-4)

U.S. SHIPS

BROKAW: Another potential in the fight against terrorism -- the American aircraft carrier Enterprise sailed today through the Suez Canal. Once in the Mediterranean, the Navy said the nuclear-powered ship will reinforce the U.S. Sixth Fleet which took part in the raid on Libya. (NBC-5)

KILBURN

BROKAW reports on the funeral of Peter Kilburn -- a victim of violence in the Middle East -- in San Francisco. (NBC-6)

METHODIST BISHOPS-NUCLEAR

JENNINGS: The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church voted unanimously for a pastoral letter condemning the nuclear arms race. A New York bishop said the next time there is a nuclear accident, it might be with a missile. (ABC-2)

MORTGAGE RATES

RATHER reports the Commerce Department today indicated that falling mortgage rates sent new home sales soaring by 27.4% for March. That puts sales of new single family homes at a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of 903,000 units last month. (CBS-2)

CHALLENGER

BROKAW: At Cape Canaveral today, NASA announced that salvage crews have recovered a critical section of Challenger's rocket booster, and they called off their underwater search. That word came as the people of the Kennedy Space Center said their last farewell to seven members of Challenger's crew. NBC's David Murphy reports on the ceremonies. (ABC-3, NBC-7)

RATHER reports the astronaut remains finally today came home to their families.

CBS'S ERIC ENGBERG reports on the ceremony today at the Kennedy Space Center.

(TV coverage: The ceremony today at the Kennedy Space Center.)
(CBS-3)



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

INDONESIA EVENING EDITION

5:00 P.M. BALI -- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1986 -- 6:00 A.M. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

TRIP NEWS

INDONESIA BARS TWO JOURNALISTS IN REAGAN PARTY -- DENPASAR, Bali -- President Reagan arrived today on this Indonesian island on the first major stop of his trip to the Far East, but the occasion was marred, White House officials said, when the Indonesian government detained two Australian journalists in the party accompanying the President and barred them from the country.

(New York Times, AP, Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN, IN BALI, IS MUM ON SOVIET MISHAP -- BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster on his way to this stopover on his Pacific tour, but Administration officials were tightlipped as they awaited more detailed word from Washington.

(Washington Times, Reuter, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT -- The nuclear nightmare continues tonight in the Soviet Union with reports that as many as 2,000 may have been killed and a dangerous fire continues to burn.

TRIP -- President Reagan had an embarrassing arrival today on the Indonesian island of Bali.

TRIP NEWS.....A-2

INTERNATIONAL NEWS..A-4

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-7

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

TRIP NEWS

INDONESIANS WELCOME REAGAN, EXPEL JOURNALISTS

BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan, bearing a "message of freedom" for Asian allies, arrived to a lush welcome in the Orient on Tuesday, but Indonesian authorities promptly expelled two Australian journalists in Reagan's entourage.

A third reporter, Barbara Crossette of the New York Times, who had come on her own, was also ordered out of the country, allegedly because she had written stories critical of Indonesian President Suharto.

President Reagan regretted the decision by the Indonesians to deny entry to the journalists, Larry Speakes said. "The President wishes everyone could have come in," he said.

(Tom Raum, AP)

INDONESIA BARS TWO JOURNALISTS IN REAGAN PARTY

DENPASAR, Bali -- President Reagan arrived today on this Indonesian island on the first major stop of his trip to the Far East, but the occasion was marred, White House officials said, when the Indonesian government detained two Australian journalists in the party accompanying the President and barred them from the country.

The journalists were ordered to leave the country in a move that White House officials said highlighted sharp differences between the United States and Indonesia over press and political freedoms.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, Al)

U.S. SAYS REPORTERS BAN WON'T HURT "WINDS OF FREEDOM" TRIP

NUSA DUA, Bali -- The White House said today the deportation of three journalists covering President Reagan's visit to Bali would have no effect on the "winds of freedom" message he is taking to meetings with Asian leaders and the Tokyo economic summit.

At the same time, a senior U.S. official acknowledged the Reagan Administration would like to see more rapid progress in Indonesia on the issue of human rights but declined to say if the President would raise concerns during his meeting tomorrow with Suharto.

"We don't want to take it squarely on the nose. All aspects of U.S.-Indonesian relations will be raised," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

(Patricia Wilson, Reuter)

CRACKDOWN ON REPORTERS OVERSHADOWS REAGAN'S INDONESIAN VISIT

BALI, Indonesia -- A 3-week-old story in an Australian newspaper caused the expulsion Tuesday of three foreign correspondents from Indonesia and cast a shadow over the visit of President Reagan.

Asked how the action squared with President Reagan's repeated claim that his two weeks of Far East travel was a "winds of freedom" tour, Indonesia Foreign Minister Kusumaatmadja told a news conference: "I think the winds are still blowing but there are some who don't like the wind. When a hurricane hits, you don't have to like it."

(Kenneth Whiting, AP)

AUSTRALIA SUMMONS JAKARTA ENVOY IN MIDNIGHT PROTEST

CANBERRA -- Indonesia's acting ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at midnight last night to hear a protest over the barring of two Australian reporters accompanying President Reagan on his visit to Bali, ministry officials said today.

Prime Minister Hawke and Foreign Minister Hayden agreed early last night to lodge an immediate protest if the Indonesians turned back Richard Palfreyman and Jim Middleton who were traveling with Reagan's press corps, official sources said.

(Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN EXPRESSES DEEP REGRET AT ACCIDENT, SETS UP STUDY GROUP

NUSA DUA, Bali -- President Reagan has expressed deep regret to Mikhail Gorbachev over the nuclear accident near Kiev and set up a U.S. task force to monitor developments, the White House said today.

Larry Speakes said Reagan felt there was no immediate danger to Americans from radioactivity released in the accident, in which Moscow said two people died.

Speakes, traveling with Reagan to the Tokyo economic summit, said the U.S. had offered technical and humanitarian help. "No one in the world has experience in dealing with a situation like this," he told reporters.

(Reuter)

SPEAKES SAYS SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT COULD NOT HAPPEN IN U.S.

BALI, Indonesia -- The kind of massive nuclear accident that occurred in the Soviet Union "could not happen" in the U.S. and President Reagan remains a strong supporter of nuclear power, a Presidential spokesman says.

Larry Speakes said the accident that seriously damaged a nuclear reactor at Chernobyl appears to pose no threat to the U.S. -- although he said he didn't know whether the same assertion could be made with regard to Europe and Scandinavia. Briefing reporters accompanying the President, Speakes said: "It could not happen in the United States" because of various safeguards.

(Tom Raum, AP)

REAGAN, IN BALI, IS MUM ON SOVIET MISHAP

BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster on his way to this stopover on his Pacific tour, but Administration officials were tightlipped as they awaited more detailed word from Washington.

Chief of Staff Regan said the U.S. "could be helpful and would be if asked" for help by Moscow. "We have a lot of experience in how we handle these things both medically and scientifically," he said.

(Mary Belcher & Marc Lerner, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN OFFERS SYMPATHY AND HELP TO SOVIETS

BALI, Indonesia -- The message of sympathy and offers to help with the disaster were delivered by Assistant Secretary of State Ridgeway to Soviet charge d'affaires Oleg Sokolov, according to Larry Speakes.

The U.S. did not know about the accident until it was announced by Tass Monday, Speakes said. He said the U.S. "does hope the Soviet Union will live up to its international obligations" to keep the world informed about the accident.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

U.S. EXTENDS OFFER OF AID TO MOSCOW

Reaction in the U.S. to the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl was prompt, as the country extended an offer of help to the Soviet Union and immediately began debating the future of its own nuclear power system.

As Charles Redman was announcing the U.S. offer of technical and humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union, a coalition of environmental groups was warning that the accident signaled a need to upgrade nuclear regulations in this country and perhaps shut down nuclear power plants altogether.

(Lucy Keyser & Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A1)

U.S.-USSR TALKS CONCLUDED ON IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

Despite a slump in U.S.-Soviet relations, the two superpowers have concluded talks on upgrading the hot line between Washington and Moscow and are expected to hold discussions soon on reducing the risk of nuclear war, State Department officials said.

The contacts contrast with the Soviets' cancellation of a visit here in mid-May by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to discuss with Secretary Shultz the scheduling of a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

U.S. OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING SOVIETS NUCLEAR REACTOR DISASTER

Although U.S. officials said there was no risk to the health and safety of anyone in the U.S., the EPA was increasing its monitoring of radiation levels throughout the country. The first traces of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine could show up over the Pacific Northwest by the weekend, the EPA said.

U.S. officials told members of Congress that American intelligence data indicated that the accident was started by a chemical explosion at the Chernobyl plant and resulted in the meltdown of the reactor core.

(Otto Kreisher & Robert Edsall, Copley News Service)

MELTDOWN OCCURED, FIRE MAY STILL BE BURNING, INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY

U.S. intelligence sources reported that the Chernobyl nuclear reactor complex in the Soviet Ukraine experienced a meltdown Saturday, was still billowing smoke Tuesday and threatened another reactor at the same site. The White House offered full U.S. assistance, and appealed to the Soviets to provide more information about the accident.

The White House has established a special interagency task force to coordinate the government's response to the accident, Larry Speakes said, and the radiation cloud from the accident is being closely monitored. He said it is not expected to have health effects in the U.S.

(Norman Black & Jill Lawrence, AP)

SOVIET NUCLEAR REACTOR BURNS IN KIEV AREA, TOWNS EVACUATED

MOSCOW -- A Soviet nuclear reactor continued to burn today after releasing a vast cloud of radiation in an explosion U.S. officials said could have been caused by a chemical blast.

Two people were killed, and residents of nearby towns were evacuated, the Soviet Union said in a statement. However, Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said yesterday that the real toll was probably much higher. The Soviet figures "seems preposterous...in terms of an accident of this magnitude," Adelman told a congressional hearing.

(Tony Barber, Reuter)

REAGAN URGES SENATE TO RATIFY TREATY
EASING EXTRADITION OF IRA TERRORISTS

Grateful for Britain's help in the U.S. bombing raid on Libya, the Reagan Administration is applying new pressure on the Senate to approve a treaty allowing easier extradition of suspected Irish terrorists to England.

