英美报刊阅读精选

(二)

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西北工业大学出版社
1999年9月　西安

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(陕)新登字 009 号

【内容简介】 本书为《英美报刊阅读精选》第二册。文章选自英美各大报刊,内容涉猎广泛,可使读者全面了解英美社会和文化。报刊阅读知识及设计精巧的练习可提高读者的报刊阅读能力及英语阅读理解能力。本书可供大学英语四、六级应考生,英语专业学生及英语爱好者使用。

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英美报刊阅读精选(二)/ 常晓梅主编 . —西安:西北工业大学出版社,1999.9
ISBN 7-5612-1151-1

Ⅰ. 英 ... Ⅱ. 常 ... Ⅲ. 英语-语言读物 Ⅳ. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (1999) 第 46543 号

*

西北工业大学出版社出版发行
(邮编: 710072 西安市友谊西路 127 号 电话: 8491147)
全国各地新华书店经销
西北工业大学出版社印刷厂印装

*

开本: 850 毫米×1 168 毫米 1/ 32 印张: 6.1875 字数: 150 千字
1999 年 9 月第 1 版 1999 年 9 月第 1 次印刷
印数:1～5 000 册 定价:9.00 元

购买本社出版的图书,如有缺页、错页的,本社发行部负责调换。

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编者的话

新闻英语从某种意上来说是现代英语。现代英语的发展趋势和主要特点在新闻英语中得到最充分的体现,例如,其语言变化日新月异,新的词语层出不穷。越来越多的志士同仁意识到要学习国外先进的科技知识和先进的管理技术,了解国际时事政治,让中国走向世界。因此,学好新闻英语,阅读英语报刊是必不可少和十分重要的。对于千千万万渴望提高自己英语水平,扩大文化背景知识的英语爱好者来说,只阅读一些英美文学经典著作是无法掌握现代英语的。可见,新闻英语的应用价值之大是不言而喻的。鉴于此,编写一本集实用性,知识性,学术性于一体的新闻英语是件十分必要和很有意义的事情。

目前,国内有关英美报刊阅读的书籍寥寥无几,且内容基本上是以新闻事件为主线。而本书编撰的立足点在于,使其内容丰富,语言新颖,体裁多样,趣味性强,洋溢着鲜明的时代气息。

本书从 1997 年以来英美最具影响力,权威性的刊物上撷取精彩文章,内容涉及广泛,包括政治、经济、历史、宗教、文化、教育、卫生、人物专访等。在编排上突出以专题为核心的编排方式。

本书分八个单元,每个单元共三篇文章,每册共计二十四篇。每个单元包含一篇‘硬新闻”(hard news)及两篇特写或评论、社论文章。每篇文章后附词汇表、难点注释、背景知识介绍及练习题、讨论题,使读者进一步理解和掌握文章的主要信息。除此而外,作者还对新闻英语的语言特点、标题语言特点、编排方式、新闻体裁分类等予以简介和例证。

在编写此书过程中,编者参考了一些国内外出版的主要报刊与新书,从中受益匪浅。编者谨此向有关作者表示诚挚的谢意。

本书的读者对象是大学英语四、六级考生、英语专业学生及广大英语爱好者。

由于编者水平有限,书中错误难免,恳请读者不吝斧正。

编　者

1999 年 1 月 25 日

Unit 1

Text A

Iraq Damages More Severe Than Reported, Pentagon Says

By Steven Lee Myers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 — Almost three weeks after the bombing stopped, the Pentagon's senior commanders said today that the American and British raids on Iraq had caused more damage than initially reported.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff[1], Gen. Henry H. Shelton, and the commander of American forces in the Persian Gulf, Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, described President Saddam Hussein as isolated and desperate, and less able to build missiles.

The generals said they based their assessments on intelligence information beyond aerial or satellite photographs of the damage done in four nights of air and missile strikes. But they offered little detail and even less evidence to support their conclusions, which, they conceded, were based on incomplete and, in some cases, unverifiable reports.

General Shelton, senior military adviser to President Clinton

and Defense Secretary William S . Cohen, said for the first time today that the raids had killed " several key individuals " in the Iraqi hierarchy . He declined to elaborate .

He also said unconfirmed intelligence reports suggested that the raids had killed 600 to 1, 600 members of the Republican Guard, troops that Mr . Hussein uses for internal control . Although the guard has 30, 000 troops, General Shelton said, the casualties would undercut Mr . Hussein .

" He lost a lot, " General Shelton said at a meeting with reporters here .

