

守望英文之  
直击英文热点系列



# 用英语说 全球时事热点

吴瑞 黄彬 / 主编 [美] Michelle Woo / 审校



中国宇航出版社

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# 前言

我们正处在一个信息发达的时代,全球的大事小情都会通过各种媒介迅速到达我们的视线范围。面对海量的英文信息,您是否憧憬有一天自己也可以流畅的阅读,也可以用流利的英文与朋友讨论各类热点话题?本书将助您一臂之力,扫清阅读和会话的拦路虎。

本套图书分为《用英语说全球时事热点》、《用英语说全球经济热点》、《用英语说全球社会热点》、《用英语说百姓生活热点》等4本。本册《用英语说全球时事热点》,精选80个当前时事热点话题,涵盖政坛风云、选举、军事动态、国际关系、恐怖主义及海盗、会议与访问等六部分内容。

本套图书具有以下特色。

## 1. 权威媒体,精确选材,热点话题,丰富生动。

本套图书的所有内容,均节选自国内外权威媒体,作者均为资深文字撰稿记者。在选择内容时,我们既考虑了话题的热度和典型性,还兼顾了话题学习的趣味性,内容知识较少重复,是您逐类话题精准学习的最佳利器。期望在您的阅读过程中,轻松体验到探索的乐趣。

## 2. 语言地道,场景真实,实战演练,学以致用。

本套图书的每个热点话题,都有一篇流畅、简短的文章供您阅读和理解话题主旨,并配有一段情景会话,让您和同学、朋友用英文进行讨论和分享。这样的编排,不但可以提升您的阅读能力,也培养您对阅读所获得的信息进行归纳和总结,变成自己的语言再转述给他人的能力。您还可以举一反三,延伸或模拟出其他的会话场景,有效应对不同交际场合的英语口语交流。

## 3. 疑难词汇,典型句式,治标治本,彻底掌握。

单纯地学习语言规则是学不好英语的。只有充分了解英语使用地的文化特征和表现形式,才能真正读懂外国人写的英语,真正说出使外国人倍感亲切的地道英语。本书对容易造成阅读障碍的词汇单独列出,并加以释义注解;并将同类话题中可能用到的高频典型句式提取出来,帮助您在遇到同类话题时,读得懂,说得顺。

英语学习并不是件苦差事,如果您真正发现了其中的乐趣,就会乐在其中。相信使用本套图书的英语学习者,能够发现很多以前没有发现的阅读趣味;意识到学习英语虽然没有投机取巧的捷径,但却充满了乐趣。按照本书而学,就能收获丰硕的果实。

编者

2009年10月于北京

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# Politics

## 政坛风云

Politics  
政坛风云



Obama Takes an Oath as the President of the United States

奥巴马宣誓就任美国总统

### 热点透视 Hot Topics Perspective

——疯狂地听，盛情地读，刻意模仿并理解全文

Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday (Jan. 20, 2009) and promised to “begin again the work of remaking America” on a day of celebration that climaxed a once-inconceivable journey for the man and his country. Mr. Obama, the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas, **inherited** a White House built partly by slaves. The moment captured the imagination of much of the world as more than a million flag-waving people **bore witness** while Mr. Obama **recited** the oath with his hand on the same *Bible* that Abraham Lincoln used at his **inauguration** 148 years ago.

But **confronted** by the worst economic situation in decades, two overseas wars and the continuing threat of **Islamic** terrorism, Mr. Obama sobered the celebration with a **grim assessment** of the state of a nation rocked by home **foreclosures**, shuttered businesses, lost jobs, costly health care, failing schools, energy dependence and the threat of climate change. Signaling a sharp and immediate break with the **presidency** of George W. Bush, he vowed to usher in a “new era of responsibility” and restore **tarnished** American ideals.

When he arrives in the **Oval Office** on Wednesday, aides said, Mr. Obama will get to work on some of his priorities. He plans to **convene** his national security team and senior military commanders to discuss his plans to pull combat troops out of Iraq and **bolster** those in Afghanistan. He also plans to start closing the detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and could **reverse** Mr. Bush’s restrictions on financing for groups that promote or provide information about **abortion**.

