



*The President's Daily Brief*

15 May 1973

45



~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR

The Salyut space station launched on May 10 has malfunctioned. Although the station is still transmitting signals, US radars show that two of its four solar panels apparently have not opened properly. This means that the station would not be able to generate adequate electricity to operate with cosmonauts aboard. There is also evidence that the propulsion system is not working. Soviet support ships that were in position to monitor a manned Soyuz mission have already begun to disperse, indicating that the operation has been canceled.

*This is the fourth successive failure in the Soviet manned space station program. The first Salyut in 1971 had a fire on board and the three cosmonauts who visited the station were killed during re-entry. An attempt last year to launch another Salyut failed when its booster malfunctioned, and only last month a Salyut space station disintegrated after only two weeks in orbit.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*