

Japan Nuclear Plant Leak Produces High Radiation

Associated Press

TOKYO — A leak at a uranium-processing plant in central Japan Thursday sent radiation levels skyrocketing and led to the hospitalization of three workers, two in critical condition.

Hiromu Nonaka, the top government spokesman, called the accident "unprecedented," and officials said no previous Japanese accident had left workers so seriously injured. About 150 people were evacuated from the area around the plant in the town of Tokaimura, 70 miles northeast of Tokyo.

A nuclear reaction apparently occurred while the workers there were processing the uranium into fuel for nuclear power plants, a highly delicate task, said Makoto Ujihara, head of the Tokyo office of JCO Co., the private company that operates the plant.

Radiation levels around the plant were 10,000 times higher than normal at one point, and about 10 times higher than normal 1 1/4 miles from the accident, said Tatsuo Shimada, an official of Ibaraki Prefecture.

The levels dropped off later, but they

remained higher than normal late Thursday, and there were fears of a possible continued nuclear reaction at the plant, said Science and Technology Agency official Ken Muraoka.

"A major accident resulting in a radioactive leak has happened. We apologize from the bottom of our hearts," said JCO President Koji Kitani, bowing deeply at a news conference in Tokyo.

A nuclear reaction is a dangerous phenomenon that releases extremely intense energy as well as radiation, but it stops once the radioactive material is spent.

The government set up a task force of top ministers to investigate the accident, the first time such a step has been taken in Japan for a nuclear accident. It sent specialists to the area to monitor the radioactivity.

The nuclear reaction was set off when the workers accidentally mixed too much uranium in the tank, company officials said.

They said they thought that while radioactivity was released into the atmosphere, the radioactive material itself remained contained.

Board Candidates Air Ideas for System

By JASON OWENS
Assistant City Editor

In an evening of debate and discussion, eight candidates for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education vying for four open seats shared their platforms in an open forum.

Community Action Network board member Fred Black moderated the forum, grilling candidates on their vision and plans for the school system for next year and beyond.

"Everybody has ideas about how to make good schools even better," he said. "What is the most important issue facing the school system?" he asked.

While most candidates agreed local schools were in good shape, they had different ideas of how to improve them.

Candidate Christina Grobin said the school board needed to focus on self-evaluation.

"We test our students and our teachers and extensively test our schools," she said. "It is time that we test our board."

Candidate Maryanne Rosenman focused on growth as the primary concern of the school system.

"Our school district has been growing at a rate of five percent a year," she said. "We need to try to plan ahead."

One of the primary issues that repeatedly came up during the meeting dealt with class size.

Candidate Teresa Williams said it was important to reduce the number of stu-

dents in classrooms. "It makes a difference whether you're sitting in a class size of 23 or 30," she said.

Candidate Gloria Faley said smaller class sizes were vital for the education of students through the third-grade level.

"Children all learn differently," she said. "We need to realize that. They need to have the room and the resources to recognize that they are individuals."

Most candidates supported stricter evaluation of the school system.

Candidate Lynne Townsend Albert suggested using bonuses and incentives as a form of evaluation for teachers.

"One area that we can show our community they're getting value for their money is compensating teachers for good performance," she said.

Candidate Elizabeth Carter also said she supported increasing teacher pay.

"I think teachers should be able to live in the community in which they teach," she said.

Candidate Michael Bryan suggested having teachers evaluate each other.

"I would like to add peer evaluation where veteran teachers evaluate novice and rookie teachers."

Candidate Patti Adams summed up her goals in one statement.

"My vision is that the school system stay the superior system that it is."

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POARCH

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In a March 15, 1998 interview with The Daily Tar Heel, Swain said he did not expect the department to make adjustments in accordance with the report because similar findings in a 1990 report did not spur action.

Barely in the door, Poarch sought to change the department's image and philosophy into an active listening and problem-solving team.

He immediately focused his agenda on interviewing each DPS employee. For three months, he spent about six hours each day talking to employees. The interviews helped Poarch to assess the department's structure, which he adjusted in March.

He reassigned officers into four squads and shifted parking enforcement officers from the police operations section to the control of an assistant director for parking.

Poarch eliminated some unfilled management positions and said he would fill them with regular officers.

He also started to schedule standing meetings with senior staff members and the lieutenants in charge of the four campus regions. IACLEA had reported that DPS needed to establish routine and predictable communication.

During the spring, Poarch surveyed employees' e-mail access and found many were not connected. He pledged to connect as many DPS employees to e-mail as possible in the next year.

On Sept. 24, the department sent out its first newsletter filled with information on hirings, promotions and birthdays. "Communication was a big issue," Poarch said. "It continues to be. We've taken some steps in the right direction, but that's something we need to work on."