In his address, Mr. Obama praised Mr. Bush “for his service to our nation as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.” But he also offered implicit

criticism, condemning what he called our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age. He went on to assure the rest of the world that change had come. "To all other peoples and governments who are watching today," Mr. Obama said, "from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born, know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more."

"For those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and **slaughtering** innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken," he said. "You cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you." Mr. Obama also added a message to Islamic nations, a first from the inaugural **lectern**. "To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect," Mr. Obama said. "To those who cling to power through **corruption** and **deceit** and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history—but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

In his Inaugural Address, Mr. Obama seemed to take issue with Ronald Reagan, who declared when he took office in 1981 that "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." Mr. Clinton rebutted that in 1997, saying, "government is not the problem and government is not the solution."

"It's obviously historic because President Obama is the first African-American president, but it's more than that," Mr. Clinton said. "This is a time when we're clearly making a new beginning. It's a country of repeated second-chances and new beginnings."

The nation's 56th inauguration drew waves of people from all corners and filled the expanse between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. For the first transition in power since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, much of the capital was under exceptionally tight security.

周二(2009年1月20日), 巴拉克·奥巴马宣誓就任美国第44任总统, 并在这欢庆的日子保证将“再次开始重新塑造美国”。这一天可以说是他竞选之旅的高潮时刻, 对他来说, 在美国这样的国家参加总统竞选几乎是不可能成功的。奥巴马的父亲是来自肯尼亚的黑人, 母亲是堪萨斯州的白人, 而正是他人主了这个由奴隶建立起来的白宫。就职典礼吸引了世界上的大多数人, 当奥巴马将手放在148年前亚伯拉罕·林肯就职时使用的《圣经》上宣誓时, 100多万手持旗帜挥舞的人见证了这一时刻。

由于面临几十年来最严重的经济状况、两次海外战争和从未停息的穆斯林恐怖主义的袭击, 奥巴马使参加庆典的大众清楚地认识到美国可怕的现状: 大量房产抵押、公司倒闭、人民失业、医疗费用偏高、学校关闭、能源紧缺及气候变化困扰。为了彻彻底底地区别于布什政府, 奥巴马立誓要引领美国进入一个“负责任的新时代”并重建美国之梦。

助理人员称奥巴马将于周三进入总统办公室, 届时他将开始着

#### 词汇宝典

inherit 继承, 遗传而得  
bear witness 证明(作证, 成为……的证人)  
recite 背诵, 朗读, 叙述  
inauguration 开始(开幕仪式, 落成典礼, 通车仪式)  
confront 面对, 对抗, 遭遇  
Islamic 伊斯兰教的, 穆斯林的  
grim 冷酷的, 残忍的, 可怕的  
assessment 估价, 评估  
foreclosure 没收  
presidency 总统职位, 总裁职位, 主席职位  
tarnish 使生锈, 沾污  
Oval Office 美国总统办公室  
convene 集合, 召集, 召唤  
bolster 支持  
reverse 颠倒, 逆转, 倒退  
abortion 流产, 堕胎  
slaughter 残杀, 屠杀  
lectern 讲台  
corruption 腐败, 堕落, 贪污  
deceit 欺骗

手处理一些首要事务。他计划召集国家安全小组和高级军事指挥讨论将军队从伊拉克撤出以增援阿富汗的计划。另外他还计划着手关闭古巴关塔那摩监狱。他还可能撤销布什政府禁止向提倡堕胎和为堕胎提供服务的机构提供经济支持的禁令。

在他的就职演说中,奥巴马赞扬了布什先生“为我们国家作出的贡献和他在政权交接中表现出的大度与合作”。但是他也通过指责他所称的“我们共同的失败——没能作出艰难的选择和为国家的新纪元作好准备”来暗示了对布什的批评。他进而向世人保证变革已经开始了。“今天所有观看典礼的其他民族和国家,”奥巴马说,“从各大首都到我父亲出生的小山村,人们都知道美国是各个国家的朋友,是每个以追求和平和享有尊严为目标的人的朋友,不论男女老幼。我们准备再次引领世界。”

