

No. 25497

FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

**Agreement on the early notification of nuclear accidents and
the exchange of information on nuclear facilities. Signed
at Helsinki on 7 January 1987**

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 17 December 1987.

FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES

**Accord sur la notification rapide d'accidents nucléaires et sur
l'échange de renseignements relatifs aux centrales nu-
cléaires. Signé à Helsinki le 7 janvier 1987**

Textes authentiques : finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 17 décembre 1987.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE EARLY NOTIFICATION OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR FACILITIES

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Considering the friendly, good-neighbourly relations between the two countries, which were confirmed in the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 6 April 1948,²

Taking into account the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the USSR concerning Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy of 14 May 1969,³

Convinced of the need to establish an internal régime to ensure the safe use of nuclear energy on the basis of co-operation between all States and international organizations,

Taking into account the fact that both countries are Parties to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident of 26 September 1986⁴ (hereinafter referred to as the "IAEA Convention"),

Convinced of the importance for both countries of close co-operation in order to limit the transboundary consequences of possible releases of radioactive substances,

Desiring to ensure that to this end the two States receive the necessary information as quickly as possible;

Have agreed as follows:

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Article 1. 1. This Agreement, in the part concerned with the notification of nuclear accidents, refers to the facilities and activities which are specified in articles 1 and 3 of the IAEA Convention and to the cases envisaged in articles 5 and 6 of this Agreement.

2. This Agreement, in the part concerned with the exchange of information, refers to facilities for the peaceful use of atomic energy such as atomic power stations and storage facilities for their fresh and spent fuel. This list may be supplemented by agreement between the authorities specified in article 3, as new nuclear facilities are constructed for the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

¹ Came into force on 18 July 1987, i.e., 30 days after the Contracting Parties had notified each other (on 18 June 1986) of the completion of the legal requirements, in accordance with article 12.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 48, p. 149.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 700, p. 181.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1439, No. I-24404.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Article 2. 1. The Contracting Parties shall exchange information concerning the régimes for the operation of the nuclear facilities specified in article 1, paragraph 2, as well as other technical information relating to such facilities which may be used when assessing the consequences in the country receiving information in the event of an accident at such installations and when formulating the necessary measures for the protection of the population.

2. The exchange of information envisaged in paragraph 1 of this article relates to nuclear installations situated in the territory of a Contracting Party at a distance of less than 300 kilometres from its interstate border or from the limit of the territorial waters of the other Contracting Party in the Gulf of Finland.

3. Information transmitted under this article may be used only for the purposes of article 2 of this Agreement, unless the authorities specified in article 3 of this Agreement agree otherwise.

Article 3. 1. The provisions of article 2 of the Agreement shall be implemented:

— In Finland: by the Finnish centre for radiological and nuclear safety;

— In the Soviet Union: by the Ministry of Atomic Power of the USSR.

The Contracting Parties shall notify each other in the event of a change in the authorities responsible for the implementation of these provisions.

2. These authorities shall reach agreement on practical measures to fulfil the obligations envisaged in article 2.

NOTIFICATION OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS

Article 4. In the event of any accident in the territory of a Contracting Party involving the nuclear facilities or activities specified in article 1 of the IAEA Convention, as a result of which radioactive substances have been or may be released in the territory of the other Contracting Party which could be of radiological safety significance to that Party, the former Contracting Party shall forthwith notify the other Contracting Party thereof and provide it with the available information without delay in accordance with article 5 of the IAEA Convention.

Article 5. The Contracting Parties are also prepared to notify each other as rapidly as possible of any cases of nuclear accidents other than those specified in article 4 which, in the judgement of the Contracting Party in whose territory the accident occurred, may lead to a transboundary release of radioactive substances which is of radiological safety significance for that other Party.

Article 6. Each Contracting Party shall forthwith notify the other if exceptionally high levels of radiation are recorded in its territory at a distance of less than 300 kilometres from its interstate border or from the limit of the territorial waters of the other Contracting Party in the Gulf of Finland, even when the radiation is not caused by installations or activities within the territory of one Contracting Party, if it is of radiological safety significance for the other Contracting Party.

Article 7. 1. The provisions of articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Agreement shall be implemented:

- In Finland: by the Finnish centre for radiological and nuclear safety;
- In the Soviet Union: by the USSR State committee on the use of atomic power.

The Contracting Parties shall notify each other in the event of any change in the authorities responsible for the implementation of these provisions.

2. These authorities shall reach agreement on practical measures to fulfil the obligations envisaged in articles 4, 5 and 6.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 8. This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties deriving from agreements concluded by them earlier.

Article 9. The obligation to provide information in accordance with this Agreement shall exist within the limits imposed by the legislation of the Contracting Parties.

Article 10. Any disagreement arising in connection with the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by means of negotiations between the Contracting Parties.

Article 11. At the request of either Contracting Party, bilateral talks may be held on questions of amendments to this Agreement. All amendments shall require the consent of the Contracting Parties.

Article 12. This Agreement or the amendments thereto shall enter into force 30 days after the Contracting Parties notify each other of the completion of the requirements under their legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement or of the amendments thereto.

Article 13. This Agreement is of indefinite duration. Either Contracting Party may denounce the Agreement by notifying the other Contracting Party in writing. The denunciation shall take effect one year after receipt of the written notification, unless the notification specifies a later date.

DONE at Helsinki on 7 January 1987, in duplicate in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

KALEVI SORSA

For the Government of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics:

NIKOLAI RYZHKOV