"The Administration believes the Senate should swiftly ratify the treaty, demonstrating a willingness to support the British on an issue of terrorism of primary importance to them," Charles Redman said.

(James Morrison, Washington Times, A6)

NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN CALLS BIPARTISAN BUDGET PLAN UNACCEPTABLE

The deadlock over a fiscal 1987 spending plan showed no signs of easing Tuesday as President Reagan called a bipartisan budget blueprint pending in the Senate "totally unacceptable" and Bob Dole said he would never vote for it.

"I think we'd like to have a bipartisan budget (but) we haven't gotten one yet," Dole said of private discussions among senators seeking a consensus on a spending plan for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

(Cliff Harris, AP)

ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES ACTION ON ACID RAIN CONTROL BILL

The Reagan Administration, backed by the electric power industry and the nation's unionized coal miners, said Tuesday it opposes congressional action this year on acid rain control legislation.

Lee Thomas said stepped-up efforts to combat air pollution must await the completion of two or three more years of scientific research. "We do not believe that the current state of knowledge can sustain any judgment with respect to the level of emission reductions needed to prevent or eliminate (acid rain) damage," Thomas said.

(David Goeler, AP)

SENATE DEMOCRATS HIT REVOLVING-DOOR TACTICS

Several Senate Democrats yesterday accused certain present and former government employees -- including Michael Deaver -- of undermining the public's confidence in government by making money on their positions.

"The Michael Deaver affair is the latest in an escalating series of ethical problems to beset our government," said Sen. Howard Metzenbaum. "Anyone who thinks that this revolving door pattern is not fundamentally affecting people's confidence in the integrity of government is a victim of self-delusion," said Metzenbaum.

(Thomas Brandt & Myron Struck, Washington Times, A2)

DEAVER EARNED \$682,917 FROM FOREIGN CLIENTS

Michael Deaver has been paid handsomely by foreign clients, according to government records. From Sept. 6, 1985, to Feb. 10, the former White House official was paid \$682,917.56 by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, and other clients, according to documents filed with the Justice Department's foreign agents registration unit.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

CHAIRMAN BIDS REAGAN DROP NORFOLK SOUTHERN FROM CONRAIL PLAN

The Reagan Administration should abandon its plan to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern Corp. and act to keep the freight railroad under independent management, a House committee chairman says.

Any new plan offered by the Administration to sell the railroad should include public ownership, Rep. John Dingell, said Tuesday in a statement. "The Administration's proposal to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern is mired in a hopeless swamp of confusion and controversy," said Dingell. "If Conrail is to be returned to the private sector, a new plan must be devised."

(Mike Robinson, AP)

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SAID TO STALL RELEASE OF NIXON PAPERS

Congress is being warned that Reagan Administration legal opinion, if allowed to stand, would let Richard Nixon choose which of his presidential papers can be released despite a 1974 law making them public property.

A legal adviser to Congress told a subcommittee Tuesday that if the head of the National Archives obeys the legal opinion drafted in the Justice Department he "will cede all discretion to former President Nixon, exactly what the statute intended not to happen."

(Harry Rosenthal, AP)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, April 29, 1986)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

NBC's TOM BROKAW: The nuclear nightmare continues tonight in the Soviet Union with reports that as many as 2,000 may have been killed and a dangerous fire continues to burn. (Lead-in to newscast).

That Soviet nuclear disaster is probably the worst in history. There are unconfirmed reports tonight that as many as 2000 people have died as a result of the accident of a huge Soviet nuclear facility at Chernobyl, that's just north of Kiev and 430 miles south of Moscow in the western part of the Soviet Union. After confirming the accident, the Soviets have not released much information, but there are reports tonight that truck convoys are evacuating tens of thousands of people from that heavily populated area, and that an 18-mile security zone has been set up around the site. The Soviets say that only two people were killed, but NBC's Fred Francis reports from the Pentagon tonight that American intelligence analysts believe that that figure is much higher.

NBC's FRED FRANCIS: Spy satellite photographs taken this morning confirm the worst to Administration officials that there is a meltdown at that Soviet nuclear reactor. Administration sources who have seen the first reconnaissance pictures say that the top of the reactor was blown off, that only ragged walls remained and circled by fire that as of this morning was still out of control. The sources said that the spy photographs, apparently taken by a KH-11 satellite, and which will not be released, clearly show towering clouds of smoke and flame that one source said could endanger a second nuclear reactor nearby. Sources are certain from the visual evidence that a chemical explosion occurred sometime on Saturday. They say there are no signs whatsoever of a nuclear explosion, but analysts do not know what came first, the explosion or the meltdown. The sources also say that reports of more 2,000 dead seem about right since 4,000 men work at the reactors, there were construction workers at two more reactors being built, and there are at least 40,000 Soviet citizens living in the immediate area. Administration sources say that all intelligence assets will be focused on the area to get the answers that the Soviets are not giving. Clearly one source said tonight that the Soviets do not have that meltdown contained.

BROKAW: For their part, the Soviets are pulling back from their original description of this as a nuclear disaster. They are now calling it simply an accident. As for that report of 2,000 dead, it came from United Press International quoting a woman in Kiev familiar with the rescue operations. NBC's Steve Hurst in Moscow tells us tonight that the official Soviet line is much less ominous.

NBC's STEVE HURST: Soviet television, after 24 hours of silence on the Chernobyl accident, now says that just two people died when the fourth reactor malfunctioned, blowing apart the structure housing it. The report read on the main evening television news gave few other details. (Soviet TV: "Initial measures to eradicate the consequences have been taken, so the situation at the power station and its vicinity is stabilized. Casualties are being treated and the area has been evacuated.")

HURST continues: The Soviets say residents of Chernobyl and three nearby towns were evacuated, but gave no figures. Nor did the television report indicate how many people were injured. The nuclear plant is on the shores of a reservoir about 80 miles north of Kiev. There are fears that the fertile Dnepr River Valley below the reservoir might be in danger from the radiation. But Soviet officials are saying nothing. The Soviets reported the incident to the U.N. agency which monitors nuclear power in Vienna.

(U.N. Agency spokesman Hans Blix: "Today I had a cable from the chairman of the atomic energy commission of the Soviet Union which confirmed that the accident has been there, also that persons affected by it had been taken care of and that a government commission was being appointed.")

The graphite fire at the reactor continues to rage and the Soviets have gone to West German and Swedish experts seeking help in putting out the blaze that could endanger three other reactors which are now shut down at the site.

(Blix: "They asked for information on possible help from German institutions on reactor accidents in general and graphite fires in particular.")

In Moscow, citizens expressed concern for their safety.

(Soviet citizen: "Absolutely. How can one not be frightened of such things.")

The Soviets plan to double their nuclear generating capacity within the next five years as part of a major plan to rejuvenate the Soviet economy. This accident could seriously jeopardize those ambitious projects.

BROKAW: American nuclear experts familiar with the Soviet system were saying today that the Chernobyl plant and other Soviet facilities have been plagued for leaks for years now, and they do not have the reinforced containment structures which keep radiation from spreading. NBC's chief science correspondent Robert Bazell is with us to talk about the big problem of the moment for the Soviets -- how to deal with that fire in the plant.

NBC's ROBERT BAZELL: Despite the lack of information from the Soviets, it is clear tonight that a fire is still burning out of control at that plant and that the fuel is melting, emitting radioactivity into the air. American and European scientists have a good idea what happened and why it is so difficult to stop. The Soviet reactor in which the accident occurred is a type not used in the United States for commercial nuclear power. The key difference is that it is filled with graphite, or carbon. In the Soviet reactor, pellets of uranium fuel normally undergo a chain reaction producing heat. Water circulates around the pellets, cooling them down and carrying away the heat, which is then used to generate electricity. The graphite normally prevents the uranium chain reactions from getting out of control. What apparently caused the accident was a break in the water supply. This caused some or all of the fuel pellets to become so hot they melted through the pipe and ignited the graphite. Because the graphite is carbon, like coal, it burns easily and intensely. This burning mixture of molten uranium and graphite would then emit huge amounts of radioactive smoke and steam. Experts say the fire would be difficult to put out, both because the intense radiation would make it difficult to get near the fire and if water were sprayed on the fire it

BAZELL continues: would create much more radioactive steam. Joseph Henry is the former head of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency...

(Henry: "After all there is a finite amount of graphite to burn there, but I'm afraid it's a large amount and it could go on for some extended time.") In 1957, a fire at the Windscale Graphite Nuclear Plant in England burned for several days and led to widespread contamination. That plant and the fire were much smaller than the one in the Soviet Union. Experts say the only way to put out that fire is to pour large amounts of water on it with robot equipment shielded from radiation. But the Soviets don't seem to have that equipment, and it's not clear anyone does.

BROKAW: Radiation, of course, is the big fear tonight. It is the silent killer and apparently it continues to pour forth from Chernobyl. Polish officials say that a cloud of radioactivity has passed through that country. Higher than normal levels continue to be recorded in Sweden, even a small amount in the milk from a Swedish mother's breast.

NBC's ROBERT HAGER: In the U.S., radiation monitoring stations were on alert in Olympia, Washington, in Portland, Oregon, and as far east as Montgomery, Alabama. The National Weather Service poured over maps and suddenly the main radiation cloud seemed to be drifting back toward the Soviet Union. Earlier winds had blown out to Scandinavia; now they're blowing the other way, toward less populated areas of the Soviet Union. Weathermen predicted the cloud would thin out with time over northern Europe and the Arctic basin, and could in a very diluted form reach the northwest U.S. in several days, by which time the Energy Department's James Vaughan reassured a congressional committee there should be no health problem for the U.S.

(Vaughan: "Good technical judgment that this particular event in that location, with the circumstances we know, should have no effect on the environment in the United States or the health and safety of our public.") But for those in the Soviet Union, one U.S. government source estimates there may have been enough radiation to kill within a one-mile radius of the plant. For those farther away, the most susceptible would be unborn children, small children, and older people. All have more vulnerable immune systems.

