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The rand experienced a significant decline on Friday afternoon, breaching the key R19 to dollar mark. The depreciation is attributed to escalating tensions between the US and South Africa, as well as internal political instability. US Congressman Ronny Jackson introduced the US-South Africa Bilateral Relations Review Act of 2025, aiming for a comprehensive evaluation of the bilateral relationship. The bill would mandate a full review of the relationship and impose sanctions on "corrupt South African government officials" who support the US's enemies, including China, Russia, and Iran. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump announced a global 10% tariff on all imports, with South Africa facing a higher rate of 30%. These tariffs are expected to impact key sectors such as agriculture and automotive industries. Domestically, the Government of National Unity (GNU) is facing internal discord, particularly between the ANC and the Democratic Alliance (DA). The recent budget, which included a one-percentage-point VAT increase over the next two years and no adjustments to tax brackets, was achieved without full GNU consensus. The convergence of US sanctions, increased tariffs, and internal political instability has intensified market volatility, leading to the rand's depreciation. Economists express concerns about the potential termination of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which currently provides duty-free access for certain African exports to the US. The imposition of tariffs and potential sanctions could further strain South Africa's economic relations and trade prospects. Current exchange rates are stable with no significant changes. The US dollar is trading evenly against several major currencies, including the Hong Kong dollar (HKD), Hungarian forint (HUF), Indonesian rupiah (IDR), Israeli shekel (ILS), Indian rupee (INR), Icelandic krona (ISK), Japanese yen (JPY), Kuwaiti dinar (KWD), Lebanese pound (LBP), Lithuanian litas (LTL), Latvian lats (LVL), Malaysian ringgit (MYR), Norwegian krone (NOK), New Zealand dollar (NZD), Peruvian sol (PEN), Philippine peso (PHP), Polish zloty (PLN), Qatari riyal (QAR), Romanian leu (RON), Russian ruble (RUB), Swedish krona (SEK), Singapore dollar (SGD), Thai baht (THB), Taiwanese dollar (TWD), and South African rand (ZAR). Additionally, the text mentions recent news articles related to currency markets, including: * The pound has pared its gains against the US dollar towards a rate of 1.30. * The euro has rallied against the US dollar, but this has dragged the pound lower on global trade risks. * The British pound climbed to a six-month high against the US dollar following President Trump's announcement of tariffs. * The euro has jumped above 1.10 against the US dollar due to fears of a US recession. * The pound has surged against the US dollar as equity markets slid and the dollar crashed. These articles are dated April 3-5, 2025.