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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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DATE September 14, 1984 6:24 AM CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Possible Attack by India on Nuclear Plant in Pakistan

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN: On Capitol Hill this morning, there's concern over new intelligence reports about a possible attack by India on a nuclear plant in Pakistan.

More on that now from senior correspondent, John Scalli.

JOHN SCALLI: Several Senators are expressing alarm at the prospect that Indian military forces might strike against Pakistan's main nuclear plant some 35 miles inside the border.

These Senate sources say they were deeply shaken by a CIA official who mentioned this yesterday in a secret briefing. A senior CIA intelligence source, however, has denied giving any special warning that such an attack might be imminent.

The Pakistan plant at Khohotar was mentioned, he said, as part of a general briefing.

However, other U.S. officials acknowledge there has been serious discussion within the U.S. Government over new intelligence about what the Indians might do. Some experts, but not all, doubt Prime Minister Gandhi would resort to such drastic action because of the possibility it would trigger an India-Pakistan war.

Senate informants say, however, the American people should be made aware of the grim possibility.

John Scalli, ABC News, Washington.