



Directorate of
Intelligence

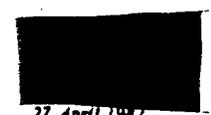


Science and Weapons Daily Review

27 April 1982

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Approved for Release
Date MAR 2000



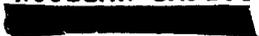
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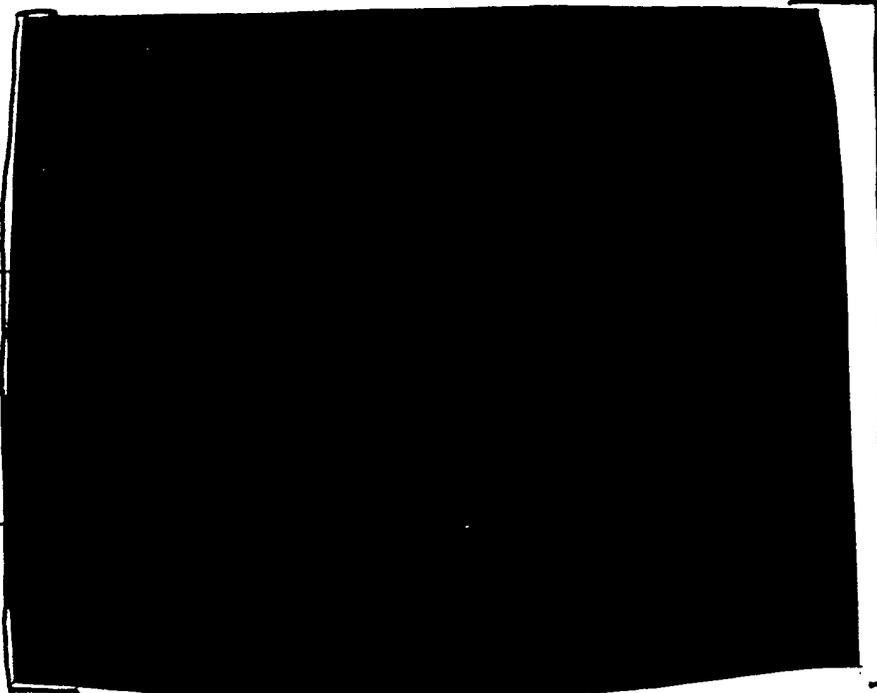
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The Indians reportedly are operating the Tarapur plant with failed fuel elements that are leaking significant amounts of radioactivity into the atmosphere. 

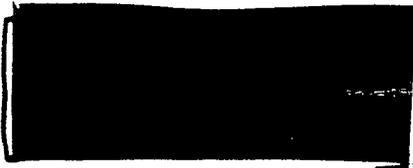
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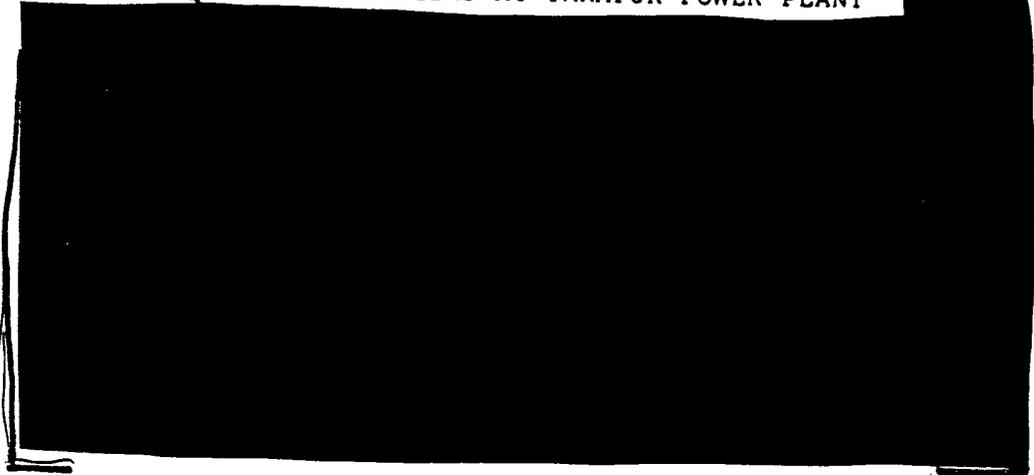




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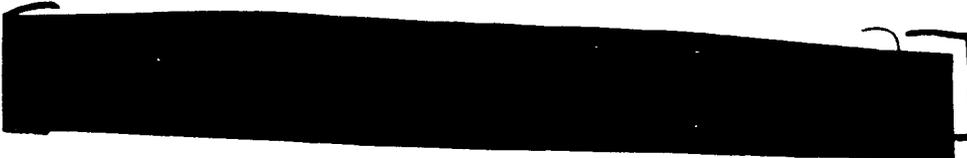
INDIA: NUCLEAR SAFETY PROBLEMS AT TARAPUR POWER PLANT

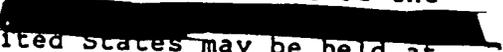


Comment:

The Tarapur plant has been suffering from a shortage of fuel due to problems with US export of enriched uranium. Until 1980, the United States supplied slightly enriched uranium, in the form of uranium hexafluoride, that was fabricated into fuel in India. These exports have been stopped due to provisions of the US Nonproliferation Act of 1978. The act requires full-scope nuclear safeguards as a condition for export.



The operation and safety of the reactor is degraded by the lack of another item requested by the Indians and currently pending US export--two in-core neutron monitors. These devices are needed for monitoring the reactor core during start-up and are a necessary safety feature. The reactor vender already has expressed concern about operating the reactor without these monitors. Notwithstanding these concerns, responsibility for safe operation of the reactor rests with the Indians. However, should there be an accident as a result of the absence of the core monitors,  the United States may be held at fault. Such allegations already have been made by one Indian newspaper regarding the monitors. 