“对那些企图通过恐吓和屠杀无辜民众推进其野心之徒,我可以告诉你们,我们的意志比你们坚定,不可能被你们击败,”他说,“你们无法与我们抗衡,我们最终将打败你们。”奥巴马先生还给伊斯兰国家发出了寄语,这是第一次从就职演讲席上发出的寄语。“对穆斯林世界,我们会寻求一种新途径,这种新途径是建立在相互有利和尊重的基础上的。”奥巴马先生说,“对那些通过腐败、欺骗和排挤异己而巩固权力的人,请你们意识到你们的立场有悖于历史——但如果你们愿意松开你们的拳头,我们定会伸出友谊之手。”

奥巴马似乎在演讲词中同里根总统争辩。里根总统在1981年就职时说“政府不是解决问题之道,政府就是问题本身”。而克林顿总统在1997年反驳说“政府不是问题本身,政府也不是解决问题之道”。

“很显然,这有着历史意义,因为奥巴马总统是第一个非裔美国总统,但意义却不止于此,”克林顿先生说。“这是我们迎接新开始的时刻。在这个国家,人们永远有第二次机会和新的开始。”

美国第56次就职典礼吸引了来自各地的人们,将国会大厦与华盛顿纪念碑中间的宽阔地带挤得水泄不通。由于是自2001年9月11日恐怖袭击以来的首次政权交接,首都大部分地区都戒备森严。

## 额外收获 Know More

——拓展知识视野, 掌握更多相关信息

1. Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday and promised to “begin again the work of remaking America”.

2. In his address, Mr. Obama praised Mr. Bush “for his service to our nation as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.”

3. Obama’s scant record of achievement at the national level proved less important to voters than his embodiment of change.

4. He struck a stiff note on terrorism, saying Americans “will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense.”

5. Mr. Obama offered a new formulation: The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage.

6. In his Inaugural Address, Mr. Obama seemed to take issue with Ronald Reagan, who declared when he took office in 1981 that “government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.”

1. 周二巴拉克·侯赛因·奥巴马宣誓就任第44任美国总统,并保证“再次开始重新塑造美国”。
2. 奥巴马在演讲中赞扬了布什先生“为我们国家作出的贡献及他在政权交接中表现出的大度与合作”。
3. 奥巴马在国家大政中政绩平平,刚好体现了其改革的化身,而这对选民来说更重要。
4. 他对恐怖主义态度强硬,说美国人“不会为自己的生活方式道歉,也不会动摇自己的防卫”。
5. 奥巴马提出一个口号:我们今天要问的问题不是我们的政府是太大或太小,而是这个政府是否有效,能否帮助你们的家人找到一份有体面薪水的工作。
6. 奥巴马似乎在演讲词中同里根总统争辩。里根总统在1981年就职时说“政府不是解决问题之道,政府就是问题本身”。

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**Jim:** Did you watch the news?

**Kate:** Of course, yes. Mr. Obama won the election at last.

**Jim:** Yes, I just cannot believe it at the beginning.

**Kate:** Oh? Why?

**Jim:** Well, I did not think he can lead American people out of this economic turmoil; he is too young in a sense.

**Kate:** I do not know too much about economy. But all I know is he can bring change to the country.

**Jim:** I noticed his presidential address. It is really exciting and encouraging.

**Kate:** I like his formulation: The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small but whether it works.

**Jim:** You are right by saying this. I believe under his leadership, people will overcome the difficulties they are experiencing now.

**Kate:** Definitely! But he needs a strong team to implement his plans. It is not an easy job.

**Jim:** Did you notice his view towards terrorism? It is really tough.

**Kate:** I hate terrorism, so I appreciate his attitudes.

**Jim:** I really think the Americans are making a new beginning by choosing Mr. Obama as their president.

吉姆:你看新闻了吗?

凯特:当然看了。奥巴马最终赢得了竞选。

吉姆:是啊,我一开始几乎不敢相信。

凯特:哦?为什么啊?

