

**April 26, 1986**

**A.N. Makukhin, 'Concerning the accident at unit N<sup>o</sup>  
4of the Chernobyl AEhS [Atomic Power Station]'**

**Citation:**

"A.N. Makukhin, 'Concerning the accident at unit N<sup>o</sup> 4of the Chernobyl AEhS [Atomic Power Station]'", April 26, 1986, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Dmitriï Antonovich Volkogonov papers, 1887-1995, mm97083838. Translated by Gary Goldberg. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115341>

**Summary:**

The Soviet Minister of Power and Electrification reports on an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station in Ukraine. The Soviet Ministry of Health has determined that "it is not required to take special measures, including the evacuation of the population from the city."

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

Russian

**Contents:**

Original Scan  
Translation - English

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Секретно  
Экз. № \_\_\_\_\_

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Первый заместитель  
Министра  
энергетики

ЦК КПСС

и  
электрификации СССР

103074, Москва, К-74, Китайский пр., 7,  
Москва, К-11, Минэнерго СССР, А. Т. 112604  
Тел. 220-55-00

26.04.86 № 1789-2с

28.07.86  
СССР

05-07

На № \_\_\_\_\_ 01 \_\_\_\_\_

Об аварии на блоке № 4  
Чернобыльской АЭС

**СРОЧНОЕ ДОНЕСЕНИЕ**

26.04.86 г. в I час 21 мин. при выводе энергоблока № 4  
Чернобыльской АЭС в плановый ремонт, после остановки реактора  
произошел взрыв в верхней части реакторного отделения.

По сообщениям директора Чернобыльской АЭС при взрыве прои-  
зошло обрушение крыши и части стеновых панелей реакторного отде-  
ления, нескольких панелей крыши машинного зала и блока вспомога-  
тельных систем реакторного отделения, а также возгорание кровли.

В 3 часа 30 мин. возгорание было ликвидировано.

Силами персонала АЭС принимаются меры по расхолаживанию  
активной зоны реактора.

По мнению 3 Главного управления при Минздраве СССР принятие  
специальных мер, в том числе эвакуация населения из города, не  
требуется.

Госпитализировано 9 человек эксплуатационного персонала и  
25 человек военизированной пожарной охраны.

Принимаются меры по ликвидации последствий и расследованию  
случившегося.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
А.Н. Макухин

В архив

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[handwritten]: Gorbachev

Secret

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[two illegible addressees handwritten across  
the top left-hand part of the page]  
[to the] CPSU CC

[Letterhead of the USSR First Deputy  
Minister of Power and Electrification]

26 April 1986 N° 1789-2c  
[faded CPSU CC  
General Department stamp]

Concerning the accident at unit N° 4  
of the Chernobyl AEhS [Atomic Power Station]

#### URGENT REPORT

At 0121 26 April 1986 while taking power unit N° 4 of the Chernobyl AEhS out of operation for scheduled repair an explosion occurred in the upper part of the reactor chamber after the reactor shut down.

According to reports from the director of the Chernobyl AEhS the roof and parts of the wall panels of the reactor compartment, several roof panels of the machine room and of the auxiliary systems unit of the reactor compartment were demolished during the explosion and the roofing caught on fire.

The fire was extinguished at 0330.

The personnel of the AEhS are taking steps to cool the fuel core of the reactor.

In the opinion of the 3rd Main Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Health it is not required to take special measures, including the evacuation of the population from the city.

Nine of the operations personnel and 25 of the militarized firefighters have been hospitalized.

Steps are being taken to eliminate the consequences and investigate what happened.

[signature]

A. N. Makukhin

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to the archive