

SWP



The President's Daily Brief

April 18, 1974

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exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 18, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Egypt. (Page 1)

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The Syrians are reported to have ordered additional

[Redacted] (Page 3)

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Reports that Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie had removed Crown Prince Asfa Wossen from the line of succession have proven to be inaccurate. (Page 4)

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Radical fedayeen are pressing more moderate guerrilla leaders to resume terrorism against Israel. (Page 5)

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West German [Redacted] USSR. (Page 5)

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[Redacted]

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France [Redacted] (Page 6)

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USSR-EGYPT

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SYRIA-ISRAEL

The Israelis and the Syrians exchanged tank and artillery fire on the Golan front again yesterday, but the scale of the action was limited compared with that over the weekend. For the first time since Sunday, Israeli aircraft yesterday engaged in combat missions against the Syrians in the Mount Hermon area. The Syrians apparently limited their response to flying defensive patrols. No Israeli aircraft were reported lost during the action.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] both the Israelis and the Syrians have tanks on the west side of Mount Hermon on Lebanese territory. Both sides are also using bulldozers to build roads on Mount Hermon's western slope, where the terrain is less rugged and more suitable for military operations.

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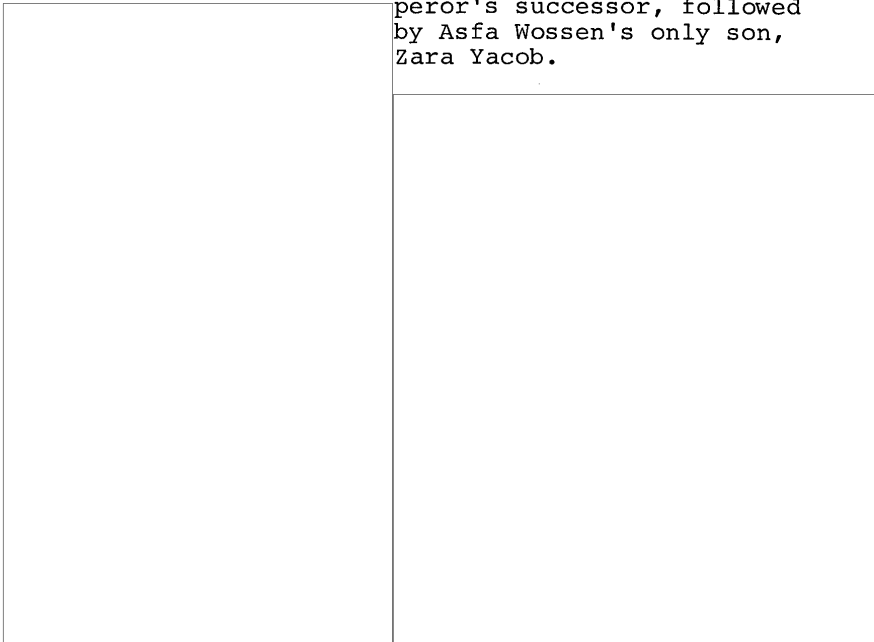
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ETHIOPIA

Reports earlier this week that Emperor Haile Selassie had removed ailing Crown Prince Asfa Wossen from the line of succession have proven inaccurate. Asfa Wossen is still formally slated to be the Em-

peror's successor, followed by Asfa Wossen's only son, Zara Yacob.

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Haile Selassie's announcement was made against a background of continuing widespread unrest among the military, workers, and other groups. The government's promises of far-reaching social, economic, and political reforms so far have had little salutary effect. There is no concerted effort to force out the Endalkatchew government, but the ferment is straining the government administration, and efforts to meet wage demands have caused serious budgetary problems.

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NOTES

Fedayeen: The long delay in the Geneva peace talks has given radicals among the fedayeen time to challenge Yasir Arafat's relatively conciliatory approach to Middle East settlement issues on the grounds that he has failed to obtain tangible gains for Palestinians. The radicals are able to point to the terrorists' "success" in the Israeli town of Qiryat Shemona last week, and Arafat, along with other fedayeen leaders, is under pressure to resume terrorism. If the radicals are able to carry out more terrorist attacks in Israel, the large fedayeen organizations, such as Arafat's Fatah group, may have to begin organizing their own cross-border operations to retain the allegiance of their members.

West Germany - USSR:

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Japan-USSR:

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France:



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