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English Digest

英语活页文选

English Digest

16

Technical Problem

It's Just Another Big Glitch!

Best Graduate Schools

Judged by Her Jeans

※无中生有的考克斯报告

※“千年虫”不就是只“小虫”吗?

※全球最好的研究生院

※牛仔裤定强奸案—意大利奇闻

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策 划 郭 力 沈浦娜

责任编辑 侯育清

封面设计 张 虹

电话:

(010)62752028(编辑)

(010)62752019(邮购)

(010)62754140(发行)

e-mail:

gl@pup.pku.edu.cn

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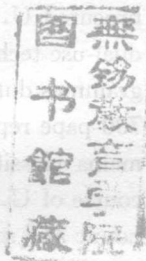
Technical Problem

1996年2月,美国休斯公司委托中国发射的一枚卫星爆炸,引起美国国内一些别有用心的人的动作,“考克斯报告”就是一枚被催生出来的怪胎,报告中提出的科技贸易壁垒不仅严重影响中美关系,而且更直接侵犯了与中国有高额贸易往来的美国高技术公司的利益。

Everyone in the satellite business knows that China is a prime location for low-cost space launches. They also know that using Chinese rockets to set their hardware in orbit puts their operations under the microscope of their countries' security officials.

By 1996, U. S. companies Loral Space & Communications and Hughes Electronics knew the drill^①: Security teams—one private, one from the U. S. Defence Department—are present at the launch site; the satellite is never shown to Chinese officials and is encased^② in a black box until just before the launch; the launch vehicle's satellite-release mechanism is off-limits to company representatives; and after the launch, the only thing that changes hands is hard currency, not technical know-how.

Through seven launches, everything had gone like clockwork^③. But then, in February 1996, when a rocket carrying a Hughes satellite burst into flames instead of shooting into orbit, the protocol^④ was breached. China invited the



①drill:规定的步骤

② encase: 把... 装箱, 包装

③ like clockwork: 规律地, 自动地

④protocol: 议定书

companies to join a review of the incident and they accepted. Republican members of Congress later charged that during the investigation that followed, the shroud^⑤ of secrecy covering sensitive rocket-launch technology was lifted and information changed hands that may have helped China improve the reliability of its missiles.

Congress took the allegations^⑥ seriously. In June 1998, it set up a House of Representatives panel^⑦ to examine whether China had illegally procured U. S. military technology and diverted dual-use technology to its military or nuclear programmes during the past 20 years. The panel's 700-page report—known as the Cox report—remains classified, but threatens to change the course of U. S.-China relations on both the economic and security fronts^⑧.

Early leaks of some of the report's 38 recommendations suggest a tightening of export controls on communications satellites and other aerospace technologies. The recommendations also call for heavier penalties for companies that violate existing export controls and a possible tightening of rules on exports to Hong Kong. Stiffer^⑨ controls would anger both the rapidly growing U. S. satellite industry and the Chinese government, which feels the current regulations are too strict.

"There is a strong concern among American exporters of hi-technology products over the content and potential implications that may flow from the Cox report," says Robert Kapp, presi

⑤ shroud: 罩, 遮蔽物

⑥ allegation: 主张, 断言

⑦ panel: 专门小组

⑧ front: 领域

⑨ stiff: 严格的, 严厉的

dent of the U. S.-China Business Council in Washington. "Particularly if it gave rise to proposals for far-reaching new restrictions aimed at U.S. technology exports to China."

The stakes^⑩ are high: Merrill Lynch estimates the U. S. commercial-satellite industry will grow to \$ 171 billion by 2007 from \$ 38 billion in 1997. Aerospace companies are counting on China to get many of the satellites aloft^⑪. In addition, China imported \$ 168 million worth of U. S. satellites and launch equipment in 1998, up from less than \$ 4 million five years earlier. Tighter restrictions could also affect other products judged to have military as well as commercial applications, such as supercomputers and helicopters.

