

Information Circular

INFCIRC/973

Date: 26 February 2022

General Distribution

Original: English

Communications dated 26 February 2022 received from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. The Secretariat has received two Notes Verbales dated 26 February 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency:

- Note Verbale number 4131/36-197-17763 with a non-paper as an attachment; and
- Note Verbale number 4131/36-197-17777.

2. As requested, the two Notes Verbales and the non-paper are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

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№ 4131/ 36-197-17763

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the updated information, received from the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, on the current nuclear safety situation in Ukraine as of 17:00 CET 26.02.2022 against the background of the act of open aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Taking into account the highest importance of the matter the Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to urgently circulate enclosed non-paper as Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: on 2 pages.



Vienna, 26 February 2022

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

Non-Paper
on the actual nuclear safety situation in Ukraine after the Russian Federation committed an
act of open aggression against Ukraine

(as of 26.02.2022)

On 26 February 2022, Russian state-owned television channel “Russia24” broadcast a report¹ from the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant (ChNPP) in Ukraine, where **Russian soldier confirmed ceasing the ChNPP** with all its personnel and national guards. This is a direct recognition of Russia’s responsibility for a blatant violation of international law. It is also another proof that the unidentified “green men”, in the end, turned out to be Russian soldiers.

Ukraine has taken all possible measures to avoid dangerous fighting in the direct proximity of the nuclear station, its storages and the Confinement. The soldiers of the National Guard of Ukraine (in total around 130 persons) have been taken hostage by the Russian armed forces.

Operating personnel of the ChNPP (in total 92 persons) have also been held hostage by the Russian armed forces since 24 February. **A single shift of personnel remains at the site for almost three days**, that violates all possible regulations of safety for NPPs operation. ChNPP personnel are forced to maintain the operation of the facility and ensure security at gunpoint.

The Russian Federation is increasingly attempting to convene international community of Ukraine’s alleged intentions to create “**dirty bombs**” while having failed to provide any proof thereof.

The same Russian state-owned television channel “Russia24” reports² that Ukraine plans to use a "dirty bomb" in Russia. These allegations can be used by the Russian Federation to justify its own use of nuclear weapons or the blow-up of the Chernobyl nuclear depot. The same propaganda fake allegations have been mentioned in a recent cynical interview of the Head of Russian Mission to the EU for Euractiv³.

¹ <https://youtu.be/8SVINx1AY60>

² <https://youtu.be/gQQaaWi5YL4>

³ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/interview/russian-ambassador-chizhov-nord-stream-2-is-not-dead-its-a-sleeping-beauty/>.

Ukraine regards these fakes as those that have been produced by Kremlin's propaganda masterminds to either justify their unlawful assault on peaceful nuclear object or to threaten western governments with "dirty bombs". But even worse, they can actually use them on the territory of Ukraine and shift the blame for that on the Ukrainian Government.

In this regard:

1. Ukraine requests Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi to report on exact violations of all nuclear-related obligations that have been committed by the Russian Federation.
2. Ukraine calls on the Secretariat and Member States to establish an international coordination group for monitoring and identifying nuclear threats that have arisen or may potentially arise from the Russian war against Ukraine.
3. Ukraine suggests that the international community hold an investigation of the Russian allegations on the "dirty bomb", as we see it as direct nuclear and radioactive threat to Europe and the whole world.



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№ 4131/36-197-17777

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the update as of 18:00 CET 26.02.2022 regarding the situation at the Chornobyl NPP and other nuclear facilities against the background of the act of open aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

There has been no change of shift at the Chornobyl NPP since 24.02.2022.

Military vehicles of the Russian armed forces are located on the industrial site of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. Such state of affairs constitutes a grave violation of Article 59 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), of 8 June 1977.

A transformer at the radioactive waste disposal site of the Kharkiv branch of the Radon Association was damaged as a result of shelling by the artillery of the Russian armed forces.

The power supply elements of the physical protection system and the automated radiation monitoring system are out of operation.

The repair of the system has been complicated by active military operations in the surroundings of Kharkiv.

As for the Kyiv branch of the Radon Production Association, located within the city of Kyiv, it is possible to observe and hear rockets and missiles exploding in the immediate vicinity of the radioactive waste storage facility. Operational personnel of the facility are taking shelter.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to circulate this Note Verbale as Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 26 February 2022

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna