



Director of
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USSR: Chernobyl' Update

[REDACTED]

Soviet press reports continue to emphasize cleanup operations and efforts to encase in concrete the damaged core of unit 4. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Soviet press reports continue to exaggerate the progress of recovery efforts, which probably are being delayed by high radiation levels. Fire hoses have been used to wash down unit 1, but efforts to encase unit 4's core have not yet begun. Concrete trucks have appeared near the administration building, about 1 kilometer from unit 4, so encasement may begin soon. [REDACTED]

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WEST GERMANY: Nuclear Power Dispute

The Social Democratic-Green coalition government in the state of Hessen is on the verge of collapse as a result of the Chernobyl' accident. The Greens are threatening to leave the coalition if the Social Democrats refuse to close down the state's nuclear power industry, which supplies 70 percent of Hessen's electricity. State Minister President Boerner flatly rejects a moratorium on nuclear power, although he endorses a long-term search for alternatives. The Social Democrats are even considering the construction of a new nuclear plant in the state, according to the US Consulate in Frankfurt.

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Comment: The Greens may be trying to provoke an early state election to exploit public alarm about nuclear energy. The controversy is likely to highlight differences on the nuclear question among Social Democrats, who have made opposition to nuclear energy their central issue in campaigning for the Lower Saxony state election on 15 June. Conversely, the Hessen dispute could improve the Social Democrats' image with centrist voters in the Bundestag election next January by underscoring the improbability of a national coalition with the Greens. The Christian Democrats, meanwhile, are unlikely to profit from the Hessen controversy because of their support for nuclear energy.

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