Even without the Cox report, the tide is moving toward tighter restrictions. As required by a Congressional defence bill, the White House will return control over commercial satellite exports to the State Department^⑫ in March. In November 1996, President Bill Clinton had transferred primary authority over the approval of satellite exports from the security-conscious State Department to the pro-deal Department of Commerce. Clinton has also acquiesced^⑬ to the expansion of controls on the export of munitions^⑭ to include satellites and some related items.

Some hope that the Cox report, due to be released in late March, will lay out the facts needed to inform the highly charged debate on

⑩stake: 赌注

⑪aloft: 被送上天,
位于高处

⑫State Department:
国务院

⑬acquiesce: 默许

⑭munition: 军火,
武器

the issue. "It will bring a huge policy issue to fore^⑮ that has not been formally addressed in the post-Cold War era," says Bates Gill, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "On one side of the debate is the desire for open international markets; on the other, the defence of U. S. military technology. There is an urgent need to strike a balance between the two."

However, it seems more likely that the debate will become ensnared^⑯ in partisan^⑰ politics. Republican members of Congress have seized on leaks from the Cox report to highlight what they see as the threat to national security inherent in Clinton's policy of engagement with China. At a Republican National Committee meeting in Washington on January 22, the panel's chairman, Christopher Cox, described Clinton's position on China as "a policy that gives China's ruling communists everything they want, and withholds all criticism and sanctions, no matter what."

Clinton supporters retort that the report provides a deliberately distorted picture. A Democratic source close to the panel, who says he has seen the full report, claims that the panel didn't consult many U. S.-based experts on the People's Liberation Army because they believe Chinese military technology is 20-25 years behind that in the U. S. and poses no real threat.

But even some moderate Congressional Republicans are alarmed by what the investigators

⑮ bring...to fore: 涌现

⑯ ensnare: 诱捕, 使落入圈套

⑰ partisan: 党派性的

turned up^⑮. Rep. Doug Bereuter, who was on the Cox team, is chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia. In a February speech, he warned that when the full report came out, it would paint a picture of "grave and extraordinary" damage to national security due to "Chinese espionage^⑯ and lax [U.S.] security measures."

It's shaping up^⑰ to be a difficult year for China-U. S. relations. In September, a Pentagon^⑱ report laid out the far-reaching threat China's military modernization programme posed to U. S. strategic interests in East Asia. Beijing's development of highly mobile DF-31 missiles, a separate intercontinental ballistic missile^⑲ with a range of 12,800 kilometres and anti-satellite weapons, has aroused particular concern. The possibility that the U. S. will include Taiwan in plans to develop a missile-defence system has rankled^⑳ China: On February 11, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing reiterated that including Taiwan in such a system could damage bilateral ties.

None of this is encouraging to U. S. businesses all too familiar with the pain of export restrictions imposed on weapons and defence technologies after 1989. Sikorsky, a U. S. helicopter maker, exported medium-sized Blackhawk transport helicopters to China in the mid-1980s. Such exports stopped in 1989 and many of the helicopters that had been shipped to China are now grounded because of continuing restrictions

⑮turn up: 找到, 发现

⑯espionage: 间谍活动

⑰shape up: 形成

⑱Pentagon: 五角大楼

⑲ballistic missile: 弹道导弹

⑳rankle: 激怒

on the export of spare parts. “The sanctions are a complete anachronism^㉔,” says Scott Seligman, a spokesman for Sikorsky’s parent company, United Technologies. “And they are causing us to lose out^㉕ to our French and Russian competitors.”

Seligman isn’t alone in his frustration. Robert Edwards, a spokesman for Motorola, says that with the boom in the satellite industry “there simply are not enough launch vehicles to service all of the proposed satellite systems” that companies want to put in the skies in the next 10 years. If further restrictions on the use of Chinese rockets are introduced, the squeeze^㉖ on the industry will be that much tighter.

Where U. S. companies would lose out, their executives say, competitors in the European Union and Israel would merrily fill the breach. Most European countries only impose restrictions on “lethal” equipment, allowing the export of defence-related technologies. During the Cold War, Europe and the U. S. worked together to restrict the transfer of military technology to communist countries. But since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the cooperation has lapsed^㉗. If the Cox report results in tighter export controls, an industry observer says: “American business will be banging^㉘ on the White House door because they cannot compete with the EU in the China market.”

U. S. exports of supercomputers to China are also likely to face increased scrutiny^㉙ due to

㉔ anachronism: 时间错误, 不合时代

㉕ lose out: (比赛) 败给, 输掉

㉖ squeeze: 压力

㉗ lapse: 终止

㉘ bang: 猛敲, 砰砰敲

㉙ scrutiny: 仔细检查, 调查

concerns the computers could be used in military-modernization programmes. Republicans in Congress claim Chinese military researchers often end up using supercomputer technology exported for use in meteorology^{③①} or the banking industry. In late 1997, Congress passed legislation requiring the government to prove that supercomputer technology exported to China was being used for its stated purpose. Post-shipment verification^{③②}, however, remains difficult. Some members of Congress are now looking into the idea of classifying certain high-performance computers as munitions for export purposes. Products that fall into this category—primarily defence technologies—face strict export controls.

Some security analysts doubt tighter export restrictions would prevent China from gaining access to new technologies. Gill at the Brookings Institution says clamping down^{③③} on exports is only half the solution. To ensure technologies aren't used in fields for which they weren't intended, he says, the U. S. must work directly with the Chinese to identify where exports end up and how they are used. "Cutting off trade simply will not inhibit China's modernization plans," Gill says.

Regardless of how effective such controls would be, they wouldn't please Beijing. For years, the Chinese leadership has been pushing Washington to remove sanctions imposed in 1989 as well as restrictions on the export of certain avionics^{③④}, sonar^{③⑤}, radar and jet-engine technol-

③① meteorology: 气象学

③② verification: 证实, 证明

③③ clamp down: 施加压力, 钳制

③④ avionics: 航空电子系统

③⑤ sonar: 超声波定位仪

ogy.

Ironically, military relations between the countries are robust, with scores of personnel from both sides engaging in an unprecedented number of exchanges. But there remain limitations, and the Cox report will likely accentuate^⑤ the differences. "From the Chinese perspective, continued U.S. sanctions on military equipment will continue to curb^⑥ their cooperation with Washington," says David Shambaugh, a China specialist at George Washington University in Washington.

All told, the Cox report is bad news for a relationship already under strain. On the economic front, U. S. companies will probably see an erosion of sales of hi-tech goods in China. But perhaps more gravely, the Cox report is likely to strengthen perceptions in Beijing that the U. S. views China as a threat. And that could result in a policy re-orientation in both capitals. "Unlike the 1980s," says Shambaugh, "there exists very little strategic glue in the U. S.-China relationship." The Cox report, no doubt, will make that very case.

[Slected from Far Eastern Economic Review,
February 25, 1999, written by Shawn W. Crispin]

⑤accentuate: 强调,
着重指出

⑥curb: 抑制, 阻碍

Meet the Next King

在位 47 年并深受人民爱戴的约旦国王侯赛因去世前意外地宣布阿卜杜拉为下任国王，这位侯赛因国王数易其意之后选定的王位继承人能否身孚众望，为中东和平进程作出贡献呢？

The end of an era, if that is what it was, came quietly. When King Hussein, ruler of Jordan for 47 years, left abruptly^① for emergency cancer treatment in the U. S. last week, there was a brief royal decree^②, a kissing of cheeks and an elegiac^③ command on behalf of his people. "Achieve for them," the 63-year-old monarch told his newly anointed^④ successor, Crown Prince Abdullah, 37, "a dignified life."

Yet those simple acts set off a seismic^⑤ shock. Just as upsetting as the prospect of Hussein's nearing death was the stunning^⑥ change in Jordan's royal succession. His demise^⑦ under any circumstances would leave the world wondering how much more dangerous the Middle East might become without his moderation. But now his successor will not be the dutiful^⑧, seasoned Hassan, Hussein's 51-year-old brother, who has been Jordan's king-in-waiting for nearly 34 years. In the span of a few hours last week, Hussein sent Hassan an angry dismissal^⑨, accusing him of power grabbing, and installed his untested eldest son as heir to the Hashemite throne.

①abruptly: 突然地

②decree: 法令, 政令

③elegiac: 哀歌体的, 挽歌的

④anointed: 涂油使之神圣化

⑤seismic: 地震般的

⑥stunning: 足以使人晕倒的

⑦demise: 君权的转移或授予, 让位, 禅让

⑧dutiful: 尽职的

⑨dismissal: 免职

Although Hassan was plainly galled^⑩ by his brother's decision, he quickly affirmed^⑪ his loyalty to the new heir. Abdullah, designated regent^⑫ while his father struggles to overcome non-Hodgkin's lymphoma^⑬, pledged to Hussein to "follow in your footsteps." U. S. officials privately called him "a chip off the old block," and Israel reacted without alarm. Many analysts regard the leadership turmoil^⑭ in Jordan as less worrisome than that in other Arab states, where aging Kings and Presidents may soon give way to unfamiliar new rulers. Jordan's transition, says Anthony Cordesman, a Washington-based Middle East scholar, is only "the first step in a long process that will be going on for the next decade and will affect peace, energy and stability in the region."

Abdullah has yet to express his views, but friends say he supports the peace with Israel and opposes Iraq's Saddam Hussein. The son of Briton Toni Gardiner, the second of Hussein's four wives, he received an extensive education at Sandhurst and Oxford and attended Georgetown University in the U. S. He heads the army's élite Special Forces, and his popularity in the Bedouin-based force is a strong point. He may have an advantage in dealing with the country's Palestinians^⑮; his wife hails^⑯ from the West Bank. But Abdullah has no political or government experience. And strict Muslims are unhappy with his Western ways—he speaks better Eng-

⑩ gall: 伤害…感情;惹…生气;激怒

⑪ affirm: 宣誓

⑫ regent: 摄政者

⑬ lymphoma: 〈医〉淋巴瘤

⑭ turmoil: 混乱;骚乱, 动乱

⑮ Palestinian: 巴勒斯坦人

⑯ hail: 来自;出生于

lish than Arabic.

A potent combination of Hassan's missteps^{①⑦} and Hussein's obsession^{①⑧} with his legacy put Abdullah in charge. In 1992, as the King recuperated^{①⑨} from his first bout with cancer, he returned home ready to abdicate. Buoyed^{②①} by a hero's welcome and upset by a slanderous^{②②} whispering campaign against his American-born wife Queen Noor, for which he held Hassan's court responsible, he changed his mind.

Family tensions rose further over Hussein's insistence that one of his sons be designated to succeed Hassan. He was furious^{②③} when Hassan said the matter should wait until he became King, leaving the door open to name his son Rashid. Just before Hussein was found to have cancer again last year, the King signaled that he favored Hamzah, 18, the eldest son of Queen Noor, to become second in line.

Then, undergoing treatment in the U. S. for the past six months, Hussein was stung by reports of intrigue and ambition back home. Princess Sarvath, Hassan's wife, was moving furniture around the palace. The King also seemed to blame her, palace sources say, for more rumors^{②④} smearing^{②⑤} Noor, like the tale that Noor was a Jew, even a relative of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "When my fever was getting high," Hussein later said, "some people thought it was their chance."

The final straw was what Hussein called Hassan's meddling^{②⑥} in the Jordanian armed

①⑦misstep: 失足

①⑧obsession: 成见

①⑨recuperated: 恢复;
复原

②①buoy: 支撑, 鼓励

②②slanderous: 诽谤
的, 诋毁的, 中伤
的

②③furious: 狂怒的,
暴怒的

②④rumor: 谣言

②⑤smear: 中伤

②⑥meddle: 干预,
干涉

forces. In his dismissal letter, he disclosed that his brother had moved to fire Jordan's Chief of Staff on false corruption charges related to the construction of an opulent^⑥ new home. Palace sources say that Hussein saw the move, at worst, as the beginning of a coup attempt.

⑥ opulent: 过分华丽的

The King told almost no one that he had returned home intending to replace his brother. His deteriorating^⑦ health, says a friend, tipped the job to Abdullah over the unseasoned Hamzah, who might have been seen as his American mother's puppet^⑧. When Hussein broadcast hints of a change two weeks ago, Hassan dashed off a letter pleading his case, adding "I submit to your will." The King responded by sending the army chief to tell his brother he was no longer destined for the throne.

⑦ deteriorate: 使恶化

⑧ puppet: 傀儡, 为他人所控制的人

As unprepared as they were for life after Hussein, many Jordanians took comfort watching the new crown prince going about his first official duties. As he stood in Raghadan Palace, shaking hands with thousands of subjects—army officers and Bedouin chiefs, imams and Palestinian businessmen—Jordanians took note of the same strong yet polite way with people that was the magic of his father.

[Selected from Time, February 8, 1999,
written by Scott Macleod Amman]

Dolly's False Legacy

克隆羊的出现曾在世界范围内引起轩然大波,面对人们对克隆技术会用于人类的恐慌,克隆技术的研究者则认为这种想法完全是杞人忧天。克隆技术真会用于人类吗?且听听研究者的金玉之言。

The announcement in February 1997 of the birth of a sheep named Dolly, an exact genetic replica^① of its mother, sparked a worldwide debate over the moral and medical implications of cloning. Several U. S. states and European countries have banned the cloning of human beings, yet South Korean scientists claimed in December that they had already taken the first step. In the following essay for TIME, embryologist^② Wilmut, who led the team that brought Dolly to life at Scotland's Roslin Institute, explains why he believes the debate over cloning people has largely missed the point.

Overlooked^③ in the arguments about the morality of artificially reproducing life is the fact that, at present, cloning is a very inefficient procedure. The incidence of death among fetuses^④ and offspring^⑤ produced by cloning is much higher than it is through natural reproduction—roughly 10 times as high as normal before birth and three times as high after birth in our studies at Roslin. Distressing^⑥ enough for those working with animals, these failure rates surely render unthinkable

① replica:复制品

② embryologist:胚胎学家

③ overlook:忽略;俯视;假装不见;宽容

④ fetus:胎,胎儿

⑤ offspring:子孙,后裔

⑥ distressing:悲伤的,使痛苦的,使烦恼的

able the notion^⑦ of applying such treatment to humans.

⑦ notion: 想法

Even if the technique were perfected, however, we must ask ourselves what practical value whole-being cloning might have. What exactly would be the difference between a “cloned” baby and a child born naturally—and why would we want one?

The cloned child would be a genetically identical twin of the original, and thus physically very similar—far more similar than a natural parent and child. Human personality, however, emerges from both the effects of the genes we inherit (nature) and environmental factors (nurture^⑧). The two clones would develop distinct personalities, just as twins develop unique identities. And because the copy would often be born in a different family, cloned twins would be less alike in personality than natural identical twins.

⑧ nurture: 教养, 培育

Why “copy” people in the first place^⑨? Couples unable to have children might choose to have a copy of one of them rather than accept the intrusion of genes^⑩ from a donor^⑪. My wife and I have two children of our own and an adopted child, but I find it helpful to consider what might have happened in my own marriage if a copy of me had been made to overcome infertility^⑫. My wife and I met in high school. How would she react to a physical copy of the young man she fell in love with? How would any of us find living with ourselves? Surely the older clone—I, in this case—would believe that he understood

⑨ in the first place: 首先

⑩ genes: (遗传) 因子, (遗传) 基因

⑪ donor: 捐赠者, 赠予者

⑫ infertility: 不孕