

~~SECRET~~



# The President's Daily Brief

*April 30, 1974*

4



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)  
declassified only on approval of  
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 30, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] Israel / Syria  
(Page 1)

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

Venezuela's President Perez announced sweeping economic measures yesterday, including the surprise nationalization of the US-dominated iron ore industry. (Page 3)

[Redacted] USSR (Page 4)

25X1

[Redacted] Soviets  
(Page 5)

25X1

Notes on Iraq, North Vietnam, and Argentina appear on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting continued around Mount Hermon again yesterday, with both Israeli and Syrian aircraft active over the battle area.

Israeli planes flew [redacted] sorties during the day, some of which were apparently directed against Syrian efforts to complete a road to the top of Mount Hermon. The Israelis have stated repeatedly that they will not permit the road to be built.

25X1

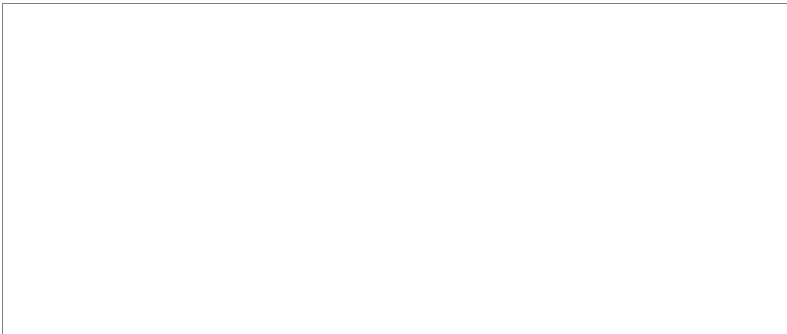


25X1

Syrian aircraft also struck Israeli positions on Mount Hermon yesterday afternoon. A dogfight ensued in which Damascus claims to have downed six Israeli aircraft while admitting the loss of two MIG-21s. The Syrians claim to have brought down another Israeli plane by ground fire. Tel Aviv claims to have destroyed four Syrian aircraft and admits no losses.

\* \* \*

25X1

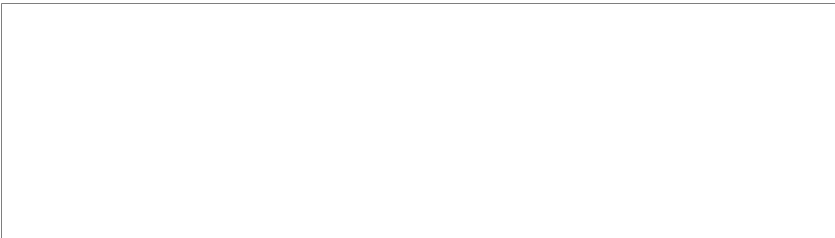


*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR-SYRIA



25X1



25X1



25X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

VENEZUELA

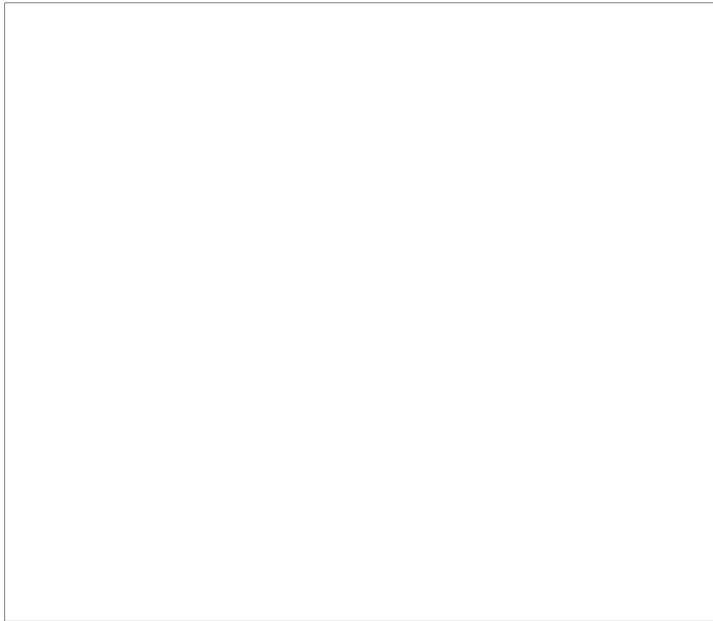
Venezuela's President Perez has announced sweeping economic measures that include the surprise nationalization of the US-dominated iron ore industry. Announcing action against the Orinoco Mining Company, a subsidiary of US Steel Corporation, and Iron Mines of Venezuela, a subsidiary of Bethlehem Steel, Perez said yesterday that although concessions to mine iron ore had been granted these companies until the year 2000, "we are taking them back now." Both companies do the bulk of Venezuela's iron ore mining and export two thirds of their production to the United States.

Perez did not go into details about how the companies will be nationalized or what, if any, compensation will be paid. Since the President's left-of-center Democratic Action Party controls a majority of seats in the Congress, the nationalization is considered a virtual certainty.

