

Unit 1

International Relations



Guided Listening

Section A

Warming Up

Directions: Listen to the following news leads once and supply the missing information.

1. Britain says Turkey's **dispute with** Cyprus should not hold up the opening of negotiations next month on Turkey's eventual membership in the European Union.
2. The Bush Administration said Monday that progress is being made toward **normal relations** with Libya, though it discouraged talk of an imminent breakthrough.
3. Russia has **deported** a planeload of Georgians it accused of being illegal migrants, and continued a crackdown on Georgian-owned businesses.
4. The leaders of Brazil, India and South Africa have called for greater **unity** between the world's developing countries.
5. The United States has **expressed gratitude** to Syria for preventing an attack on the U.S. **embassy** in Damascus in which three gunmen were killed and a fourth man was captured.
6. Chadian President Idriss Derby **cut** diplomatic **ties** with Sudan Friday after what he said was a "Sudanese-backed rebel attack" on Chad's capital N'djamena. Mr. Derby also has threatened to **expel** 200,000 refugees in Chad.
7. Chad and Sudan have **opened** their common border and **reestablished** diplomatic relations only a few months after the two countries nearly **went to war** over alleged Sudanese support for Chadian rebels.
8. Relations between India and Pakistan have **cooled** with a mutual **expulsion** of diplomats. Officials in India said they'd given a Pakistani diplomat 48 hours to leave the country after Pakistan ordered the **expulsion** of an Indian diplomat.
9. Lebanon's Prime Minister Fuad Siniora has **challenged** Syria to establish diplomatic relations and **demarcate their border**.
10. Afghan President Hamid Karzai says he is preparing a formal request to President Bush for a long-term security **partnership** that would include a permanent U.S. military presence.



Section B

Micro Listening

Tapescript



1. North Korea says it wants a relationship of trust and mutual respect with the United States.
2. And Brazil has granted asylum to deposed Ecuadorian President Lucio Gutiérrez who has taken refuge in the Brazilian embassy since his ouster Wednesday.
3. The United States government has frozen the assets of over 150 individuals and institutions from Zimbabwe.
4. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has again expressed regret to Italy over the accidental killing of an Italian intelligence agent in Iraq.
5. Diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Mexico have worsened sharply in a row over comments by the Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez about the Mexican leader Vicente Fox.

Background Notes



- **Lucio Gutiérrez**—The President of Ecuador from January 15, 2003 to April 20, 2005. On April 15, 2005, amid a growing political crisis and protests in the city of Quito against the government, President Gutiérrez declared a state of emergency in Quito and revoked the newly appointed Supreme Court of Justice. On April 20, 2005, following a week of massive manifestations demanding their renouncement, the Congress of Ecuador voted to remove him from office. Gutiérrez left the Presidential Palace on a helicopter and finally sought political asylum in the house of the Brazilian Ambassador.
- **Hugo Chavez**—The president of Venezuela from 1998 till now. Since taking office he has instituted sweeping reforms that have resulted in widely divided opinions of his presidency: Supporters see him as a populist leader and champion of the poor, while critics call him anti-business and neo-fascist. He has shunned U.S. and European support and focused on South American and Third World solidarity. He is also an economic and political supporter of Fidel Castro and a sharp-tongued critic of George W. Bush.
- **The row between Fox and Chavez**—The escalating row stems from a summit of the Americas in Argentina. President Fox was strongly urging Latin American countries to back a U.S.-proposed regional trade agreement. At the time, President Chavez called him a puppy of the American administration. The Mexican government responded by ordering its ambassador to Venezuela to return to Mexico City. President Fox said that he could not allow people to offend his country.



Key

Directions: *In this section, you will hear five statements once only. Listen carefully and decide which of the four suggested answers marked A, B, C and D is the closest in meaning to what you have just heard.*

1. **A. North Korea wants an improved relationship with the U.S.**
B. The U.S.-North Korea relationship is one of trust.
C. North Korea says its relationship with the U.S. is based on mutual respect.
D. North Korea is optimistic about its future relationship with the U.S.

2. A. Ecuador's president has made an asylum offer.
B. Mr. Gutiérrez sought protection in the Ecuadorian embassy.
C. Lucio Gutiérrez has been ousted.
D. The Brazilian embassy has taken in some refugees.

3. A. The estates of 150 U.S. citizens were frozen.
B. Some Zimbabwean institutions will be unable to access their property in the States.
C. 150 U.S. institutions and individuals are barred from entering Zimbabwe.
D. The U.S. has frozen all assets of the Zimbabwean government.

