

The Chernobyl Collection. Documents and Maps

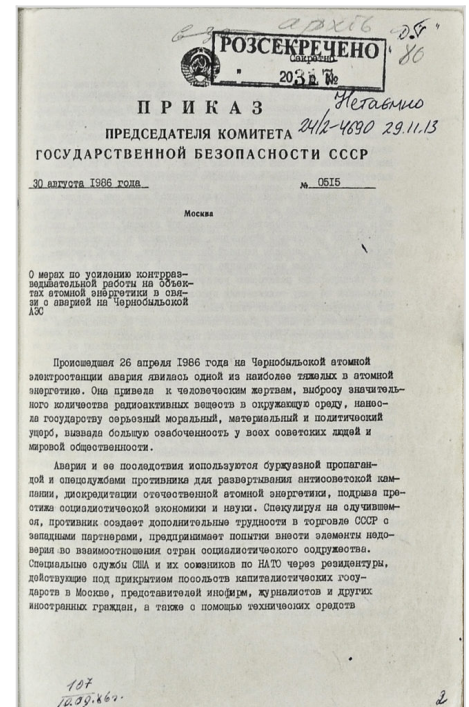
Declassified Documents of the Ukrainian KGB and Authoritative Maps of the Region

The explosion of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on April 26, 1986 in the Ukrainian city of Prip'yat is considered one of the worst nuclear disasters in history. Yet 30 years after the disaster, a definitive account of the Chernobyl tragedy seems to be lacking, if only because many of the government documents and other relevant material had been classified and were out of the reach of academics. However, recently declassified documents, now available through East View Information Services, makes fresh research into the causes and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster possible, allowing researchers, policy-makers, environmentalists and nuclear industry insiders unprecedented insight into the Soviet decision-making process.

The Chernobyl Collection. Documents and Maps contains more than 70 maps of the area, reports prepared for and by a variety of Russian and Ukrainian government agencies, including the KGB, that document and detail the most important developments in the wake of the disaster, and internal reports and investigations on its various causes. Some of the most fascinating items from the collection are internal reports, communiques, and correspondences between various heads of local and regional KGB officials long before the tragedy. Some reports going as far back as the beginning phase of the construction of the plant provide solid documentary evidence of criminal neglect in the building process, the unwillingness of the authorities to address the issues raised by the KGB and its vast network of informants, and the subsequent attempts at cover-up. One such report provides a painstakingly detailed description of the use of subpar building materials offering up a particularly spectacular microcosm of corruption, theft, and neglect that underlined Soviet central planning.

The collection also contains documents relating to the lesser-known September 9, 1982 partial meltdown of reactor Block no. 1, the subsequent mishandling of which was perhaps the first indication of the inevitability of the 1986 accident.

With materials going as far back as 1971 and up to 2008, East View's Chernobyl Collection offers a unique window into the entire spectrum of the secret information circulating within the Russian and Ukrainian governmental structures.



Key Stats

- **Archive:** 1971-2008
- **Language:** Ukrainian, Russian
- **Countries:** Ukraine, Russia
- **Number of Documents:** 156
- **Number of Maps:** 70
- **Format:** PDF, IIIF (maps)
- **Producer:** East View Information Services
- **Platform:** East View Universal Database

About the Chernobyl Collection. Documents and Maps

The Chernobyl Collection contains 70 maps and over 150 documents, and features full page-level digitization, complete original graphics, and searchable text, and is cross-searchable with numerous other East View digital resources. Documents in the collection are in Russian and some in Ukrainian, with all titles translated into English.

Documents found in this collection include:

- **1973:** Serious shortcomings during the construction of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant
- **1981:** Violations of radiation safety while studying the use the Chernobyl lake-cooler for industrial fishery purposes
- **1982:** KGB report on the number of foreigners visiting Ukraine
- **1984:** Report on the reliability of the Chernobyl Power Plant reactors
- **1986:** KGB reporting on public attitudes towards the Chernobyl accident
- **1986:** List of cities/towns to be evacuated
- **1987:** Intelligence brief on the causes of the accident

Maps found in this collection include:

- Chernobyl Atomic Electrical Station topographic maps at 1:2,000 and 1:5,000 scale
- Chernobyl 1:5,000 scale topographic maps
- Chernobyl Atlas radiation maps
- Radiation situation maps
- Belarus 1:200,000 scale thematic radiation maps for Gomel, Minsk, and Mogilev oblasts
- Belarus 1:500,000 scale thematic radiation map for the European Part of the USSR

Contact us for a full list of documents and maps included in the Chernobyl Collection.

For more information or trial access, please contact info@eastview.com or visit <https://www.eastview.com/request-trial>

Chernobyl Collection. Documents and Maps – <https://www.eastview.com/resources/e-collections/chernobyl-collection/> – September 17th, 2025 8:15 pm UTC.

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