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World news

Soviets have nuclear accident

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet government Monday reported a nuclear accident at the Chernobyl power plant. It said one nuclear reactor was damaged and those "affected" were being given aid.

Reports on the accident carried by the official Tass news agency did not disclose whether there were any deaths. It was not immediately known if the reference to those "affected" implied that some people were injured.

The Tass reports were issued after Swedish officials said increased radiation levels were detected north of Stockholm, apparently because of a radiation leak in the Soviet Union. Similar increases in radiation levels were reported in Finland.

It was believed to be the first time the Soviets had reported on a nuclear accident. The initial accident report came in a brief dispatch from the Soviet Council of Ministers that was carried by Tass.

The government said an investigatory commission has been set up, adding, "measures are being undertaken to eliminate the consequences of the accident."

One nuclear reactor was damaged in the accident, Tass said. The Tass report gave no other details.

There is a city in the Ukraine named Chernobyl, north of Kiev. It was not clear from the Tass report whether that is where the nuclear plant accident occurred.

In New York, Eugene Ganthorn, an analyst at the office of the Atomic Industrial Forum, a U.S. industry group of utilities and suppliers, said the nuclear plant is located at a new town called Pripjat near Chernobyl. The plant consists of four 1,000-megawatt reactors constructed in 1977, 1978, 1981 and 1983, he said.

The city of Chernobyl is some 750 miles from the area in Sweden where officials reported increased radiation.

Abu Nidal group claims it killed tourist

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Abu Nidal's terrorist group claimed Monday that its men killed a British tourist in Jerusalem in revenge for the U.S. air raids on Libya two weeks ago.

The United States blames the renegade Palestinian leader for the Dec. 27 massacres at the Rome and Vienna airports, in which 20 people were killed, and accuses Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy of harboring him.

A typewritten statement delivered to a Western news agency in Moslem west Beirut claimed that Paul Appleby, 28, of Bristol, England, was on a spy mission Sunday when gunmen of Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council shot him down.

In another development, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said the Netherlands was closing its embassy in Moslem west Beirut because of the wave of kidnappings and murders since the American raids April 15 on Tripoli and Benghazi. All Dutch nationals are to be evacuated from the Moslem sector.

Appleby, who carried a Bible in his knapsack, was shot once in the back of the head with a small-caliber pistol near the

Garden Tomb, a Christian holy shrine on the hilltop Protestants believe is the site of Christ's crucifixion and burial.

Palestinian sources in Beirut said Kadry probably was an Abu Nidal follower killed in action, but they had no specific information about him.

According to the statement, Appleby's murder was "retaliation for the complicity of the Thatcher government in the U.S. imperialist aggression on Libya." The reference was to the British government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, which supported the U.S. raids.

It did not give the number of terrorists involved, but said all "returned safely to base."

Peace Corps representatives are here.



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Deaver asks Meese for special prosecutor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lobbyist Michael Deaver asked Attorney General Edwin Meese Monday to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate allegations that he violated conflict-of-interest laws after leaving his job as an aide to President Reagan.

"I believe elementary due process and fairness to me and my family require appointment of an independent counsel," Deaver said in a statement released by his office.

Congress set up the special prosecutor's procedure "as the means by which persons in my position can have such allegations weighed and resolved by experienced, impartial and thorough examination," Deaver said.

There have been allegations that Deaver violated the law by lobbying on issues that he handled while in the White House.

Federal conflict-of-interest law prohibits former top officials from lobbying for two years on issues that were directly under their purview during their final year in office. Additionally, the officials cannot lobby colleagues with whom they worked in the same office for one year.

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