

VVR nuclear reactors, which make up the majority of Russia's nuclear capacity, and which are thought to be safer than the RBMK-type at Chernobyl, are actually the most dangerous type.

The current political crisis which engulfs the Russian Federal government continues the process of weakening the authority of President Yeltsin, and has led various Russian officials to raise the possibility of civil unrest and the disintegration of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Yeltsin's imposition (and subsequent retraction) of "special rule", under which the President would govern by decree until a referendum on the form of the Russian government can be held on April 25, has resulted in the President's opponents in the People's Congress of Deputies moving to impeach him. Although Mr. Yeltsin appears to have survived this crisis, the form the resulting government will take remains unclear at this time. If Mr. Yeltsin is ousted and more conservative forces take power in Russia, economic reforms will continue to slow, and the existing climate of uncertainty with respect to business conditions will intensify.