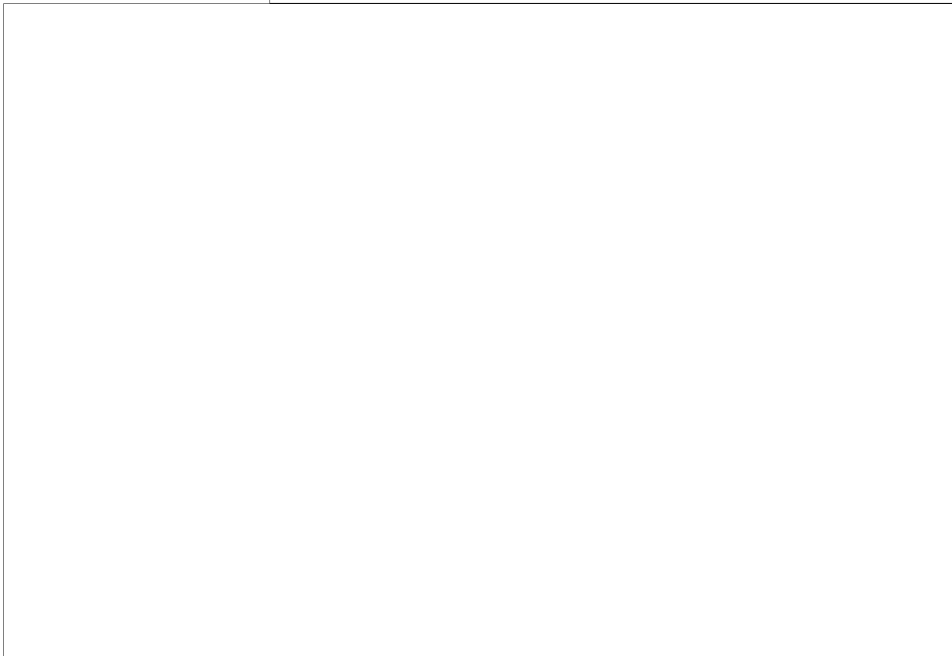
The nationalistic, antforeign-investment tone of the speech, as well as the sweeping plans Perez announced to restructure the economy, caught many by surprise. He has been in office less than two months, and has a massive election mandate for moderation. He has not been under pressure from leftist or nationalistic groups to move against the companies, and was expected to focus on "social justice issues."

Perez also announced measures to implement the Andean Pact's foreign investment code, which is very restrictive of foreign investments. He said a broad range of industries dealing in domestic goods and services will be reserved to Venezuelans. Foreign companies will have three years in which to sell a minimum of 80 percent of their shares to Venezuelan nationals. Transfer of control will be under the supervision of an agency to be created for this purpose and called the "Superintendency of Foreign Investment." Among those companies affected by the decree are the chain stores operated by Sears and by the Rockefeller family.

25X1



25X1



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

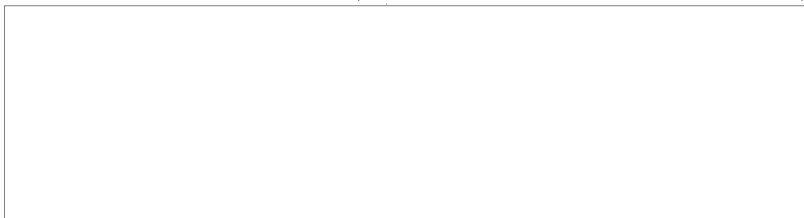
[Redacted]

25X1



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR



25X1



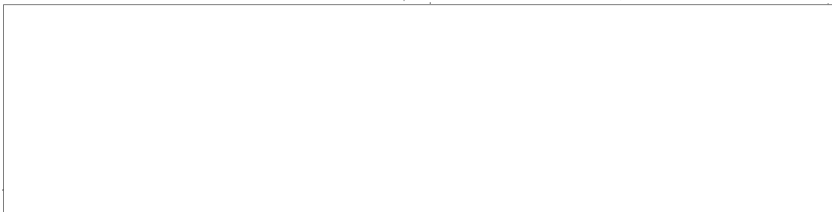
25X1



25X1



25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

25X1

Iraq:

25X1

North Vietnam: Hanoi's promotion of Van Tien Dung, number two in the military hierarchy, to the rank of full general confirms that he is being groomed to succeed Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap. Dung--the youngest member of the Politburo--is apparently an advocate of large-scale conventional warfare, and is closely associated with the current effort to modernize the North's armed forces. Giap, the only other figure holding such rank, dropped from public view late last year and may be seriously ill.

Argentina: Leftist and rightist factions of the Peronist movement may clash when they gather to hear Peron speak from the presidential palace on May 1. Over 1 million people are expected to assemble in the center of the capital for what government organizers are calling a huge "fiesta." The labor day ritual, which has traditionally been observed with great fanfare by Peron's working class following, will occur at a time when politically motivated violence has hit a peak.

ii

*Top Secret*