

Pictures confirm R



Photo shows holding lake a brownish color, indicating heat from reactor.

Satellite photos
published
for first time

Government satellite photographs—published for the first time—confirm that the Soviet Union's crippled Chernobyl nuclear reactor has cooled, apparently easing the danger of more radioactivity spewing into the atmosphere.

The latest photo of the site, taken May 8, shows a "hot spot" at reactor No. 4 is no longer visible, as it was in a photo taken April 29 (arrow), three days after the worst

Red reactor cooling



May 8, 1986

Later photo shows lake as black, indicating water has cooled.

U.S. Geological Survey photos

accident in the history of nuclear power.

The photographs were released to the Times by the Reston-based U.S. Geological Survey.

U.S.G.S. officials said the May 8 photo shows that Soviet efforts to contain releases of radioactive materials to the air apparently have been successful.

The photos were taken from an altitude of 438 miles by the Earth Observation Satel-

lite Company (EOSAT), a branch of the U.S.G.S. The U.S.G.S is one of several federal agencies monitoring the accident's aftermath.

In addition to the disappearance of the hot spot, water intake channels — the dark "T-shaped" features adjacent to the reactor — appear to be cut off and dry on the May 8 photo, in contrast to April 29.

► See **REACTOR, A5**