Hitting the Streets

In its report, IACLEA stated the department effectively handled routine calls but struggled to handle matters beyond law enforcement.

"The organization defines policing solely as law enforcement, when in reality policing is a much broader band of activities," the report stated. "The true goal of policing is a safer campus."

At the time, UNC staffed two squads for community policing that worked from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. and concentrated on patrolling North Campus. The report noted: "This approach treats community policing as a program as opposed to a philosophy."

Poarch has stressed the change in mind-set. "We have asked everyone in

our department to become problem-solvers — to find ways to do their job more productively, more efficiently."

Officers are now assigned to one of four regions on campus: South Campus, based in Chase Hall; Mid Campus, based in Kenan Field House; North Campus, based in Student Stores; and off-central, based in Abernathy Hall.

Officers are on duty at the substations 24 hours per day. They serve as liaisons between students and the broader Chapel Hill community and develop crime prevention programs.

McCracken said officers were striving to meet their new roles. "They've adapted well," he said. "This was a big change for the way the majority of people spent their career policing."

Poarch said the substations were still working out computing issues because the machines for officers had only recently arrived. And the department still needs to fill some officer positions to get to full strength.

"I think it will be several years until we're all comfortable with it," he said. "At the 90-day point, I'm very pleased."

Forging a Future

Poarch stressed that time would be needed for the changes to settle.

"We've got to realize in this problem-solving, in this partnering, in this philosophy we're asking the employees to take (that) it's not a stop and start thing," he said. "... It has to continue to be examined and modified where it's appropriate to do that."

He pledged DPS would continue to strengthen ties with the community.

He said it would examine hiring and training processes. The department will survey its procedures to ensure they fit the Commission on Accreditation Law Enforcement Agencies' regulations. The commission will review DPS for accreditation in the year 2000.

University officials said that with Poarch, stability had returned to DPS.

"One thing that's important in this department is having some stability in the leadership," Elfland said. "I think it's very fortunate he's been here, and I hope that continues."

Poarch, however, prefers to shy away from the spotlight and credit his employees for the gains.

"I do think we've made some good strides," he said. "I don't know if the department would have made those strides with another police chief, though. I tend to not get too excited about what I do in the organization, but what the organization does while I'm allowed to be part of it. The last year has been rewarding for our department."

"I don't really know but one speed," he said. "(That) clearly gives me the motivation daily that I'm doing the job the University hired me to do ... to move this department in the direction it needs to go."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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	TEMPLE v. PITTSBURGH
	PURDUE v. MICHIGAN
	IOWA v. MICHIGAN ST.
	ILLINOIS v. INDIANA
	OKLAHOMA ST. v. NEBRASKA
12:30	LSU v. GEORGIA
2:30	OKLAHOMA v. NOTRE DAME
3:30	UNC v. CLEMSON
	ALABAMA v. FLORIDA
	WISCONSIN v. OHIO STATE
	UCLA v. ARIZONA STATE
	TEXAS v. KANSAS STATE
	MISSOURI v. MEMPHIS
6:00	VIRGINIA v. VIRGINIA TECH
7:00	TEXAS A&M v. TEXAS TECH
	HURRICANES v. BRUIINS
	RED SOX v. ORIOLES
7:30	AUBURN v. TENNESSEE
	SABRES v. RED WINGS
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COURT

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necessary information for both the student and prosecutor in all cases.

He receives all complaints brought against alleged violators of the Instrument for Student Judicial Governance and decides whether to charge the student.

"Academic cheating is such a serious issue," he said. "I always like to talk with the student before making a charge decision."

Students employ a number of diverse cheating techniques, student judiciary members said. Some students choose the traditional "glance at a neighbor's paper" method, while others use papers plagiarized from a variety of sources.

"(Internet plagiarism) is on the rise," said Judicial Programs Assistant Emily Thorn, who coordinates cases for the Honor Court.

She said Internet plagiarism cases had occurred only a few times in the past year, but the Honor Court was preparing for more as the semester continued.

The Honor Court also hands down sentences to students found guilty.

In a case of academic cheating, the Student Code-mandated sentence is suspension for the term and an "F" in the course.

To determine a verdict, the Honor Court hears the results of the attorney general's investigation and might deliberate for several hours.

"Faculty are great at being thorough (in providing evidence)," Chance said.

"All it takes is one question or (plagiarized) sentence to be suspended."

Faculty members are the primary reporters of cheating, especially those in the English department, Haywood said.

Two-thirds of complaints concern freshmen, particularly those in introductory English classes such as English 11 and 12.

Though Honor Court sessions are initially open to the public, they are immediately closed under the Family Educational Records Privacy Act.

If the defendant wishes, the case can remain open to the public.

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