(Health specialist Kitty Tucker: "After the increase in infant mortality, we might expect increases related to bone marrow damage which is caused by exposure to ionizing radiation. It weakens the immune system and we may see more infectious diseases occurring.")

(Georgetown University's Dr. Kenneth Mossman: "Individuals who have damage to the gastrointestinal tract would be expected to become malnourished, dehydrated and susceptible to infections.")

Studies of the World War II A-bomb blast in Japan indicate the long-range dangers in the immediate vicinity -- after five years a wave of leukemia cases; after 12 years thyroid disorders; after 20-30 years bone marrow cancers. But outside East European borders, based on radiation levels measured so far, no health effects are currently predicted.

BROKAW: While the Soviets have asked West Germany and Sweden for help in extinguishing that fire at Chernobyl -- which is extraordinary since they never ask or welcome outside assistance -- they have not asked the United States for anything tonight. Nonetheless, American officials have offered radiation measuring systems and medical experts, but so far no response from Moscow.

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BROKAW (after break): That nuclear disaster, of course, was in the Soviet Union, but the fallout tonight is over Europe. The clouds of radioactivity that drifted over the continent showed no discrimination between East and West. And as NBC's John Cochran reports, Europeans are fearful of what was registered in Sweden -- atmospheric radioactivity 100 times normal levels.

NBC's JOHN COCHRAN: In Stockholm, the Geyberg family, like a lot of Swedes starting their May Day vacation wanted a day of fresh air, but wondered whether that's possible anymore.

(Mrs. Geyberg: "I'm worried about my child and I'm worried about the child that I'm carrying.")

Mr. Geyberg: "There's little we can do except pray.")

The Swedish Energy Minister, Brigitte Dahl, was furious with the Soviets for withholding news of the accident until yesterday.

(Energy Minister Dahl: "...that we demand full information. We should have received that when it occurred last Friday...")

The Swedish criticism of the Soviets was echoed by other West Europeans.

(Stanley Davis of Common Market: "That is a matter of very deep concern, indeed, and it does seem to be a breach of its duty under international law.")

In Poland, even closer to the accident than Sweden, the government assured Poles today there was no danger, but tonight a Polish spokesman urged children and pregnant women to avoid milk that might be contaminated and told housewives to wash all vegetables. In Vienna, Austrian Airlines said it would check a plane just arrived from Moscow for contamination. West Germany, the home of many anti-nuclear demonstrations like this one last year, will see another protest tomorrow when the Green Psychological Party tries to use the Soviet disaster to mount another campaign against all nuclear reactors in all countries.

In Britain, while researchers tested the air for any sign of Soviet radiation, and found none, the government of Margaret Thatcher was already defending its support of nuclear power from attacks by the group Greenpeace. But tonight the political fallout from the Soviet accident is of less concern to 89 British families than the safety of their children studying at a university in Kiev. The parents want their children out of the Soviet Union but have been unable to reach Kiev by telephone.

BROKAW: Over the past quarter-of-a-century, there have been 10 nuclear accidents in this country -- the most serious at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island in 1979. The United States has 100 operating nuclear reactors, most of them in the East. And most of the commercial reactors in this country are protected by containment vessels to prevent the release of radioactivity. Someone who has been paying a great deal of attention to the safety factors at U.S. facilities is Dan Ford, a writer for the New Yorker and a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Mr. Ford, all day long American officials have been saying it couldn't happen here because we do have those containment facilities -- we'll never have a complete core meltdown. Do you agree with that?

DAN FORD: No, I think the containment used to be some help when we had small reactors. The containment can help deal with small accidents, but in a large meltdown, I'm afraid all the containment provides is some type of psychological reassurance. It's no barrier to the massive release of radioactivity.

BROKAW: But the fact is, combined with the technical expertise we have in this country and the redundancies -- that is, the backup of other parts of the system -- isn't the chance of a complete meltdown like we've seen in the Soviet Union quite remote in the United States?

FORD: To the contrary, there is at least a 50% chance if you look at the engineering estimates that have been made that we'll have a meltdown in this country in this decade. The utility companies are violating the safety rules left and right. The Federal government is not enforcing the safety rules. The so-called "containment" buildings are built with substandard concrete; they forget to put in the reinforcing bars; they leave the doors open. So I don't think we can sit here smugly and say that we have a magic safety system to protect us against this type of catastrophe. We do not.

BROKAW: As I understand it, we only have one facility in the United States that has a graphite system similar to what is being used in Chernobyl, that is Hanford, Washington?

FORD: Yes, we have another gas-cooled reactor in Colorado.

BROKAW: What, in your judgment, is the facility that is most likely to have an accident of one kind or another? Or can you make that kind of an estimate?

FORD: You can certainly look at the safety records. The Davis-Bessey plant in Ohio has one of the worst safety records in the country. The Indian Point Plant near New York is the plant that frightens me the most. Ten to twenty million people live in proximity to that plant and, it seems to me, that it is negligent in the extreme for Federal nuclear safety authorities to continue to allow that plant, with its bad safety record, to operate near our largest metropolitan area.

(NBC-LEAD)

ABC's PETER JENNINGS: Today, even the Soviets call it a disaster. A senior Reagan Administration official said there has definitely been a meltdown at the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, near Kiev. The accident occurred, we learned, on Saturday. The Soviet government told its people on television tonight that only two people have died. There are other reports, and they are very much unconfirmed, that more than 2,000 people have died. The Soviets have asked West Germany and Sweden for help in fighting a fire at the reactor. We don't know yet what kind of a fire it is. It is an accident with enormous ramifications, and we're going to devote most of this broadcast to it. We begin with what the U.S. does know.

ABC's STEVE SHEPARD reports there is some concern the fire could spread to another nearby reactor building. Administration officials say the disaster began Saturday, two full days before the Soviet Union officially acknowledged it had any kind of problem. Unlike American nuclear plants, there was no containment facility around the Soviet reactor. Once the building was damaged, radiation was released to the atmosphere. Sources say radiation contamination at Chernobyl is heavy and that could affect a lot of people. Over the weekend, prevailing winds carried radioactive emissions to the northwest, cutting across the Baltic into Scandinavia.

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SHEPARD continues: Those winds have now shifted towards Moscow, possibly taking some radioactivity there. All four power plants at Chernobyl are now shut down. U.S. experts say that could have a serious long-term impact on Soviet energy supplies.

ABC's WALTER ROGERS reports from Moscow that the Soviets gave their people a little more news on the accident. But Soviet newscasters deliberately played down the incident, reporting it after the latest five-year plan and crop reports. Eight or nine minutes into the news, an announcer finally said only two people had been killed in the incident, contradicting one news report that the casualties numbered in the thousands. The Soviets also confirmed earlier Western reports of large-scale evacuation of several towns and said three other nuclear power generating units had been shut down. Western diplomatic sources here report the entire area within an 18 mile radius of the reactor has been evacuated and sealed off. The Soviets have closed the city of Kiev to journalists and diplomats, although tourists there do not appear to be affected. Soviet newspapers avoided almost any mention of the incident, although Radio Moscow said:

(Radio Moscow: "The...disaster was the first one at Soviet nuclear power plants in more than 30 years.")

But this Soviet engineer disputed that, saying he knew of numerous nuclear mishaps here, shoddy materials and radiation leaks at nuclear power stations. In fact, the Soviet people have been given no sense of just how serious a reactor meltdown can be and they know far less about what's happening and the hazards involved than what's being reported in the West.

JENNINGS reports the cloud also went over portions of Poland. Polish government authorities warned pregnant women and young children not to drink cow's milk or eat fresh vegetables. Children were given a one-time dose of iodine so as to create resistance to any iodine from the explosion.

ABC's DEAN REYNOLDS reports on the reaction in Western Europe. All across the northern tier of Western Europe, they were testing the wind, checking the atmosphere for fallout. So far, the levels have been low and no threat to life. But officials in Sweden, in the direct path of the cloud, said the readings show no reductions from yesterday, meaning the atmosphere may still be partially contaminated. And the volume of the radioactivity so far from the accident, together with the chemical elements of the debris, removed all doubt that a major disaster has befallen the Soviets. Much effort was focused on how to help the Soviets out of their nuclear nightmare. To date, the Soviets are only asking for advice on how to battle the blaze. Sweden had been approached, along with the Germans, and Britain has offered its expertise -- as have official atomic energy organizations. But there is still simmering indignation at the heavy-handed Soviet attempt to keep the mishap a secret.

JENNINGS says that because of the weather patterns in the jet stream, experts say that the movement of radiation is likely to approach the U.S. from the West, possibly reaching this country in a few days' time. It is not clear how much, if any, might actually fall to earth. The Department of Energy said the U.S. has absolutely nothing to worry about.

JENNINGS reports senior U.N. officials demanded the Soviets release all of their information to the West.

ABC's RICHARD THRELKELD reports on what the experts say. There are 50 nuclear reactors in the Soviet Union, low-budget no-frills reactors that lack many of the safety features the American ones have. And many Soviet reactors, like the one at Chernobyl, use graphite, rather than water as we do, to control the nuclear reaction. That is a fatal difference. The fire could burn for days or weeks. As it burns, it's spreading clouds of radioactive material into the air.

JENNINGS discusses the situation with PETER POTTER in London, a nuclear scientist and former overseas manager of the British National Nuclear Corporation. Potter says there will be a large release of radioactivity that will pollute the ground around Chernobyl, but the rest will be diluted as it gets further away from the plant and will add to the store of radiation that is there naturally anyway.

ABC's GEORGE STRAIT reports that in Chernobyl, there is the potential for very serious human damage.

JENNINGS: To help deal with this disaster, the U.S. has offered the Soviet Union humanitarian and technical assistance. So far, there has been no response. There has been an immediate political response in the U.S.

ABC's CHARLES GIBSON reports that price and safety considerations have brought the nuclear power industry in this country to a nuclear standstill. In the last seven years, not one single utility has ordered construction of a new plant and in the past 14 years, 101 nuclear plant orders have been canceled. Energy Department officials were on Capitol Hill today maintaining 1) that American plants are safe, far safer than Soviet plants, and 2) that there is no danger to the U.S. from this accident.

