



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

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CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

The Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Vézina, announced today that, with regard to the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the latest information available to the Government warrants an update about measures recommended to Canadians living and travelling overseas.

Technical problems at the Chernobyl nuclear plant and uncertainty as to the exact nature of the situation continues. Canadians are advised to avoid a 400 km radius of Kiev and to make arrangements to leave the area if they are there. The levels of radiation in Warsaw, Moscow and Bucharest have dropped, and Canadians are no longer advised not to travel there. Dependents of Embassy Warsaw employees who were evacuated to Lahr, West Germany, are expected to return to Warsaw during the weekend. Canadians are therefore advised that with the exception of the Kiev vicinity, travel to other areas in Europe is considered safe.

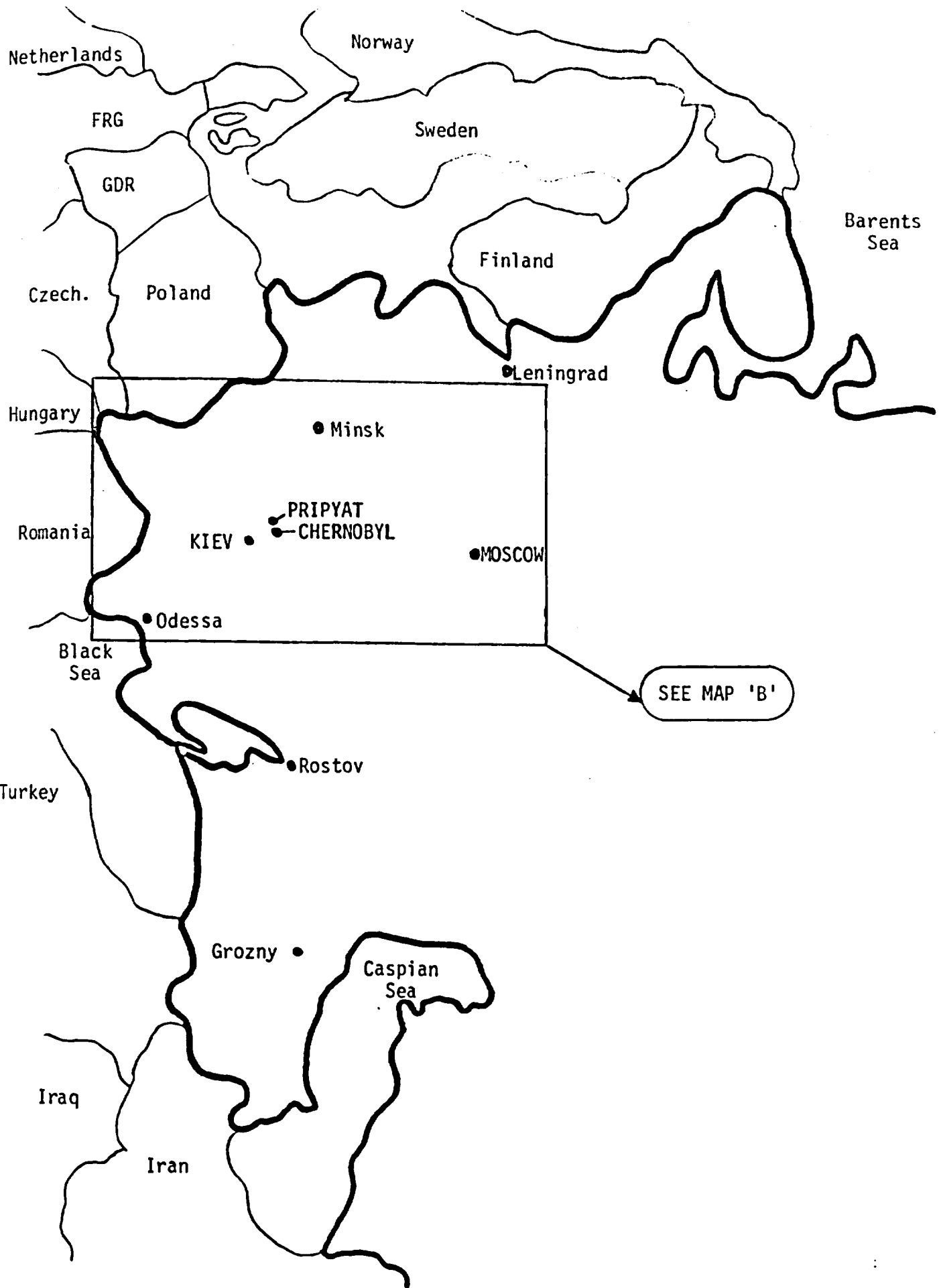
The Government is continuing to extend special consular assistance to Canadians in the affected region. The Canadian Consul from the Moscow Embassy, Hector Cowan, who has been in Kiev for the past week, has assisted all those Canadians who decided to leave. He has kept all Canadians in the area informed about the Government's advice. At present, several Canadian students have decided not to accept the Government's recommendation and assistance but rather to stay in the Kiev region