吉姆:呃,我认为他不能使美国人民摆脱现在的经济状况。从某种意义上说他太年轻了。

凯特:我对经济知之不多。不过我知道他能给美国带来变化。

吉姆:我注意到了他的就职演说,很振奋人心。

凯特:我喜欢他的口号:我们今天要问的问题不是我们的政府是否太大或太小,而是这个政府是否有效。

吉姆:你说得很对。我相信在他的领导下,人们一定会克服目前的困难。

凯特:一定会的。但他需要一个强大的团队来执行他的计划,这不是件简单的事情。

吉姆:你留意到他对恐怖主义的态度了吗?很强硬。

凯特:我痛恨恐怖主义,所以我赞赏他的态度。

吉姆:我真的相信美国人选择奥巴马就是创造了新的开始。



## Former S. Korean President Roh Moo-hyun Commits Suicide

## 韩国前总统卢武铉自杀

Politics  
政坛风云

### 热点透视 Hot Topics Perspective

——疯狂地听，盛情地读，刻意模仿并理解全文

Former South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun committed **suicide** Saturday (May 23, 2009) by leaping to his death from a hill behind his house, the government announced. He was 62. Roh, who was president from 2003 to 2008, had gone hiking near his home with an aide about 6:30 a.m. local time Saturday. He was found later with head injuries, and died at 9:30 a.m. after being taken to a hospital in Busan, police said. A hospital spokesman **declined** to comment.

Roh left a suicide note for his family that family lawyer handed out to South Korean media. News reports said Roh wrote it on his computer about half an hour before he left the house. "I am in debt to too many people," the note reads. "Too many people have **suffered** because of me. And I cannot imagine the suffering they will go through in the future."

Roh's death came amid an **investigation** into a **bribery scandal** that had **tarnished** his reputation. **Prosecutors** were investigating the former president for allegedly receiving \$6 million in bribes from a South Korean businessman while in office. Mr. Roh, who had prided himself on being a clean politician during his term from 2003 to 2008 was questioned for 10 hours on April 30 by state prosecutors. His wife was **scheduled** to

be questioned by prosecutors Saturday, and Roh was planning to answer a second round of questions next week. With Roh's death, prosecutors said, the case against him has been **suspended**.

Roh had said he was ashamed about the scandal. In the first round of questioning, he said he was **losing face** and that he was **disappointing** his supporters. The former president said he learned about the payments only after he left office and that some of them were **legitimate investments**. Roh wrote about his thoughts on a blog that he maintained, which also attracted supporters and tourists to his hometown.

In his last posting on his Web site, on April 22, Mr. Roh said he could "no longer symbolize the



values” he once championed and told his supporters to “discard” him. On April 30, he was forced to travel to Seoul to face the prosecutors’ questions while the news media put camera crews in helicopters to broadcast the motorcade’s trip. Such treatment, while expected in the United States, is unusual in South Korea and was considered a staggering humiliation in a country that values saving face.

Roh’s suicide note said his health was poor and that “nothing is left in my life but to be a **burden** to others.” “Don’t be too sad. Don’t be sorry. Don’t blame anyone. It is fate,” he wrote. The note asks that his body be cremated and for a small headstone to be left near his house. “It’s what I have thought about for a long time,” he writes at the end. Although Roh had not made a formal guilty plea, many were disappointed that a man who came to power vowing an end to corruption would face such allegations.

US President Barack Obama was “saddened” by news of Roh’s death. “During his **tenure**, President Roh **contributed** to the strong and vital relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea,” Obama said in the statement issued by the White House. “On behalf of the government of the United States, I offer my **condolences** to his family and to the Korean people.”

Roh hoped to leave a **legacy** of improved relations with North Korea. Just before he left the presidency, Roh became the first South Korean leader to cross the **demilitarized** zone and meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. Roh believed in the “sunshine policy” of his **predecessor**.

Roh spoke to CNN correspondent just after that trip and said he thought his legacy would be to ensure that many others crossed the demilitarized zone after him. The current South Korean president, Lee Myung-Bak, however, takes a harder line on the north and has so far not continued Roh’s efforts.

