



Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus

26 April 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Today millions of people all over the world commemorate 30 years since the Chernobyl accident broke out to take away lives of many Belarusian, Ukrainian and Russian people, submerge the terrain into utter lifelessness, and endanger many generations to come with incurable diseases.

Almost 70% of the radioactive material released by the disaster settled on Belarus, affecting 2.5 million people, 20 % of agricultural arable land, 23% of forest areas. The damage is estimated to be around 235 billion US dollars. After 30 years of half-decay of radio nuclides 13,6 % of territories are still considered contaminated.

The consequences of Chernobyl continue to be a serious challenge for Belarus. But the resilience, courage and staunchness of our people, the political will of the country's leadership and the international solidarity helped the Republic of Belarus in dealing with the aftermath of the largest man-made disaster of the XX century.

Now we may say that the most severe threat of the Chernobyl Disaster has been significantly reduced, yet Belarus still has huge tasks ahead of it in order to keep our people, first of all children, healthy and safe, our economy robust and sustainable, our society harmoniously developing. The Republic of Belarus has accumulated a unique experience in the provision of environmental monitoring, carrying out of protective measures in agriculture and forestry, medical care, and the economic revival of affected territories. It is open to share this experience with others.

Looking back at the 30 years of international solidarity to minimize the Chernobyl aftermath I would like to express, on behalf of the Government, our sincere gratitude to the Governments of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland for contributing funds to the international projects to return the Chernobyl site to an environmentally safe condition.

What our country and people value most is the human kindness, and compassion and friendliness of the British and Irish Peoples.

“A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED!”.

Our special gratitude goes to the British and Irish Charities for the humanitarian support extended to the people of Belarus. We truly appreciate the efforts that these extremely kind and enthusiastic people have put into helping mitigate the aftermath of the Chernobyl Disaster. Big or small, every Charity is doing great things that are of huge value to the people of Belarus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by 'A', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sergei Aleinik