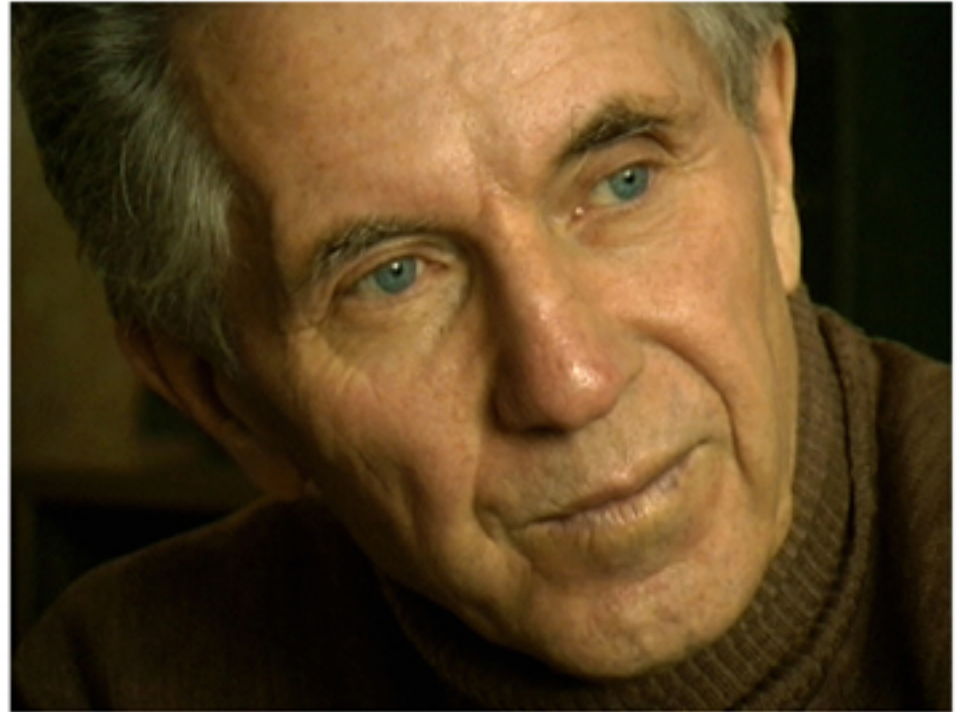


Vassili NESTERENKO

Founder of the Institute for Radioprotection 'Belrad' (Minsk-Belarus).



Professor Vassili Nesterenko, physicist, academic and director of the Institute for Atomic Energy at the Academy of Science in Belarus, refused from the outset to accept the inaction and deceit of the Soviet government when he called for the evacuation of all inhabitants within a radius of 100 kilometres of the power station rather than the recommended 30 kilometres. He was removed from his post in July 1987 accused of being alarmist and of sowing panic. He survived two attacks on his life.

In 1990, he left the state-run Institute for good and with the support of his friend Andrei Sakharov he set up the independent Institute for Radioprotection, Belrad, to help the children in the areas affected by radioactive fallout.

80% of the children in Belarus no longer enjoy good health

Also in the 1990s, Professor Bandajevsky, anatomopathologist, rector of the State Institute of Medicine at Gomel discovered, during his research, a link between the pathologies found in the children and the level of Caesium-137 in their bodies.

Meanwhile, Vassili Nesterenko was using human radiation spectrometers (HRS) to measure directly the level of Caesium-137 in each individual; these measurements revealed a level of contamination eight times higher than those reported by the Minister of Health in Belarus.

In the most contaminated villages in Belarus, Vassili Nesterenko organised 370 Local Radiation Testing Centres (LRTC) where he trained doctors, teachers and nurses in radioprotection and advised families on the best methods for treating food in order to reduce contamination.

Today, since the nuclear lobby (the IAEA, WHO and their counterparts at the Health Ministry in Minsk) has taken charge of the situation, there remain only 7 LRTCs (Local Radiation Testing Centres).



In 1996, Vassili Nesterenko began to achieve good results using a food additive made from apple pectin, recommended by the Ukrainian and Russian Health Ministers as an adsorbent of Caesium-137 (Cs-137). After a month of treatment, the radioactive dose within the child's body can be reduced by 60-70%.

From 1996, the "Belrad" Institute and the Gomel Institute in Belarus worked in unison. Nesterenko travelled from village to village, measuring the internal contamination by Caesium-137, using human radiation spectrometers provided by Western NGOs. The two Institutes have proved in experiments on laboratory animals, and in the children themselves, that by reducing the amount of Caesium-137 in the children's diet, it is possible to avoid irreversible damage to vital organs.

This opened up an entirely new field of research.

In 2007, the government of Belarus, having made the decision to build a nuclear power station of its own, began to exert pressure on Professor Nesterenko with the stated aim of closing the Belrad Institute. For more than a year members of staff were made to justify management decisions over the past ten years in front of government boards of enquiry. Nesterenko emerged victorious and was complimented by the enquiry members but he was exhausted: he himself was a "liquidator" contaminated by Chernobyl, and he died in August 2008. Today it is his son Alexei who has taken over the direction of the Belrad Institute.

Today the Institute employs about 30 people at a very low rate of pay.
It covers its expenses solely through individual donations.

Currently its financial situation is extremely precarious.

The Belrad Institute

is of enormous importance to mankind.

Not only is it protecting children, but it is also the only independent organization in the world providing scientific proof of the health consequences of a major nuclear accident.