4. A. An Italian special agent was killed in the U.S.
B. Condoleezza Rice has condemned the killing.
C. Italy has expressed regret over the killing.
D. The U.S. described the killing as an accident.

5. A. Relations between Mexico and Venezuela have been worsening five years in a row.
B. Vicente Fox made some critical remarks about bilateral relations.
C. Venezuela and Mexico are involved in a dispute over some remarks.
D. Hugo Chavez is critical of Mexico's foreign policy.

Section C
Macro Listening



Item 1

Tapescript

Egypt has announced it will reduce its diplomatic staff in Iraq following the killing of its top envoy in Baghdad Ehad al-Sherif. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry called it a security measure. But



Iraq's Foreign Ministry appealed to Arab and Islamic countries not to be swayed by the kidnapping and killing of Mr. Sherif, which it said was meant to deter them from upgrading their diplomatic missions in Iraq.

Key

Directions: Listen to the following news recording twice and pair up a number in List I with a letter in List II. Write only one letter for each answer.

I

- 1. Ehad al-Sherif
- 2. Iraq's Foreign Ministry
- 3. Egypt
- 4. Egypt's Foreign Ministry

II

- A. defended its decision
- B. condemned the killing
- C. meant to deter terrorism
- D. upgraded its diplomatic missions in Iraq
- E. plans to withdraw some of its diplomatic staff
- F. urged the Arab and Islamic countries to maintain their diplomatic missions
- G. vowed to stop the kidnapping and killing
- H. was killed in Baghdad

1 — (H) 2 — (F) 3 — (E) 4 — (A)

Item 2

Tapescript

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf says Pakistan and India are both optimistic about resolving their dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, which both countries claim. In an exclusive interview with the Associated Press, General Musharraf says he hopes to settle the issue with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh while they're both in power. Mr. Singh and General Musharraf are expected to try to move their peace dialogue forward when they meet next week in New York at the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

Background Notes

■ **Associated Press**—Abbreviated to AP, it is an American news agency and also the world's largest news organization. It is a cooperative owned by its contributing newspapers and broadcast stations in the United States, who both contribute stories to it and use material written by its staffers. Many newspapers and broadcasters outside the United States are AP subscribers—that is, they pay a fee to use AP material but are not members of the cooperative.

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■ **Kashmir**—Region of the northwestern Indian subcontinent bounded by China, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. India and Pakistan have disputed over the region since India's partition in 1947. Pakistan occupies the northern and western portions, and India administers the largest area in the south and southeast, organized as the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key

Task 1

Directions: Listen to the following news recording once and decide whether the statements listed below are TRUE or FALSE. Write T for TRUE and F for FALSE.

1. (F) Mr. Singh had an exclusive interview with the Associated Press.
2. (F) Both countries claim they are optimistic about settling their border dispute.
3. (T) The region of Kashmir is located near the Himalayan Mountains.
4. (F) Mr. Singh has voiced his optimism about solving the problem within his term.
5. (T) Both India and Pakistan claim sovereignty over the region of Kashmir.

Task 2

Directions: Listen to the news recording again and complete the following statements. Write NO MORE THAN THREE words for each answer.

1. **Pakistani** President Pervez Musharraf says he hopes to **settle the issue** with Indian **Prime Minister** Manmohan Singh while they're both **in power**.
2. The two leaders are expected to **move forward** their peace dialogue when they **meet** next week in New York.

Item 3

Tapescript

North Korea is demanding that Tokyo immediately lift sanctions imposed on Pyongyang in response to its test-launch of missiles. A North Korean envoy to Japan says his country will retaliate with stronger measures if the sanctions are not lifted. After North Korea test-fired seven missiles, Tokyo barred a North Korean ferry from Japanese ports for six months and banned North Korean officials from entering the country. South Korea today rejected Pyongyang's request for military talks, saying they were inappropriate at this time. But it said ministerial talks will go ahead as scheduled next week.

**Key**

Directions: Listen to the following news recording twice and answer the questions below briefly.

1. What has Tokyo imposed on North Korea?

Sanctions.

2. Why did Tokyo take such an action?

Because North Korea test-launched missiles.

3. What does North Korea say it will do?

It will retaliate with stronger measures.

4. How many missiles were fired?

Seven.

5. What did Japan ban North Korean officials from doing?

Entering Japan.

6. What has South Korea rejected today?

North Korea's demand for military talks.

7. What is scheduled for next week?

Ministerial talks between the two Koreas.

