"The facts of today were fancies yesterday
and will be memories tomorrow.
Practically every deed was once a dream;
every invention once an imagination"

Joseph L. Fetterman

This text is from a panel in the National Institute of Science and Technology, Manila, Philippines.
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A few weeks before the first UN Conference, in Geneva in August 1955, on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, scientists from several countries were invited to visit the USSR where the results of work were brought to light which had been carried out in the USSR parallel to similar work in other countries. From Sweden, Professor Stig Claesson from Uppsala and myself attended.

To the best of my recollections this was the first time an authoritative account was given about the huge amounts of nuclear work which had been done during and since the war in the USSR.

Undoubtedly, the most interesting feature was, however, a visit to the site of the 5000 kW nuclear power station outside Moscow, a visit in which the present Swedish Ambassador to Austria, Lennart Petri, also took part. The plant was shown by A.K. Krasin, now in charge of the Byelorussian Academy of Science's nuclear institute in Minsk, and a well-known representative of the Byelorussian Republic to the Agency's General Conferences. As is obvious to the reader of the following articles, the reactor in 1955 offered much interest to the visitors from almost every aspect; the system chosen, the fuel elements, the radiation shield and its incorporation in the building.

For me, the demonstration represented a first introduction to nuclear power on an advanced scale. The importance of the achievement that the construction of this reactor represented in the opinion of the Soviet authorities is obvious from the fact that Academician Krasin, together with three of his colleagues (one of them was Academician Blokhintsev) received the Lenin Prize.

(Sigvard Eklund)