(James Vaughan of the Energy Department: "This particular event in that location, with the circumstances we know, should have no effect on the environment in the United States or the health and safety of our public.") But the nuclear power critics were saying this could well end the industry.

(Rep. Markey: "The Soviet accident could be a radioactive Mt. St. Helen's.")

(Critic Larry Sinkin: "The Russian accident, the Three Mile Island accident and the dozens of other accidents in the United States, I think, have put the nail in the coffin of nuclear power. It's only a matter of how quickly we end it.")

(Critic Nora Bredis: "The worst can happen. That's what the accident in the Soviet Union says to us here in the United States.")

ABC's BETTINA GREGORY reports from Three Mile Island. After seven years, things are slowly returning to normal.

JENNINGS reports the Soviets build and export reactors to places like Finland.
(ABC-LEAD)

CBS's DAN RATHER: U.S. officials believe the nuclear accident in the heart of Soviet farm land began Saturday and isn't over yet. Amid widely conflicting casualty reports, a U.S. spy satellite photo today picked up some of the physical damage. Correspondent David Martin's report tonight showed this: a gaping hole in the reactor building roof, caved-in walls, smoke rising from the reactor building in what is apparently a still out of control fire. Much remains unknown.... This is what we're hearing tonight, a United Press International reports so far, unconfirmed, that more than 2,000 may be dead. Soviet government-controlled television officially puts the number of dead at two. In Sweden, officials are convinced there was a nuclear reactor core meltdown at Chernobyl. They say radiation may still be spewing into the air.... The radiation cloud, at last report, is blowing back over Soviet territory.... U.S. government trackers are monitoring radiation levels at all 50 states. The first wave expected in this country will be this weekend in the west -- no danger to people in the U.S. they predicted. The Soviets have appealed to Sweden and West Germany for help. U.S. offers to give Moscow technical and medical help still go unanswered.... The tightly controlled Soviet government media are telling their own people next to nothing....

CBS's WYATT ANDREWS reports from Moscow that for most of the day the Soviet policy was silence. There was no coverage -- nothing in the Soviet morning newspapers. Only Radio Moscow reported a disaster, saying this: "Efforts are being applied to eliminate the consequences of the accident and help the victims." Tonight, on the nine o'clock news the first detailed confirmation of one of the worst nuclear accidents ever; two dead was the report. It is clear there is much more here that is not being reported. On the streets of Moscow the public was mostly unaware. Both the Swedish and Danish embassies sent envoys to the Soviet Foreign Ministry today asking the Soviets to be forthcoming. Polish television tonight warned all of its citizens to wash all fresh vegetables and some milk sales will be restricted.

CBS's DERRICK BLAKELY reports from Stockholm scientists monitoring the aftermath of the nuclear said they are certain the core of the Soviet reactor has melted down -- by far the worst nuclear accident in history. The Soviets have turned to Sweden and West Germany for advice on how to fight the fire raging in the core of the reactor. The Swedes could only tell the Soviets to contact Great Britain. In London today, radiation levels were completely normal. In Sweden, radiation has begun to fall from levels that reached ten times normal readings. The Swedes are calling for all nuclear programs to be placed under international supervision.

RATHER: U.S. officials say tonight they are convinced the Soviet reactor building is still on fire -- graphite burning 4,000 degrees hot. It is their view that it will keep burning for days and that nothing can be done to stop it.

CBS's SUSAN SPENCER reports Administration officials now believe a chemical, not a nuclear blast, probably led to the Soviet disaster which is complicated by the very design of Soviet reactors. The design makes it very difficult to control either escaping radiation or the inferno caused by what experts fear was a meltdown. It may take weeks before the immediate death toll from the accident is known and will literally take years before anyone can judge the long-term effects.

RATHER reports the Chernobyl catastrophe is probably the worst nuclear accident and it is one the worst places possible. Why build reactors so near Kiev? That question was asked in the February issue of Soviet Life. (TV coverage: President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev on the cover of Soviet Life.)

The answer was quote, "The odds of a meltdown are one in 10,000 years. The plants have safe and reliable controls that are protective from any breakdown." What happened near Kiev three days ago today caused the Chicago Board of Trade grain prices to jump, even though experts don't know yet how badly Soviet agriculture will be affected.

CBS's BOB SCHIEFFER reports from New York on the potential Chernobyl-type disaster in America's own future. Some experts and officials say yes.

(Rep. Edward Markey: "The probability of a core meltdown in a U.S. nuclear plant could be 45% in the next 20 years.")

Markey's statement is based on a little noticed report issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year.

(Markey: "It is inherently unsafe technology that requires constant attention.")

Since the Three Mile Island accident, not a single new plant has been started here and the Soviet accident is sure to cause new problems. At TMI, huge containment facilities which surround commercial U.S. reactors trapped most of the escaping radiation. That's not the case in the Soviet Union. At a congressional hearing today, the Administration argued other procedures make such (plants without containment facilities) plants safe enough. (CBS-LEAD)

FAR EAST TRIP

BROKAW: President Reagan had an embarrassing arrival today on the Indonesian Island of Bali -- the expulsion of two Australian correspondents traveling with the President, and earlier a New York Times correspondent was kicked out -- all three expulsions related to news reports critical of Indonesia's government. Chris Wallace reports American officials were outraged. (NBC-2)

NBC's CHRIS WALLACE: (TV coverage: President and First Lady deplaning) The President arrived on the island of Bali tonight for what was billed as part rest stop, part celebration of Asian democracy. It turned out to be neither, because moments before Mr. Reagan was greeted by President Suharto, Indonesian authorities came onto the press plane to take two Australian reporters into custody. (TV coverage of officials removing reporters from plane). Australians were banned from covering this visit after a Sydney newspaper said the Suhartos may be as corrupt as the Marcos family, with a fortune of more than \$2 billion. Tonight the Australians were taken off the plane, police blocking American TV crews. The reporters were lead to a holding room at the airport and hours later put on the next plane out of the country to Japan. A U.S. official said the White House asked repeatedly that the Australians be permitted to stay.

(White House Deputy Press Secretary Ed Djerejian speaking to reporters: "...that we felt that all journalists accredited to the presidential party should have the opportunity to cover the proceedings. They said their decision was firm.")

WALLACE continues: The Reagan party was furious with the Indonesians, in large part because the President has been talking about "Winds of Freedom" spreading democracy through Asia. Earlier today in Guam:

(TV coverage of President Reagan: "The foreign ministers that I will meet with in Indonesia represent nations that have each, in large part, embraced human liberty.")

In fact, during his 20 years in power, Suharto has had a poor human-rights record. Dissidents are jailed, charged with subversion. The government is especially concerned about suppressing any Moslem radicalism. Critical articles in newspapers often have sections blacked out -- the reporters who write them facing expulsion. Today, Barbara Crossette of the New York Times was kicked out. And later, those two Australians. The President will emphasize here that human-rights abuses in pro-Western countries like Indonesia are far less serious than those in Communist countries, like Cambodia. While that may be true, it won't mean much to reporters prevented from covering what Mr. Reagan has to say.

RATHER: Happily island hopping as he meanders his way to the Tokyo summit, President Reagan arrived tonight on the exotic Indonesian island of Bali. The Reagans and Indonesia President Suharto watched a performance by traditional Balinese dancers.

(TV coverage: President Reagan watching the dancers.)

Image conscious aides have been trying to get reporters to call this Mr. Reagan's "Winds of Freedom" journey. Even as the President arrived, Indonesia expelled one American and two Australian journalists because of reports the Suharto government said were critical.

CBS's BOB SIMON presents a profile on the complex nation of Bali. Oil accounts for 70% of Indonesia's foreign earnings and every dollar drop in the price of oil cost the country close to \$400 million. For the first time in two decades the government has been forced to cut its budget -- that means hard times for the Indonesian people -- reduction in development programs in which almost inevitably translates into political pressures.

(CBS-6)

JENNINGS: President Reagan arrived in Bali on his way to Tokyo for the economic summit meeting. The President spoke of a message of freedom, but in somewhat of an embarrassing development, Indonesian authorities expelled two Australian journalists who had arrived on the White House press plane and a New York Times reporter. They had all written articles critical of the Indonesian president.

(TV Coverage: President and Mrs. Reagan de-planing. Indonesian authorities escorting reporters away.)

(ABC-6)

TERRORISM-CHILE

BROKAW: Once again today, terrorism touched American interests -- this time a bomb in Chile's capital of Santiago. The bomb went off near the residence of U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes, breaking windows and demolishing a wall next door. A woman in the area was injured. There was no claim of responsibility. The Ambassador said that at first an earthquake had hit.

(NBC-3)

TERRORISM-ISRAEL

BROKAW: Police in Israel today arrested a gang of Palestinian guerrillas in the terrorist killing of a British tourist on Sunday. Officials said the gang belonged to a faction linked to Abu Moussa, a pro-Syrian Palestinian based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The suspects are also linked to the killing of an Israeli woman and the wounding of two tourists -- one American, the other West German. (NBC-4)

RATHER reports Israeli police said today they captured the alleged guerrillas who have confessed to killing a British tourist in Jerusalem two days ago. (CBS-4)

U.S. SHIPS

BROKAW: Another potential in the fight against terrorism -- the American aircraft carrier Enterprise sailed today through the Suez Canal. Once in the Mediterranean, the Navy said the nuclear-powered ship will reinforce the U.S. Sixth Fleet which took part in the raid on Libya. (NBC-5)

KILBURN

BROKAW reports on the funeral of Peter Kilburn -- a victim of violence in the Middle East -- in San Francisco. (NBC-6)

METHODIST BISHOPS-NUCLEAR

JENNINGS: The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church voted unanimously for a pastoral letter condemning the nuclear arms race. A New York bishop said the next time there is a nuclear accident, it might be with a missile. (ABC-2)

MORTGAGE RATES

RATHER reports the Commerce Department today indicated that falling mortgage rates sent new home sales soaring by 27.4% for March. That puts sales of new single family homes at a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of 903,000 units last month. (CBS-2)

CHALLENGER

BROKAW: At Cape Canaveral today, NASA announced that salvage crews have recovered a critical section of Challenger's rocket booster, and they called off their underwater search. That word came as the people of the Kennedy Space Center said their last farewell to seven members of Challenger's crew. NBC's David Murphy reports on the ceremonies. (ABC-3, NBC-7)

RATHER reports the astronaut remains finally today came home to their families.

