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UN IN ACTION

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CLEANING UP RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN SERBIA

VIDEO

Old rusty sheds/hangers filled with radioactive wastes. Radiation warning signs.

IAEA Inspectors in gasmasks, white protective clothes.

Inspectors prepare to enter the hangers.

Close of radiation detector. Rusted drums outside hangers.

Radioactive wastes haphazardly stacked inside the hangers.

Mike Durst, IAEA Special Programme Manager on camera

AUDIO

NARRATION

Inside this rickety shed in Serbia is a mish-mash of dangerous radioactive materials. (6")

A team from the United Nation's nuclear watchdog, IAEA, is there to inspect the two corroding hangers. (7")

They're filled with radioactive wastes from the former Yugoslavia, and radiation is contaminating the immediate environment. (7")

But the biggest challenge is: nobody knows precisely what's in there. (4")

Mike Durst is IAEA's Special Programme Manager. (4")

MIKE DURST (ENGLISH)

"We know in general terms what kinds of waste are there because we have records over the past 50 years or so of what they put in there. But quite

Inspectors inside hanger, take swipe samples, measure radiation levels.

clearly as you walk to the outside of the building, take measurements, or even take pictures inside, it is really a mixture of many, many things. My experience tells me, from my own past, that when you see situations like that, you'll have surprises. There'll be things in there that they really won't know that they have." (25")

Interview

NARRATION

Various City shots of Belgrade. People walking downtown.

The site is a half hour drive from downtown Belgrade, at the Vinca Institute for Nuclear Science. (6")

Scientist with radiation detector in front of hangers.

Security is a concern. (2")

Workers shutting hanger door
Drums of nuclear waste inside hanger.

The shed is forty years old; and recently its door blew off during a heavy windstorm. (6")

MIKE DURST (ENGLISH)

Mike Durst, IAEA Special Programme Manager

"From a security risk perspective, clearly the material can be used by virtually anyone having access to the building for whatever purpose they wish. If they want to use it just for contaminating themselves and raising an issue or putting it together with some sort of an explosive device which could spread over an area and can contaminate that area - that's possible. And therefore we need to reduce that potential and that risk." (25")

Close up of brightly coloured radioactive sources & drums with radiation warning symbols inside hanger.

Interview

IAEA inspectors and Serbian authorities talking in a meeting.

NARRATION

The IAEA is working with Serbian authorities to clean it up. (4")

Diagrams of new building presented shown on an overhead projector.

The first step is to determine exactly what is inside. Then, the waste will be repackaged for secure storage in newly built hangers. (8.5")

Milan Pešić is the Director of the Center for Nuclear Technologies and Research in Vinca. (5")

Milan Pešić, Director of the Center for Nuclear Technologies and Research, Vinca. On camera

MILAN PEŠIĆ (ENGLISH)

"At the end of this process – it will take a few years – this hanger will probably disappear and so it will be completely repackaged and stored in a new hanger" (8")

Wide shot to two rusting hanger.

NARRATION

This report was prepared by the United Nations.