

Nobody knows what chemical reaction might occur there or how it might endanger not only the nearby villages and towns but also the multi-million population of Leningrad. And meanwhile, the range is giving off poisonous vapours. In the village of Krasnyi Bor, which is only 2 kilometres from the site, poultry are dying and children are becoming ill.

Gudok

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Page 1 (full text)

#### Details of a Nuclear Test In the Novaya Zemlya Area

Of course, I would prefer to report that the wish had come true which all of us who participated in one experiment to monitor underground nuclear blasts had written on the seismogram that captured the underground echo of an event half way round the world from us: "Let's hope it's the last."

This was in 1986 at the Northern Kazakhstan Seismographic Station. I have kept this document all this time, even though our hopes have not been fully realized. This year alone the USA has already tested seven new types of nuclear weapons; France has tested four, and China two. Up to this time the Soviet Union has not tested any.

Let's be frank, however awkward that may seem. To go on being "silent" under these conditions would mean falling behind in the modern level of armaments and would place the security of the country at risk. But it is also easy to predict that the reaction to this event, both abroad and in our own country, will be mixed. And, as has become normal of late, it will give rise to all sorts of conjectures and rumours. For that reason, basing myself on the increasingly strong principles of "glasnost", I requested permission to witness the blast, if possible, so that I could report honestly on everything that I saw and heard.