CBS'S ERIC ENGBERG reports on the ceremony today at the Kennedy Space Center.

(TV coverage: The ceremony today at the Kennedy Space Center.) (CBS-3)



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

INDONESIA EVENING EDITION

5:00 P.M. BALI -- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1986 -- 6:00 A.M. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

TRIP NEWS

INDONESIA BARS TWO JOURNALISTS IN REAGAN PARTY -- DENPASAR, Bali -- President Reagan arrived today on this Indonesian island on the first major stop of his trip to the Far East, but the occasion was marred, White House officials said, when the Indonesian government detained two Australian journalists in the party accompanying the President and barred them from the country.

(New York Times, AP, Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN, IN BALI, IS MUM ON SOVIET MISHAP -- BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster on his way to this stopover on his Pacific tour, but Administration officials were tightlipped as they awaited more detailed word from Washington.

(Washington Times, Reuter, AP)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT -- The nuclear nightmare continues tonight in the Soviet Union with reports that as many as 2,000 may have been killed and a dangerous fire continues to burn.

TRIP -- President Reagan had an embarrassing arrival today on the Indonesian island of Bali.

TRIP NEWS.....A-2

INTERNATIONAL NEWS..A-4

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-7

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

TRIP NEWS

INDONESIANS WELCOME REAGAN, EXPEL JOURNALISTS

BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan, bearing a "message of freedom" for Asian allies, arrived to a lush welcome in the Orient on Tuesday, but Indonesian authorities promptly expelled two Australian journalists in Reagan's entourage.

A third reporter, Barbara Crossette of the New York Times, who had come on her own, was also ordered out of the country, allegedly because she had written stories critical of Indonesian President Suharto.

President Reagan regretted the decision by the Indonesians to deny entry to the journalists, Larry Speakes said. "The President wishes everyone could have come in," he said.

(Tom Raum, AP)

INDONESIA BARS TWO JOURNALISTS IN REAGAN PARTY

DENPASAR, Bali -- President Reagan arrived today on this Indonesian island on the first major stop of his trip to the Far East, but the occasion was marred, White House officials said, when the Indonesian government detained two Australian journalists in the party accompanying the President and barred them from the country.

The journalists were ordered to leave the country in a move that White House officials said highlighted sharp differences between the United States and Indonesia over press and political freedoms.

(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

U.S. SAYS REPORTERS BAN WON'T HURT "WINDS OF FREEDOM" TRIP

NUSA DUA, Bali -- The White House said today the deportation of three journalists covering President Reagan's visit to Bali would have no effect on the "winds of freedom" message he is taking to meetings with Asian leaders and the Tokyo economic summit.

At the same time, a senior U.S. official acknowledged the Reagan Administration would like to see more rapid progress in Indonesia on the issue of human rights but declined to say if the President would raise concerns during his meeting tomorrow with Suharto.

"We don't want to take it squarely on the nose. All aspects of U.S.-Indonesian relations will be raised," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

(Patricia Wilson, Reuter)

CRACKDOWN ON REPORTERS OVERSHADOWS REAGAN'S INDONESIAN VISIT

BALI, Indonesia -- A 3-week-old story in an Australian newspaper caused the expulsion Tuesday of three foreign correspondents from Indonesia and cast a shadow over the visit of President Reagan.

Asked how the action squared with President Reagan's repeated claim that his two weeks of Far East travel was a "winds of freedom" tour, Indonesia Foreign Minister Kusumaatmadja told a news conference: "I think the winds are still blowing but there are some who don't like the wind. When a hurricane hits, you don't have to like it."

(Kenneth Whiting, AP)

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AUSTRALIA SUMMONS JAKARTA ENVOY IN MIDNIGHT PROTEST

CANBERRA -- Indonesia's acting ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at midnight last night to hear a protest over the barring of two Australian reporters accompanying President Reagan on his visit to Bali, ministry officials said today.

Prime Minister Hawke and Foreign Minister Hayden agreed early last night to lodge an immediate protest if the Indonesians turned back Richard Palfreyman and Jim Middleton who were traveling with Reagan's press corps, official sources said.

(Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN EXPRESSES DEEP REGRET AT ACCIDENT, SETS UP STUDY GROUP

NUSA DUA, Bali -- President Reagan has expressed deep regret to Mikhail Gorbachev over the nuclear accident near Kiev and set up a U.S. task force to monitor developments, the White House said today.

Larry Speakes said Reagan felt there was no immediate danger to Americans from radioactivity released in the accident, in which Moscow said two people died.

Speakes, traveling with Reagan to the Tokyo economic summit, said the U.S. had offered technical and humanitarian help. "No one in the world has experience in dealing with a situation like this," he told reporters.

(Reuter)

SPEAKES SAYS SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT COULD NOT HAPPEN IN U.S.

BALI, Indonesia -- The kind of massive nuclear accident that occurred in the Soviet Union "could not happen" in the U.S. and President Reagan remains a strong supporter of nuclear power, a Presidential spokesman says.

Larry Speakes said the accident that seriously damaged a nuclear reactor at Chernobyl appears to pose no threat to the U.S. -- although he said he didn't know whether the same assertion could be made with regard to Europe and Scandinavia. Briefing reporters accompanying the President, Speakes said: "It could not happen in the United States" because of various safeguards.

(Tom Raum, AP)

REAGAN, IN BALI, IS MUM ON SOVIET MISHAP

BALI, Indonesia -- President Reagan was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster on his way to this stopover on his Pacific tour, but Administration officials were tightlipped as they awaited more detailed word from Washington.

Chief of Staff Regan said the U.S. "could be helpful and would be if asked" for help by Moscow. "We have a lot of experience in how we handle these things both medically and scientifically," he said.

(Mary Belcher & Marc Lerner, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN OFFERS SYMPATHY AND HELP TO SOVIETS

BALI, Indonesia -- The message of sympathy and offers to help with the disaster were delivered by Assistant Secretary of State Ridgeway to Soviet charge d'affaires Oleg Sokolov, according to Larry Speakes.

The U.S. did not know about the accident until it was announced by Tass Monday, Speakes said. He said the U.S. "does hope the Soviet Union will live up to its international obligations" to keep the world informed about the accident.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

U.S. EXTENDS OFFER OF AID TO MOSCOW

Reaction in the U.S. to the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl was prompt, as the country extended an offer of help to the Soviet Union and immediately began debating the future of its own nuclear power system.

As Charles Redman was announcing the U.S. offer of technical and humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union, a coalition of environmental groups was warning that the accident signaled a need to upgrade nuclear regulations in this country and perhaps shut down nuclear power plants altogether.

(Lucy Keyser & Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A1)

U.S.-USSR TALKS CONCLUDED ON IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

Despite a slump in U.S.-Soviet relations, the two superpowers have concluded talks on upgrading the hot line between Washington and Moscow and are expected to hold discussions soon on reducing the risk of nuclear war, State Department officials said.

The contacts contrast with the Soviets' cancellation of a visit here in mid-May by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to discuss with Secretary Shultz the scheduling of a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

(Barry Schweid, AP)

U.S. OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING SOVIETS NUCLEAR REACTOR DISASTER

Although U.S. officials said there was no risk to the health and safety of anyone in the U.S., the EPA was increasing its monitoring of radiation levels throughout the country. The first traces of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine could show up over the Pacific Northwest by the weekend, the EPA said.

U.S. officials told members of Congress that American intelligence data indicated that the accident was started by a chemical explosion at the Chernobyl plant and resulted in the meltdown of the reactor core.

(Otto Kreisher & Robert Edsall, Copley News Service)

MELTDOWN OCCURED, FIRE MAY STILL BE BURNING, INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY

U.S. intelligence sources reported that the Chernobyl nuclear reactor complex in the Soviet Ukraine experienced a meltdown Saturday, was still billowing smoke Tuesday and threatened another reactor at the same site. The White House offered full U.S. assistance, and appealed to the Soviets to provide more information about the accident.

The White House has established a special interagency task force to coordinate the government's response to the accident, Larry Speakes said, and the radiation cloud from the accident is being closely monitored. He said it is not expected to have health effects in the U.S.

(Norman Black & Jill Lawrence, AP)

SOVIET NUCLEAR REACTOR BURNS IN KIEV AREA, TOWNS EVACUATED

MOSCOW -- A Soviet nuclear reactor continued to burn today after releasing a vast cloud of radiation in an explosion U.S. officials said could have been caused by a chemical blast.

Two people were killed, and residents of nearby towns were evacuated, the Soviet Union said in a statement. However, Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said yesterday that the real toll was probably much higher. The Soviet figures "seems preposterous...in terms of an accident of this magnitude," Adelman told a congressional hearing.

(Tony Barber, Reuter)

REAGAN URGES SENATE TO RATIFY TREATY
EASING EXTRADITION OF IRA TERRORISTS

Grateful for Britain's help in the U.S. bombing raid on Libya, the Reagan Administration is applying new pressure on the Senate to approve a treaty allowing easier extradition of suspected Irish terrorists to England.

"The Administration believes the Senate should swiftly ratify the treaty, demonstrating a willingness to support the British on an issue of terrorism of primary importance to them," Charles Redman said.

(James Morrison, Washington Times, A6)

NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN CALLS BIPARTISAN BUDGET PLAN UNACCEPTABLE

The deadlock over a fiscal 1987 spending plan showed no signs of easing Tuesday as President Reagan called a bipartisan budget blueprint pending in the Senate "totally unacceptable" and Bob Dole said he would never vote for it.

