

## The Real Chernobyl Disaster

The LNT assumption, as implemented by national regulations and official policy, was the prime cause of the disastrous consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl accident. Enormous loss of resources, the invention of the status of a “Chernobyl victim,” awarding costly social privileges to large groups of such “victims,” unnecessary relocation and pauperization of hundreds of thousands of persons, and epidemics of psychosomatic diseases throughout vast territories of the former Soviet Union, were *not* caused by radiation, but followed from the adherence to the LNT-based recommendations of the international radiation protection organizations. Notable among these are the International Commission on Radiation Protection and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This is one of the most important lessons learned from the Chernobyl catastrophe, which should be taken into account in the current plans to counter nuclear and radiation terrorist attacks. Decades of promoting the LNT-based radiophobia have made the societies of devel-



*The Chernobyl nuclear reactor in Ukraine. The proliferation of radiophobic hysteria all around the world was the real “disaster.”*

oped countries extremely vulnerable to the psychological consequences of such activities. One of the consequences of NCRP Report 136 will surely be the perpetuation of mass radiophobia.