In separate briefings, the generals cited reports of summer executions in Iraq as signs that Mr . Hussein's control had been shaken .

The updated and upbeat assessments were issued in the wake of Iraq's renewed defiance of the United Nations and the American and British enforcement of no-flight zones over much of Iraq territory .

Four times in two weeks Iraqi warplanes or antiaircraft have challenged American or British planes, proving that four nights of strikes had not stopped Mr . Hussein from being an irritant, at least, to the Clinton Administration .

The President ' s national security adviser, Samuel R . Berger, said in an interview today that Mr . Hussein was flailing, having counted on but not receiving support from the Arab world . He cited Mr . Hussein's attacks on Arab leaders in a speech on Tuesday and the equally pointed reaction from those leaders, including President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt .

" The military purpose of the strike was not to bring down

his Government," Mr . Berger said ." But I think it has weakened it, politically as well as militarily ."

At the Pentagon, General Zinni said new information showed that the attacks had caused far more severe damage than first thought . He and others initially estimated that Iraq's missile development had been set back one year . Today he said that it might be two years .

Pointing to sketchy new reports on damage in the buildings struck, he said that" unique pieces of equipment "used in making missiles like metal presses and test stands had been destroyed . Iraq, General Zinni added, may not have been able to protect as much equipment as he and other commanders had expected .

" As we look deeper and we have more detail reports on our intelligence and other means that verify this, we're seeing that the effectiveness was even greater than we first thought, "General Zinni said .

The two generals also cited unconfirmed reports that suggested dissent inside Iraq, if not rebellion . That suggested, they said, an erosion of Mr . Hussein's control . They said Mr . Hussein had reportedly ordered the executions of army officers and civilians in the south, where Shiite Muslims[2] have long chafed under Mr . Hussein's power .

" We've seen a number of unusual things internally that I think clearly demonstrate that he was shaken and the regime was shaken, "General Zinni said ." We have seen executions in the south . One division, in particular, lost its commander and several others ."

Despite those signs there have been no reports of significant

dissent since the bombing . Nor have there been uprisings on the level of those after Mr . Hussein's rout in the gulf war . Back then Mr . Hussein, though reeling, crushed rebellions by Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south . The United States and its allies created the no-flight zones afterward to help protect the ethnic populations in those regions .

"It would be wrong to assume the house of cards is about to crumble," an intelligence official said today .

The United States also increased its gulf forces for the first time since the raids . General Zinni announced that eight additional F - 16 fighters[3] would go to the region . The jets, along with four aerial tankers, will join 182 jets there, mostly in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and on the carrier Car Vinson . Britain announced that the carrier Invincible would sail on Saturday for the gulf .

WORDS

1 . raid [reid] *v* .

make a sudden surprise attack **突然袭击**

2 . initially [i ni li] *adj* .

at the beginning; at first **最初,首先,开头**

3 . unverifiable [n verifai bl] *adj* .

that can not be verifies **不可证实;不可核实的**

4 . hierarchy [hai r ki] *n* .

system with grades of authority or status from the lowest **等级制度**

5 . elaborate [i l b r t] *adj* .

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very detailed and complicated; carefully prepared and finished **详尽而复杂的;精心制作的**

6 . undercut [nd k t] *v* .

weaken; cripple **削弱;暗中破坏**

7 . execution [eksi kju n] *n* .

performance of a piece of work, plan, design, duty, etc . **执行;实行;履行;完成**

8 . defiance [di fai ns] *n* .

refusal to give way to authority or opposition **藐视;蔑视**

9 . irritant [irit nt] *n* .

thing that annoys **令人烦恼的事物**

10 . flail [fleil] *v* .

wave or swing about wildly **乱摇;乱摆**

11 . erosion [i r u n] *n* .

process of being destroyed **削弱;减少;损害**

12 . chafe [t eif] (at/ under) *v* .

become irritated or impatient **恼怒或不耐烦**

13 . reel [ri l] *v* .

(of the mind or head) be or become dizzy or confused; be in a whirl **眩晕;迷乱;发昏**

14 . crumble [kr mbl] *v* .

gradually deteriorate or come to an end **渐渐走向垮掉;走向末路**

NOTES

1 . the Joint Chiefs of Staff **参谋长联席会议**

It is a military advisory group to the president of the United States and

the secretary of defense. The Joint Chiefs include the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff, and the Navy's chief of naval operations, and the commandant of the Marine Corps.

2. Shiite Muslims **穆斯林什叶派**

It is the only surviving major sectarian movement in Islam. Today Shiites are in the majority in Iran, Syria, Lebanon, India, Pakistan, and parts of central Asia. Their total number exceeds 165 million. In recent years several Shiite leaders, including the Iranian political leader the Ayatollah Khomeini, advocated rapprochement and solidarity with Sunnite Islam.

3. F - 16 fighter F - 16 **战斗机**

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

damage isolated concede desperate elaborate
count on chafing reeled crumble erosion

1. Three years later, their marriage began to _____.
2. His mind _____ when he heard the bad news.
3. The storm did a lot of _____ to crops.
4. I was forced to _____ that she might be right.
5. The prisoners grew more _____.
6. She led an _____ existence after her husband died.
7. You understand the situation; I needn't _____ further.
8. Don't _____ a salary increase this year.
9. The passengers sat _____ at the long delay.
10. The President was facing a very significant _____ of public support.

II. Answer the following questions according to what you have

read:

1 . What was initially reported on the American and British raids ?

2 . What were the assessments based on according to Henry H . Shelton and Anthony C . Zinni ?

3 . Were the four nights of strikes devastating to Saddam Hussein ?

4 . What did dissent inside Iraq show according to the two generals ?

Text B

Iraq Moves to Oust U .S . and British Aid Teams

By Barbara Crossette

UNITED NATIONS, Jan .4 — Iraq took its first step today toward expelling American and British relief workers, saying their visas would not be renewed because their safety could not be guaranteed in the face of public anger over air strikes last month .

In an unsigned diplomatic note delivered to the United Nation's Office that coordinates the Iraq " oil for food " program here, the Iraqis repeated their charges, so far not proved and denied in Washington and London, that the American and British attacks had targeted" schools, universities, hospitals, grain depots, means of communication and factories ."

" The sense of anger that besets 22 million Iraqis may find expression in unfriendliness, " the letter said .

But United Nations officials, who say they are studying the note, delivered by Iraq's representative - designate, Saeed H . Hassan, also said the Iraqis have inexplicably not included all Americans in their ban . Three will apparently be allowed to remain in Baghdad .

Four British experts working on contrast to European countries doing repair and development work for the United Nations

may also remain .

At the same time Iraqis seem to have used the decision to expel British and American citizens in order to move 10 relief officials, including demining experts, out of Kurdish areas in the north, where standards of living have been improving rapidly . Among the most successful United Nations-run programs in the Kurdish regions was a poultry industry, which supplied Baghdad with meat and eggs . It was run by an American agriculture expert .

Under the "oil for food" program, Iraq is permitted to sell up to $5 .2 billion in oil every six months to pay for basic goods like food and medicine . The program provides Iraqi families with monthly rations of items like milk, cooking oil and beans . Recently it has also paid for the purchase of computers and repairs energy-producing dams and generators .

At the State Department, the spokesman, James P . Rubin, said, "Any Iraqi effort to selectively exclude some nationalities from the staff of the U .N . humanitarian program would contravene the U .N .'s worldwide policy of nondiscrimination ."

Mr . Rubin noted that United Nations legal officials were working on a response . He added that Iraqis had told United Nations officials that the denial of visas might be "temporary" and that the numbers involved were very small .

In Baghdad today, the Government continued its verbal assaults on Arab leaders who have accused President Saddam Hussein of provoding the air attacks by refusing to cooperate with weapons inspectors, who are now all out of the country . Sharp criticisms, particularly from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

and also from the Saudi leadership, may have unnerved Mr. Hussein, some diplomats say.

In Cairo, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said there was“a regrettable campaign in the Iraqi press”against Mr. Mubarak.

The Iraqi leadership has appeared slightly off balance in trying to build public opinion in its favor since the air strikes last month. Because the missile and bomb attacks were so precisely targeted, however, there seem to have been few civilian casualties, relief workers and other foreigners in Baghdad say. This has robbed the Government of the opportunity to play on world opinion.

Iraq has focused instead on condemning continued American and British patrolling of“no flight”zones in the Kurdish north and in the southern part of the country populated by Shiite Muslims who have rebelled against Baghdad in the past.

In its diplomatic note to the United Nations today, the Iraqi Government said the war“was still under way by virtue of the maintenance of the no-flight zones imposed by force of arms and without the authorization of the Security Council.”

WORDS

1. visa [viz] *n*.

stamp or mark put on a passport by officials of a foreign country to show that the holder may enter(**护照的**)**签证**

2. coordinate [k u din t] *v*.

cause to function together efficiently **协调;协同**

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