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065

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12065: N/A

E.O. FROM : AmEmbassy MOSCOW DATE: 20 OCTOBER 1979

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, UR  
SUBJECT: Visit to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power  
Generating Plant

REF : MOSCOW 20842 (NOTAL)

LVE5

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**SUMMARY:** A Kiev Advance Party Officer recently visited the Ukraine's one operating nuclear power generating plant, located at Pripyat' in Kiev Oblast'. The plant now operates two "units", each with its own water-cooled channel graphite reactor, turbines, and automated control system. Each unit is capable of producing over one million kilowatts of electricity. A third line is scheduled for completion late next year, with a fourth to follow "later". The two units currently in operation only recently (October 5) reached full capacity. At present, the plant is capable of generating 13 billion kW-hours of electricity per year, which is the target for 1980. The reactors are shut down twice yearly for "preventive maintenance". Fuel is slightly-enriched uranium (less than 2% U 235). An average 6% of total output is consumed on site to operate plant equipment. An R&D establishment attached to the plant seems to be concentrating on problems of materials' strength and durability. The station's output amounts to about 1% of total USSR power generation, and between 10 and 15% of that of the Ukrainian SSR. Eventually this plant will be an integral part of the CEMA Mir power grid; for that purpose a massive 750 kV transmission line is now being built westward toward Zhitomir. Officials of the plant seemed especially sensitive to problems of radiation leakage: they went to great lengths to assure the visitors there never has been an "incident" at this or any other nuclear power plant in

Action Taken:

Date:

FORM 10-64 DS-323

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Initiated by: KAP: DRSwartz:lo  
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