

5/28/83

**INDIA-US: Reactor Safety Issue**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] one of two reactors at the power station has been shut down because it can no longer be operated safely. [REDACTED]

Although the chairman has publicly denied the existence of any hazards, the Indian press has reported radiation leaks and overexposure of plant personnel. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The degraded condition of the reactors increases the possibility of a serious radiation leak into the densely populated Bombay area. This danger will persist at least until the spare parts are installed, a major cleanup is completed, and the reactors are reloaded with new fuel, which is now available from France. The Indians believe that the spare parts can only be obtained from the US. [REDACTED]

Indian officials are anxious to avoid a prolonged shutdown because new public revelations about technical shortcomings could discredit the nuclear power program. If a nuclear accident were to occur, the Indian press and public would be likely to blame the US. Moreover, senior Indian nuclear officials who have favored a conciliatory approach to the US might be replaced. [REDACTED]

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