

Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government
Order on the Requisition of Properties Belonging to the British Asiatic Petroleum Company in China
Issued by Premier Zhou Enlai

30-04-1951

In the interest of national security and public welfare, the Government Administration Council hereby orders the requisition of all assets belonging to the British Asiatic Petroleum Company located within the territory of the People's Republic of China, excluding its head office, branch administrative offices, and sales offices. This requisition includes the purchase of all petroleum stock held by the company in China.

All local managers of the Asiatic Petroleum Company are required to prepare a comprehensive inventory of the aforementioned properties and await instructions from the respective Military Control Committees and/or People's Governments in their jurisdictions. These individuals shall be held fully responsible for the protection and proper handover of said assets. Any acts of theft, destruction, unauthorized transfer, or concealment will be severely punished in accordance with the law.

This order has been promptly implemented by the Military Control Committees of Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Fuzhou, Shantou, Chongqing, and Qingdao, with the full support and cooperation of the Chinese employees of the company.

Prior Notice:

On April 22, the Government Administration Council issued a confidential telegram to all provincial authorities regarding the upcoming requisition. The message reads as follows:

“In response to recent actions taken by British imperialism—namely, the forced requisition of our 15,000-ton oil tanker *Yonghao* and its attempts to seize the assets of our China National Aviation Corporation in Hong Kong, done in alignment with American imperialist pressures—we have resolved to take appropriate countermeasures.

To this end, the Government Administration Council has decided to requisition all assets of the British Asiatic Petroleum Company within China. All relevant authorities are instructed to make immediate preparations, and to act decisively upon issuance of the official order.”

This order is now in effect. All relevant departments are to ensure its full and timely implementation.