"I think we'd like to have a bipartisan budget (but) we haven't gotten one yet," Dole said of private discussions among senators seeking a consensus on a spending plan for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

(Cliff Harris, AP)

ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES ACTION ON ACID RAIN CONTROL BILL

The Reagan Administration, backed by the electric power industry and the nation's unionized coal miners, said Tuesday it opposes congressional action this year on acid rain control legislation.

Lee Thomas said stepped-up efforts to combat air pollution must await the completion of two or three more years of scientific research. "We do not believe that the current state of knowledge can sustain any judgment with respect to the level of emission reductions needed to prevent or eliminate (acid rain) damage," Thomas said.

(David Goeler, AP)

SENATE DEMOCRATS HIT REVOLVING-DOOR TACTICS

Several Senate Democrats yesterday accused certain present and former government employees -- including Michael Deaver -- of undermining the public's confidence in government by making money on their positions.

"The Michael Deaver affair is the latest in an escalating series of ethical problems to beset our government," said Sen. Howard Metzenbaum. "Anyone who thinks that this revolving door pattern is not fundamentally affecting people's confidence in the integrity of government is a victim of self-delusion," said Metzenbaum.

(Thomas Brandt & Myron Struck, Washington Times, A2)

DEAVER EARNED \$682,917 FROM FOREIGN CLIENTS

Michael Deaver has been paid handsomely by foreign clients, according to government records. From Sept. 6, 1985, to Feb. 10, the former White House official was paid \$682,917.56 by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, and other clients, according to documents filed with the Justice Department's foreign agents registration unit.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

CHAIRMAN BIDS REAGAN DROP NORFOLK SOUTHERN FROM CONRAIL PLAN

The Reagan Administration should abandon its plan to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern Corp. and act to keep the freight railroad under independent management, a House committee chairman says.

Any new plan offered by the Administration to sell the railroad should include public ownership, Rep. John Dingell, said Tuesday in a statement. "The Administration's proposal to sell Conrail to Norfolk Southern is mired in a hopeless swamp of confusion and controversy," said Dingell. "If Conrail is to be returned to the private sector, a new plan must be devised."

(Mike Robinson, AP)

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SAID TO STALL RELEASE OF NIXON PAPERS

Congress is being warned that Reagan Administration legal opinion, if allowed to stand, would let Richard Nixon choose which of his presidential papers can be released despite a 1974 law making them public property.

A legal adviser to Congress told a subcommittee Tuesday that if the head of the National Archives obeys the legal opinion drafted in the Justice Department he "will cede all discretion to former President Nixon, exactly what the statute intended not to happen."

(Harry Rosenthal, AP)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, April 29, 1986)

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

NBC's TOM BROKAW: The nuclear nightmare continues tonight in the Soviet Union with reports that as many as 2,000 may have been killed and a dangerous fire continues to burn. (Lead-in to newscast).

That Soviet nuclear disaster is probably the worst in history. There are unconfirmed reports tonight that as many as 2000 people have died as a result of the accident of a huge Soviet nuclear facility at Chernobyl, that's just north of Kiev and 430 miles south of Moscow in the western part of the Soviet Union. After confirming the accident, the Soviets have not released much information, but there are reports tonight that truck convoys are evacuating tens of thousands of people from that heavily populated area, and that an 18-mile security zone has been set up around the site. The Soviets say that only two people were killed, but NBC's Fred Francis reports from the Pentagon tonight that American intelligence analysts believe that that figure is much higher.

NBC's FRED FRANCIS: Spy satellite photographs taken this morning confirm the worst to Administration officials that there is a meltdown at that Soviet nuclear reactor. Administration sources who have seen the first reconnaissance pictures say that the top of the reactor was blown off, that only ragged walls remained and circled by fire that as of this morning was still out of control. The sources said that the spy photographs, apparently taken by a KH-11 satellite, and which will not be released, clearly show towering clouds of smoke and flame that one source said could endanger a second nuclear reactor nearby. Sources are certain from the visual evidence that a chemical explosion occurred sometime on Saturday. They say there are no signs whatsoever of a nuclear explosion, but analysts do not know what came first, the explosion or the meltdown. The sources also say that reports of more 2,000 dead seem about right since 4,000 men work at the reactors, there were construction workers at two more reactors being built, and there are at least 40,000 Soviet citizens living in the immediate area. Administration sources say that all intelligence assets will be focused on the area to get the answers that the Soviets are not giving. Clearly one source said tonight that the Soviets do not have that meltdown contained.

BROKAW: For their part, the Soviets are pulling back from their original description of this as a nuclear disaster. They are now calling it simply an accident. As for that report of 2,000 dead, it came from United Press International quoting a woman in Kiev familiar with the rescue operations. NBC's Steve Hurst in Moscow tells us tonight that the official Soviet line is much less ominous.

NBC's STEVE HURST: Soviet television, after 24 hours of silence on the Chernobyl accident, now says that just two people died when the fourth reactor malfunctioned, blowing apart the structure housing it. The report read on the main evening television news gave few other details. (Soviet TV: "Initial measures to eradicate the consequences have been taken, so the situation at the power station and its vicinity is stabilized. Casualties are being treated and the area has been evacuated.")

HURST continues: The Soviets say residents of Chernobyl and three nearby towns were evacuated, but gave no figures. Nor did the television report indicate how many people were injured. The nuclear plant is on the shores of a reservoir about 80 miles north of Kiev. There are fears that the fertile Dnepr River Valley below the reservoir might be in danger from the radiation. But Soviet officials are saying nothing. The Soviets reported the incident to the U.N. agency which monitors nuclear power in Vienna.

(U.N. Agency spokesman Hans Blix: "Today I had a cable from the chairman of the atomic energy commission of the Soviet Union which confirmed that the accident has been there, also that persons affected by it had been taken care of and that a government commission was being appointed.")

The graphite fire at the reactor continues to rage and the Soviets have gone to West German and Swedish experts seeking help in putting out the blaze that could endanger three other reactors which are now shut down at the site.

(Blix: "They asked for information on possible help from German institutions on reactor accidents in general and graphite fires in particular.")

In Moscow, citizens expressed concern for their safety.

(Soviet citizen: "Absolutely. How can one not be frightened of such things.")

The Soviets plan to double their nuclear generating capacity within the next five years as part of a major plan to rejuvenate the Soviet economy. This accident could seriously jeopardize those ambitious projects.

BROKAW: American nuclear experts familiar with the Soviet system were saying today that the Chernobyl plant and other Soviet facilities have been plagued for leaks for years now, and they do not have the reinforced containment structures which keep radiation from spreading. NBC's chief science correspondent Robert Bazell is with us to talk about the big problem of the moment for the Soviets -- how to deal with that fire in the plant.

NBC's ROBERT BAZELL: Despite the lack of information from the Soviets, it is clear tonight that a fire is still burning out of control at that plant and that the fuel is melting, emitting radioactivity into the air. American and European scientists have a good idea what happened and why it is so difficult to stop. The Soviet reactor in which the accident occurred is a type not used in the United States for commercial nuclear power. The key difference is that it is filled with graphite, or carbon. In the Soviet reactor, pellets of uranium fuel normally undergo a chain reaction producing heat. Water circulates around the pellets, cooling them down and carrying away the heat, which is then used to generate electricity. The graphite normally prevents the uranium chain reactions from getting out of control. What apparently caused the accident was a break in the water supply. This caused some or all of the fuel pellets to become so hot they melted through the pipe and ignited the graphite. Because the graphite is carbon, like coal, it burns easily and intensely. This burning mixture of molten uranium and graphite would then emit huge amounts of radioactive smoke and steam. Experts say the fire would be difficult to put out, both because the intense radiation would make it difficult to get near the fire and if water were sprayed on the fire it

BAZELL continues: would create much more radioactive steam. Joseph Henry is the former head of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency...

(Henry: "After all there is a finite amount of graphite to burn there, but I'm afraid it's a large amount and it could go on for some extended time.") In 1957, a fire at the Windscale Graphite Nuclear Plant in England burned for several days and lead to widespread contamination. That plant and the fire were much smaller than the one in the Soviet Union. Experts say the only way to put out that fire is to pour large amounts of water on it with robot equipment shielded from radiation. But the Soviets don't seem to have that equipment, and it's not clear anyone does.

BROKAW: Radiation, of course, is the big fear tonight. It is the silent killer and apparently it continues to pour forth from Chernobyl. Polish officials say that a cloud of radioactivity has passed through that country. Higher than normal levels continue to be recorded in Sweden, even a small amount in the milk from a Swedish mother's breast.

NBC's ROBERT HAGER: In the U.S., radiation monitoring stations were on alert in Olympia, Washington, in Portland, Oregon, and as far east as Montgomery, Alabama. The National Weather Service poured over maps and suddenly the main radiation cloud seemed to be drifting back toward the Soviet Union. Earlier winds had blown out to Scandinavia; now they're blowing the other way, toward less populated areas of the Soviet Union. Weathermen predicted the cloud would thin out with time over northern Europe and the Arctic basin, and could in a very diluted form reach the northwest U.S. in several days, by which time the Energy Department's James Vaughan reassured a congressional committee there should be no health problem for the U.S.

(Vaughan: "Good technical judgment that this particular event in that location, with the circumstances we know, should have no effect on the environment in the United States or the health and safety of our public.") But for those in the Soviet Union, one U.S. government source estimates there may have been enough radiation to kill within a one-mile radius of the plant. For those farther away, the most susceptible would be unborn children, small children, and older people. All have more vulnerable immune systems.

(Health specialist Kitty Tucker: "After the increase in infant mortality, we might expect increases related to bone marrow damage which is caused by exposure to ionizing radiation. It weakens the immune system and we may see more infectious diseases occurring.")

(Georgetown University's Dr. Kenneth Mossman: "Individuals who have damage to the gastrointestinal tract would be expected to become malnourished, dehydrated and susceptible to infections.")

Studies of the World War II A-bomb blast in Japan indicate the long-range dangers in the immediate vicinity -- after five years a wave of leukemia cases; after 12 years thyroid disorders; after 20-30 years bone marrow cancers. But outside East European borders, based on radiation levels measured so far, no health effects are currently predicted.