#### 词汇宝典

suicide 自杀  
decline 拒绝,婉拒  
suffer 遭受,经历,忍受,受损害  
investigation 调查  
bribery 贿赂行为,行贿,受贿  
scandal 丑闻  
tarnish 使生锈,沾污  
prosecutor 检举人,告发人,起诉人,公诉人  
schedule 预定  
suspend 悬,挂,吊,暂停,中止  
lose face 丢面子  
disappoint 使失望  
legitimate 合法的,正当的  
investment 投资,投入,投资额  
burden 负担,重载  
tenure 任期  
contribute to 有助于(贡献给)  
condolence 哀悼,吊唁  
legacy 遗赠物  
demilitarized 非武装的  
predecessor 前辈,前任

韩国政府称:前总统卢武铉于周六(2009年5月23日)从其住所后的山上跳崖自杀身亡,终年62岁。卢武铉于2003年至2008年任韩国总统。周六(当日),卢在一名助理的协助下于当地时间早上6点半左右登山。警察称:找到他时其头部已受伤,之后被送往釜山的一所医院,早上9点半去逝。医院的发言人拒绝发表评论。

卢武铉给家人写有自杀的留言,其家庭律师已将此留言交给韩国媒体。新闻报道称卢武铉是在离家前半小时在电脑上写的留言。留言写到:“我欠很多人太多东西了,太多的人因我而受苦。我不敢想象他们今后将要遭受的罪。”

卢武铉自杀时正处于一桩毁其名誉的贿赂丑闻的调查之中。检察官正就卢武铉在位时收受一商人600万美元贿赂的传言进行调查。卢武铉先生曾以自己2003年到2008年任期的清廉执政而自豪,他在4月30日接受了检察官长达10个小时的询问。他的妻子原定于周六接受检察官的询问,而卢武铉则定于下周接受第二轮的询问。检察官说由于卢武铉的死,案子已经暂停。

卢武铉曾说过,他以此丑闻为耻。在第一轮问话中,他说自己很丢面子,并且让自己的支持者失望了。这位前总统说他是在离任后才知道这些收入的,而且里面有些是合法的投资回报。卢武铉在他



的博客中谈了他的想法,他的博客也吸引了他的支持者和游人到他的家乡。

他在网上的最后一次留言是4月22日,他说他已经不能代表他曾经“奉行的价值观了”,还让他的支持者“抛弃”他。4月30日,他被强制带到首尔接受检察官的询问,媒体拍摄人员在直升飞机里拍摄播放了押送的车队。遭受这样的待遇在美国是可以接受的,而在一个注重面子的国家却被认为是奇耻大辱。

卢武铉自杀的留言中提到他的健康状况不好,“我的生命中没有留下什么,只有给别人的负担。”他写道,“不要太悲伤;不要难过;不要责怪他人;这是注定的。”留言中还请求将尸体火化,并在其家附近立一个小墓石。“这是我思索已久的事情。”他在留言结尾如是写道。尽管卢武铉尚未作出正式的无罪抗辩,许多人已感到很失望,一个声称要结束腐败的执政人却要面临这样的指控!

卢武铉的死使美国总统巴拉克·奥巴马感到“悲伤”。“在他的任期内,卢武铉总统致力于强健而有活力的美韩关系。”奥巴马总统在白宫签发的声明中发表上述言论。“我代表美国政府,向卢武铉总统的家人及韩国人民致以哀悼。”

卢武铉希望把得到改善的朝韩关系留给后人。在他离任前,他成为第一个跨过非军事区的韩国领导人,并会见了朝鲜领导人金正日。卢武铉深信他前任总统的“阳光政策”。

那次访问之后,卢武铉对美国有线电视新闻网的记者说他留给后人的东西将保证在他之后有更多的人跨过非军事区。然而现任韩国总统李明博对朝鲜实行强硬路线,并且不再延续卢武铉的做法。

## 额外收获 Know More

——拓展知识视野, 掌握更多相关信息

1. When Roh took possession of the Cheongwadae (Blue House), the president's official residence, it was with a mandate to end corruption and for continuing détente with North Korea.

