

## Nuclear sub accident left 15 dead in 1961: report

MOSCOW, Dec 26 (AFP) - Fifteen sailors died when radioactive material escaped from a crippled Soviet nuclear submarine's reactor in 1961, the Russian army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said Saturday.

The K-19 nuclear submarine was in the Atlantic Ocean when the cooling system of one of its reactors failed, causing a fire and the escape of radioactivity.

The submarine, equipped with nuclear ballistic missiles, surfaced and radioed for help from passing Soviet ships.

The crew managed to control the blaze and avoid an explosion which could

[Continued] Topic 51 Russian sub accident in 1961  
have had disastrous consequences for the environment, the paper said.

The stricken vessel was eventually towed into Poliarny port, near Murmansk.

Nine sailors from the submarine suffering from the effects of radioactivity died a few days later in a Moscow hospital. Another six died a few years later, the paper added.

The submarine's commander, Captain Nikolai Zateev survived and was decorated.

U.S. changes submarine operations for safety - Aspin

KIEV, June 6, Reuter - The United States has made a dramatic change in its navy submarine operations to avoid a recurrence of two recent collisions with Russian subs in Arctic waters, U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said on Sunday [6.6.93].

"We have a dramatic, fundamental change," Aspin told reporters flying with him from Germany on a visit to the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

Aspin refused to give details of the changes, but said he had informed Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev of the move during talks in Garmisch, Germany, which ended early on Sunday.

Aspin said the change went into effect last week after it was submitted to the White House and approved by President Bill Clinton.

"I cannot sit here and promise that there will be no incident again because of the mathematical probabilities," he said. "But we have significantly reduced the probability of anything like this happening again."

Russia has accused the U.S. navy of shadowing its nuclear submarines. But Aspin - citing the need for secrecy - flatly refused to say whether American submarines had been ordered to steer clear of Russian undersea boats.

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