BROKAW: While the Soviets have asked West Germany and Sweden for help in extinguishing that fire at Chernobyl -- which is extraordinary since they never ask or welcome outside assistance -- they have not asked the United States for anything tonight. Nonetheless, American officials have offered radiation measuring systems and medical experts, but so far no response from Moscow.

BROKAW (after break): That nuclear disaster, of course, was in the Soviet Union, but the fallout tonight is over Europe. The clouds of radioactivity that drifted over the continent showed no discrimination between East and West. And as NBC's John Cochran reports, Europeans are fearful of what was registered in Sweden -- atmospheric radioactivity 100 times normal levels.

NBC's JOHN COCHRAN: In Stockholm, the Geyberg family, like a lot of Swedes starting their May Day vacation wanted a day of fresh air, but wondered whether that's possible anymore.

(Mrs. Geyberg: "I'm worried about my child and I'm worried about the child that I'm carrying.")

Mr. Geyberg: "There's little we can do except pray.")

The Swedish Energy Minister, Brigitte Dahl, was furious with the Soviets for withholding news of the accident until yesterday.

(Energy Minister Dahl: "...that we demand full information. We should have received that when it occurred last Friday...")

The Swedish criticism of the Soviets was echoed by other West Europeans.

(Stanley Davis of Common Market: "That is a matter of very deep concern, indeed, and it does seem to be a breach of its duty under international law.")

In Poland, even closer to the accident than Sweden, the government assured Poles today there was no danger, but tonight a Polish spokesman urged children and pregnant women to avoid milk that might be contaminated and told housewives to wash all vegetables. In Vienna, Austrian Airlines said it would check a plane just arrived from Moscow for contamination. West Germany, the home of many anti-nuclear demonstrations like this one last year, will see another protest tomorrow when the Green Psychological Party tries to use the Soviet disaster to mount another campaign against all nuclear reactors in all countries.

In Britain, while researchers tested the air for any sign of Soviet radiation, and found none, the government of Margaret Thatcher was already defending its support of nuclear power from attacks by the group Greenpeace. But tonight the political fallout from the Soviet accident is of less concern to 89 British families than the safety of their children studying at a university in Kiev. The parents want their children out of the Soviet Union but have been unable to reach Kiev by telephone.

BROKAW: Over the past quarter-of-a-century, there have been 10 nuclear accidents in this country -- the most serious at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island in 1979. The United States has 100 operating nuclear reactors, most of them in the East. And most of the commercial reactors in this country are protected by containment vessels to prevent the release of radioactivity. Someone who has been paying a great deal of attention to the safety factors at U.S. facilities is Dan Ford, a writer for the New Yorker and a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Mr. Ford, all day long American officials have been saying it couldn't happen here because we do have those containment facilities -- we'll never have a complete core meltdown. Do you agree with that?

DAN FORD: No, I think the containment used to be some help when we had small reactors. The containment can help deal with small accidents, but in a large meltdown, I'm afraid all the containment provides is some type of psychological reassurance. It's no barrier to the massive release of radioactivity.

BROKAW: But the fact is, combined with the technical expertise we have in this country and the redundancies -- that is, the backup of other parts of the system -- isn't the chance of a complete meltdown like we've seen in the Soviet Union quite remote in the United States?

FORD: To the contrary, there is at least a 50% chance if you look at the engineering estimates that have been made that we'll have a meltdown in this country in this decade. The utility companies are violating the safety rules left and right. The Federal government is not enforcing the safety rules. The so-called "containment" buildings are built with substandard concrete; they forget to put in the reinforcing bars; they leave the doors open. So I don't think we can sit here smugly and say that we have a magic safety system to protect us against this type of catastrophe. We do not.

BROKAW: As I understand it, we only have one facility in the United States that has a graphite system similar to what is being used in Chernobyl, that is Hannaford, Washington?

FORD: Yes, we have another gas-cooled reactor in Colorado.

BROKAW: What, in your judgment, is the facility that is most likely to have an accident of one kind or another? Or can you make that kind of an estimate?

FORD: You can certainly look at the safety records. The Davis-Bessey plant in Ohio has one of the worst safety records in the country. The Indian Point Plant near New York is the plant that frightens me the most. Ten to twenty million people live in proximity to that plant and, it seems to me, that it is negligent in the extreme for Federal nuclear safety authorities to continue to allow that plant, with its bad safety record, to operate near our largest metropolitan area.

(NBC-LEAD)

ABC's PETER JENNINGS: Today, even the Soviets call it a disaster. A senior Reagan Administration official said there has definitely been a meltdown at the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, near Kiev. The accident occurred, we learned, on Saturday. The Soviet government told its people on television tonight that only two people have died. There are other reports, and they are very much unconfirmed, that more than 2,000 people have died. The Soviets have asked West Germany and Sweden for help in fighting a fire at the reactor. We don't know yet what kind of a fire it is. It is an accident with enormous ramifications, and we're going to devote most of this broadcast to it. We begin with what the U.S. does know.

ABC's STEVE SHEPARD reports there is some concern the fire could spread to another nearby reactor building. Administration officials say the disaster began Saturday, two full days before the Soviet Union officially acknowledged it had any kind of problem. Unlike American nuclear plants, there was no containment facility around the Soviet reactor. Once the building was damaged, radiation was released to the atmosphere. Sources say radiation contamination at Chernobyl is heavy and that could affect a lot of people. Over the weekend, prevailing winds carried radioactive emissions to the northwest, cutting across the Baltic into Scandinavia.

-more-

SHEPARD continues: Those winds have now shifted towards Moscow, possibly taking some radioactivity there. All four power plants at Chernobyl are now shut down. U.S. experts say that could have a serious long-term impact on Soviet energy supplies.

ABC's WALTER ROGERS reports from Moscow that the Soviets gave their people a little more news on the accident. But Soviet newscasters deliberately played down the incident, reporting it after the latest five-year plan and crop reports. Eight or nine minutes into the news, an announcer finally said only two people had been killed in the incident, contradicting one news report that the casualties numbered in the thousands. The Soviets also confirmed earlier Western reports of large-scale evacuation of several towns and said three other nuclear power generating units had been shut down. Western diplomatic sources here report the entire area within an 18 mile radius of the reactor has been evacuated and sealed off. The Soviets have closed the city of Kiev to journalists and diplomats, although tourists there do not appear to be affected. Soviet newspapers avoided almost any mention of the incident, although Radio Moscow said:

(Radio Moscow: "The...disaster was the first one at Soviet nuclear power plants in more than 30 years.")

But this Soviet engineer disputed that, saying he knew of numerous nuclear mishaps here, shoddy materials and radiation leaks at nuclear power stations. In fact, the Soviet people have been given no sense of just how serious a reactor meltdown can be and they know far less about what's happening and the hazards involved than what's being reported in the West.

JENNINGS reports the cloud also went over portions of Poland. Polish government authorities warned pregnant women and young children not to drink cow's milk or eat fresh vegetables. Children were given a one-time dose of iodine so as to create resistance to any iodine from the explosion.

ABC's DEAN REYNOLDS reports on the reaction in Western Europe. All across the northern tier of Western Europe, they were testing the wind, checking the atmosphere for fallout. So far, the levels have been low and no threat to life. But officials in Sweden, in the direct path of the cloud, said the readings show no reductions from yesterday, meaning the atmosphere may still be partially contaminated. And the volume of the radioactivity so far from the accident, together with the chemical elements of the debris, removed all doubt that a major disaster has befallen the Soviets. Much effort was focused on how to help the Soviets out of their nuclear nightmare. To date, the Soviets are only asking for advice on how to battle the blaze. Sweden had been approached, along with the Germans, and Britain has offered its expertise -- as have official atomic energy organizations. But there is still simmering indignation at the heavy-handed Soviet attempt to keep the mishap a secret.

JENNINGS says that because of the weather patterns in the jet stream, experts say that the movement of radiation is likely to approach the U.S. from the West, possibly reaching this country in a few days' time. It is not clear how much, if any, might actually fall to earth. The Department of Energy said the U.S. has absolutely nothing to worry about.

JENNINGS reports senior U.N. officials demanded the Soviets release all of their information to the West.

ABC's RICHARD THRELKELD reports on what the experts say. There are 50 nuclear reactors in the Soviet Union, low-budget no-frills reactors that lack many of the safety features the American ones have. And many Soviet reactors, like the one at Chernobyl, use graphite, rather than water as we do, to control the nuclear reaction. That is a fatal difference. The fire could burn for days or weeks. As it burns, it's spreading clouds of radioactive material into the air.

JENNINGS discusses the situation with PETER POTTER in London, a nuclear scientist and former overseas manager of the British National Nuclear Corporation. Potter says there will be a large release of radioactivity that will pollute the ground around Chernobyl, but the rest will be diluted as it gets further away from the plant and will add to the store of radiation that is there naturally anyway.

ABC's GEORGE STRAIT reports that in Chernobyl, there is the potential for very serious human damage.

JENNINGS: To help deal with this disaster, the U.S. has offered the Soviet Union humanitarian and technical assistance. So far, there has been no response. There has been an immediate political response in the U.S.

ABC's CHARLES GIBSON reports that price and safety considerations have brought the nuclear power industry in this country to a nuclear standstill. In the last seven years, not one single utility has ordered construction of a new plant and in the past 14 years, 101 nuclear plant orders have been canceled. Energy Department officials were on Capitol Hill today maintaining 1) that American plants are safe, far safer than Soviet plants, and 2) that there is no danger to the U.S. from this accident.

(James Vaughan of the Energy Department: "This particular event in that location, with the circumstances we know, should have no effect on the environment in the United States or the health and safety of our public.") But the nuclear power critics were saying this could well end the industry.

(Rep. Markey: "The Soviet accident could be a radioactive Mt. St. Helen's.")

(Critic Larry Sinkin: "The Russian accident, the Three Mile Island accident and the dozens of other accidents in the United States, I think, have put the nail in the coffin of nuclear power. It's only a matter of how quickly we end it.")