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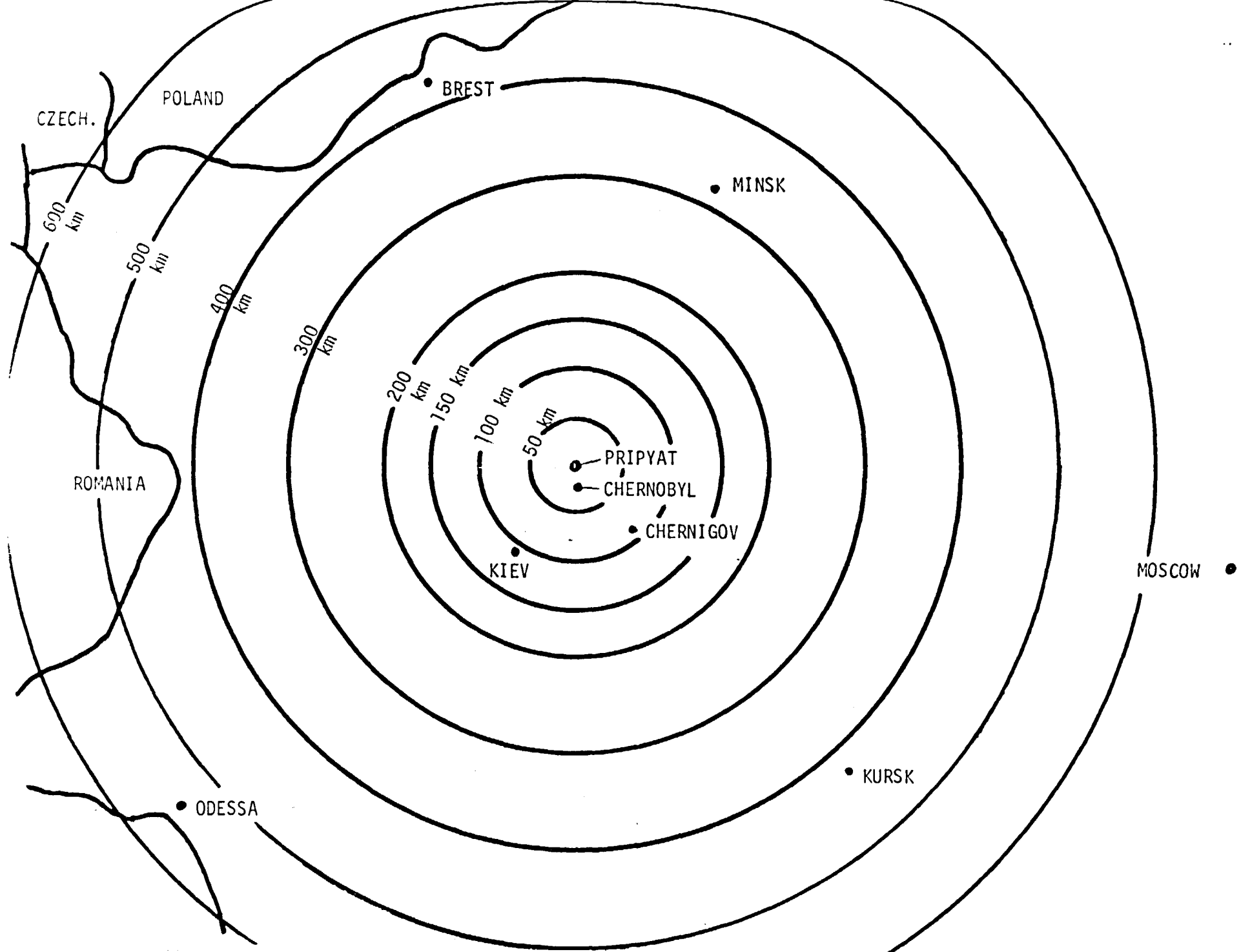
indefinitely, and one other has decided to depart next week. This accounts for all Canadians known to be in the Kiev region. Mr. Cowan, whose efforts have been so effective throughout this emergency, is returning to Canada today for debriefing and medical tests.

As a general precaution, Health and Welfare Canada recommends that Canadians in eastern and south-eastern Europe should continue to wash fruit and leafy vegetables for another 10 days and should avoid consuming local fresh milk or fresh milk products for the next 60 days.

The Government once again extends its sincere condolences to the Soviet people who have lost relatives and have been forced to leave their homes. In addition, Canada has offered whatever technical assistance might be useful to Soviet authorities. It is deeply regretted, however, that Soviet authorities have not to date provided Canada and other countries with the data which is required to make an assessment of the radiation hazard to our own countries and citizens. Canada will continue to press the Soviet authorities in this regard.



MAP 'A'



MAP 'B'