2. Roh Moo-Hyun was born on August 6, 1946 into a poor farming family at Kimhae, South Kyongsang province, and educated at Pusan Commercial High School before undertaking military service, in which he attained the rank of corporal.

3. He was to be almost unique among those who make up South Korea's political elite in that he never went to university.

4. He became known to a wider audience through his skillful questioning of witnesses in the televised hearing in which former President Chun Doo-Hwan and other members of the ruling elite were being investigated for corruption.

5. In his younger days Roh had called for the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea, and although he had since recanted, this did not recommend him to President George W. Bush, who took a hard line against the north when it tested a nuclear device in 2006.

1. 卢武铉接管韩国总统府青瓦台时,身负结束腐败和缓和韩朝关系的重任。

2. 卢武铉于1946年8月6日出生在南道金海市庆尚一个穷苦农民家庭。在釜山商业高中接受教育,毕业后服了兵役,服役期间获下士军衔。



3. 他将几乎是韩国政坛独一无二的人物,因为他从未上过大学。

4. 他为更多人知晓则是因为他在针对前任总统全斗焕及其他执政人员涉嫌腐败的电视听证会上的出色表现。他对涉案证人的提问机巧娴熟。

5. 年轻时代的卢武铉曾要求美国从韩国撤军,虽然随后公开表示认错但此举并没有获得布什总统的好感。2006年朝鲜进行核试验时,布什持强硬态度。

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**Lucy:** You know what, Former South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun committed suicide Saturday.

**David:** Oh, really? Please give me more details.

**Lucy:** It is said he jumped from a hill behind his house, and was later found with head injuries, and was announced death in a hospital in Busan.

**David:** Do you know why he committed suicide?

**Lucy:** He was accused of taking bribery when he was in office. But he said he learnt about the payments only after he left the office and some of them were legitimate investments.

**David:** I don't know whether his people believe his explanations.

**Lucy:** People used to regard him as a good president because he vowed to end the corruption.

**David:** I think he must have disappointed his people, especially his supporters.

**Lucy:** He was shamed of the scandal. But he has not made the formal guilty plea.

**David:** I heard that he maintained a blog which attracted a lot of people to his hometown.

**Lucy:** You are right. He also wrote about his thoughts on his blog.

**David:** I think people have to suspend the investigation into his bribery scandal because of his death. As far as I know, during his presidency, he maintained a very good relationship between the US and the Republic of Korea.

**Lucy:** And President Obama offered his condolence to his family and the Korean people on behalf of the government of the US.

**David:** How are his attitudes towards North Korea?

**Lucy:** Ah, it is always a sensitive issue. He has been trying to improve relations with North Korea.

**露西:** 你知道吗,韩国前总统卢武铉周六自杀了。

**戴维:** 哦,是吗? 给我详细说说。

**露西:** 据说他是从他家的后山上跳崖自杀,而后发现时头部已经受伤,最后在釜山的一所医院宣布死亡。

**戴维:** 你知道他为什么要自杀吗?

**露西:** 他被指控在任时收受贿赂。但他说他是在离任后才知道那些钱的事情,而且部分还是合法的投资收益。

**戴维:** 我不知道他的人民是否相信他的解释。

**露西:** 因为他发誓要结束腐败,人们一向认为他是个好总统。

**戴维:** 我想他一定会让人们失望,尤其是让他的支持者失望。

**露西:** 他认为这个丑闻是他的奇耻大辱。但是他没有作出正式的无罪抗辩。

**戴维:** 我还听说他写博客,吸引了不少游人到他的家乡。

**露西:** 没错。他还在博客上发表了她的看法。

**戴维:** 我想由于他的死亡,人们不得不暂停对他收受贿赂丑闻的审查。据我所知,他在任时,美国和大韩民国之间的关系非常不错。

**露西:** 奥巴马总统也代表美国政府向他的家人及韩国人民表示哀悼。

**戴维:** 他对朝鲜的态度是怎样的呢?

**露西:** 啊,这一直是个敏感的话题。他一直致力于改善同朝鲜的关系。