(Critic Nora Bredis: "The worst can happen. That's what the accident in the Soviet Union says to us here in the United States.")

ABC's BETTINA GREGORY reports from Three Mile Island. After seven years, things are slowly returning to normal.

JENNINGS reports the Soviets build and export reactors to places like Finland.
(ABC-LEAD)

CBS's DAN RATHER: U.S. officials believe the nuclear accident in the heart of Soviet farm land began Saturday and isn't over yet. Amid widely conflicting casualty reports, a U.S. spy satellite photo today picked up some of the physical damage. Correspondent David Martin's report tonight showed this: a gaping hole in the reactor building roof, caved-in walls, smoke rising from the reactor building in what is apparently a still out of control fire. Much remains unknown.... This is what we're hearing tonight, a United Press International reports so far, unconfirmed, that more than 2,000 may be dead. Soviet government-controlled television officially puts the number of dead at two. In Sweden, officials are convinced there was a nuclear reactor core meltdown at Chernobyl. They say radiation may still be spewing into the air.... The radiation cloud, at last report, is blowing back over Soviet territory.... U.S. government trackers are monitoring radiation levels at all 50 states. The first wave expected in this country will be this weekend in the west -- no danger to people in the U.S. they predicted. The Soviets have appealed to Sweden and West Germany for help. U.S. offers to give Moscow technical and medical help still go unanswered.... The tightly controlled Soviet government media are telling their own people next to nothing....

CBS's WYATT ANDREWS reports from Moscow that for most of the day the Soviet policy was silence. There was no coverage -- nothing in the Soviet morning newspapers. Only Radio Moscow reported a disaster, saying this: "Efforts are being applied to eliminate the consequences of the accident and help the victims." Tonight, on the nine o'clock news the first detailed confirmation of one of the worst nuclear accidents ever; two dead was the report. It is clear there is much more here that is not being reported. On the streets of Moscow the public was mostly unaware. Both the Swedish and Danish embassies sent envoys to the Soviet Foreign Ministry today asking the Soviets to be forthcoming. Polish television tonight warned all of its citizens to wash all fresh vegetables and some milk sales will be restricted.

CBS's DERRICK BLAKELY reports from Stockholm scientists monitoring the aftermath of the nuclear said they are certain the core of the Soviet reactor has melted down -- by far the worst nuclear accident in history. The Soviets have turned to Sweden and West Germany for advice on how to fight the fire raging in the core of the reactor. The Swedes could only tell the Soviets to contact Great Britain. In London today, radiation levels were completely normal. In Sweden, radiation has begun to fall from levels that reached ten times normal readings. The Swedes are calling for all nuclear programs to be placed under international supervision.

RATHER: U.S. officials say tonight they are convinced the Soviet reactor building is still on fire -- graphite burning 4,000 degrees hot. It is their view that it will keep burning for days and that nothing can be done to stop it.

CBS's SUSAN SPENCER reports Administration officials now believe a chemical, not a nuclear blast, probably led to the Soviet disaster which is complicated by the very design of Soviet reactors. The design makes it very difficult to control either escaping radiation or the inferno caused by what experts fear was a meltdown. It may take weeks before the immediate death toll from the accident is known and will literally take years before anyone can judge the long-term effects.

RATHER reports the Chernobyl catastrophe is probably the worst nuclear accident and it is one the worst places possible. Why build reactors so near Kiev? That question was asked in the February issue of Soviet Life. (TV coverage: President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev on the cover of Soviet Life.)

The answer was quote, "The odds of a meltdown are one in 10,000 years. The plants have safe and reliable controls that are protective from any breakdown." What happened near Kiev three days ago today caused the Chicago Board of Trade grain prices to jump, even though experts don't know yet how badly Soviet agriculture will be affected.

CBS's BOB SCHIEFFER reports from New York on the potential Chernobyl-type disaster in America's own future. Some experts and officials say yes.

(Rep. Edward Markey: "The probability of a core meltdown in a U.S. nuclear plant could be 45% in the next 20 years.")

Markey's statement is based on a little noticed report issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year.

(Markey: "It is inherently unsafe technology that requires constant attention.")

Since the Three Mile Island accident, not a single new plant has been started here and the Soviet accident is sure to cause new problems. At TMI, huge containment facilities which surround commercial U.S. reactors trapped most of the escaping radiation. That's not the case in the Soviet Union. At a congressional hearing today, the Administration argued other procedures make such (plants without containment facilities) plants safe enough. (CBS-LEAD)

FAR EAST TRIP

BROKAW: President Reagan had an embarrassing arrival today on the Indonesian Island of Bali -- the expulsion of two Australian correspondents traveling with the President, and earlier a New York Times correspondent was kicked out -- all three expulsions related to news reports critical of Indonesia's government. Chris Wallace reports American officials were outraged. (NBC-2)

NBC's CHRIS WALLACE: (TV coverage: President and First Lady deplaning) The President arrived on the island of Bali tonight for what was billed as part rest stop, part celebration of Asian democracy. It turned out to be neither, because moments before Mr. Reagan was greeted by President Suharto, Indonesian authorities came onto the press plane to take two Australian reporters into custody. (TV coverage of officials removing reporters from plane). Australians were banned from covering this visit after a Sydney newspaper said the Suhartos may be as corrupt as the Marcos family, with a fortune of more than \$2 billion. Tonight the Australians were taken off the plane, police blocking American TV crews. The reporters were lead to a holding room at the airport and hours later put on the next plane out of the country to Japan. A U.S. official said the White House asked repeatedly that the Australians be permitted to stay.

(White House Deputy Press Secretary Ed Djerejian speaking to reporters: "...that we felt that all journalists accredited to the presidential party should have the opportunity to cover the proceedings. They said their decision was firm.")

WALLACE continues: The Reagan party was furious with the Indonesians, in large part because the President has been talking about "Winds of Freedom" spreading democracy through Asia. Earlier today in Guam:

(TV coverage of President Reagan: "The foreign ministers that I will meet with in Indonesia represent nations that have each, in large part, embraced human liberty.")

In fact, during his 20 years in power, Suharto has had a poor human-rights record. Dissidents are jailed, charged with subversion. The government is especially concerned about suppressing any Moslem radicalism. Critical articles in newspapers often have sections blacked out -- the reporters who write them facing expulsion. Today, Barbara Crossette of the New York Times was kicked out. And later, those two Australians. The President will emphasize here that human-rights abuses in pro-Western countries like Indonesia are far less serious than those in Communist countries, like Cambodia. While that may be true, it won't mean much to reporters prevented from covering what Mr. Reagan has to say.

RATHER: Happily island hopping as he meanders his way to the Tokyo summit, President Reagan arrived tonight on the exotic Indonesian island of Bali. The Reagans and Indonesia President Suharto watched a performance by traditional Balinese dancers.

(TV coverage: President Reagan watching the dancers.)

Image conscious aides have been trying to get reporters to call this Mr. Reagan's "Winds of Freedom" journey. Even as the President arrived, Indonesia expelled one American and two Australian journalists because of reports the Suharto government said were critical.

CBS's BOB SIMON presents a profile on the complex nation of Bali. Oil accounts for 70% of Indonesia's foreign earnings and every dollar drop in the price of oil cost the country close to \$400 million. For the first time in two decades the government has been forced to cut its budget -- that means hard times for the Indonesian people -- reduction in development programs in which almost inevitably translates into political pressures.

(CBS-6)

JENNINGS: President Reagan arrived in Bali on his way to Tokyo for the economic summit meeting. The President spoke of a message of freedom, but in somewhat of an embarrassing development, Indonesian authorities expelled two Australian journalists who had arrived on the White House press plane and a New York Times reporter. They had all written articles critical of the Indonesian president.

(TV Coverage: President and Mrs. Reagan de-planing. Indonesian authorities escorting reporters away.)

(ABC-6)

TERRORISM-CHILE

BROKAW: Once again today, terrorism touched American interests -- this time a bomb in Chile's capital of Santiago. The bomb went off near the residence of U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes, breaking windows and demolishing a wall next door. A woman in the area was injured. There was no claim of responsibility. The Ambassador said that at first an earthquake had hit.

(NBC-3)

TERRORISM-ISRAEL

BROKAW: Police in Israel today arrested a gang of Palestinian guerrillas in the terrorist killing of a British tourist on Sunday. Officials said the gang belonged to a faction linked to Abu Moussa, a pro-Syrian Palestinian based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The suspects are also linked to the killing of an Israeli woman and the wounding of two tourists -- one American, the other West German. (NBC-4)

RATHER reports Israeli police said today they captured the alleged guerrillas who have confessed to killing a British tourist in Jerusalem two days ago. (CBS-4)

U.S. SHIPS

BROKAW: Another potential in the fight against terrorism -- the American aircraft carrier Enterprise sailed today through the Suez Canal. Once in the Mediterranean, the Navy said the nuclear-powered ship will reinforce the U.S. Sixth Fleet which took part in the raid on Libya. (NBC-5)

KILBURN

BROKAW reports on the funeral of Peter Kilburn -- a victim of violence in the Middle East -- in San Francisco. (NBC-6)

METHODIST BISHOPS-NUCLEAR

JENNINGS: The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church voted unanimously for a pastoral letter condemning the nuclear arms race. A New York bishop said the next time there is a nuclear accident, it might be with a missile. (ABC-2)

MORTGAGE RATES

RATHER reports the Commerce Department today indicated that falling mortgage rates sent new home sales soaring by 27.4% for March. That puts sales of new single family homes at a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of 903,000 units last month. (CBS-2)

CHALLENGER

BROKAW: At Cape Canaveral today, NASA announced that salvage crews have recovered a critical section of Challenger's rocket booster, and they called off their underwater search. That word came as the people of the Kennedy Space Center said their last farewell to seven members of Challenger's crew. NBC's David Murphy reports on the ceremonies. (ABC-3, NBC-7)

RATHER reports the astronaut remains finally today came home to their families.

CBS'S ERIC ENGBERG reports on the ceremony today at the Kennedy Space Center.

(TV coverage: The ceremony today at the Kennedy Space Center.)
(CBS-3)