Section D**Additional Listening****Item 1****Tapescript**

The Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has paid a brief visit to a controversial Tokyo war shrine, prompting sharp protests from two of Japan's neighbors. It's Mr. Koizumi's fifth visit to the Yasukuni Shrine since he took office in 2001. Critics see such visits as tantamount to condoning atrocities committed by Japanese troops during the Second World War. China has described it as a grave provocation to the people of China, and South Korea has issued a formal protest. Bae Yong-Han is a spokesman for the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

"We feel disappointments and anger at Prime Minister Koizumi's repeat(ed) visit to Yasukuni Shrine, which glorifies the past history of invasion despite the wishes of our government."

Background Notes

■ **Junichiro Koizumi**—Prime Minister of Japan (2001–2006). Since winning leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 2001, he has become known as an advocate of reform,

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focusing on Japan's government debt and the privatization of its postal service. In 2005, he led the LDP to win one of the largest parliamentary majorities in modern Japanese history. Koizumi is most noted for his controversial visits to the Yasukuni Shrine.

■ **Yasukuni Shrine**—Yasukuni Shrine (literally “peaceful nation shrine”) is a controversial Shinto shrine located in Tokyo, dedicated to the spirits of soldiers who died fighting on behalf of the Japanese emperor. As of October 2004, its *Book of Souls* lists the names of 2,466,532 Japanese and former colonial soldiers killed in war. The Yasukuni Shrine since 1978 also honors a total of 1,068 convicted Japanese war criminals, including 14 executed Class A war criminals.

Key

Directions: Listen to the following news recording twice and complete the table with the information you have just heard. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE** words for each answer.

Koizumi's (1) Fifth Visit to the Yasukuni Shrine	
Consequence of the visit to the war shrine in (2) Tokyo	(3) Sharp protests from two of Japan's neighbors were (4) prompted .
Critics' comment	Such visits are equal to (5) condoning atrocities committed by Japanese troops.
China's Reaction	China views the visit as a (6) grave provocation .
South Korea's Reaction	South Korea has (7) issued a formal protest, saying Koizumi's visit (8) glorifies the past history of invasion (9) despite the wishes of the Korean government.

Item 2

Tapescript

The State Department says Venezuelan police failed to protect the U.S. ambassador there as demonstrators threw eggs and food at his car. Spokesman Sean McCormack said Venezuela's ambassador to the U.S. was summoned to the State Department to hear the U.S. complaint. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Caracas said groups of motorcyclists attacked the car carrying Ambassador William Brownfield. He said Venezuelan police escorts did nothing to stop the demonstrators who pounded on the car and chased it for miles. The embassy spokesman said the attack appeared to have been organized by the Caracas Mayor's Office. A spokesman for the mayor denied that charge. The U.S. has been at odds with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for several years.



Key

Task 1

Directions: Listen to the following news recording once and choose the right answer to each question.

1. What happened in Caracas?
 - A. The U.S. embassy was stormed.
 - B. The U.S. ambassador was attacked.**
 - C. Demonstrators threw eggs and food at the U.S. embassy.
 - D. Demonstrators threw eggs and food at the Venezuelan police.
2. What is said about the U.S.-Venezuelan relationship?
 - A. The U.S. will reduce its diplomatic staff in Caracas.
 - B. The U.S. will soon issue an official protest.
 - C. The Caracas Mayor's Office soon offered an apology.
 - D. Hugo Chavez and President Bush do not see eye to eye with each other.**

Task 2

Directions: Listen to the news recording again and decide whether the statements listed below are TRUE or FALSE. Write T for TRUE and F for FALSE.

1. (F) The U.S. recalled its ambassador to Venezuela.
2. (F) Sean McCormack is the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela.
3. (F) A group of motorists threw eggs and food at the car.
4. (T) Demonstrators chased the car for miles.
5. (T) A U.S. embassy spokesman accused the Caracas Mayor's Office of organizing the attack.
6. (F) President Chavez denied the U.S. charges.

Item 3

Tapescript

Russia has expressed regret for the killing of a Japanese fisherman today when a patrol vessel fired a warning shot at a fishing boat near the disputed Kuril Islands. But Russia's Foreign Ministry says in a statement that Japan is at fault for the incident because it does not curb Japanese fishing in Russian waters. Japan has launched a strong protest as we hear from VOA's Steve Herman in Tokyo.

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“A diplomatic row broke out between Japan and Russia on Wednesday following the shooting death of a Japanese fisherman in waters claimed by both countries. The incident took place near the island chain the Russians call the Kurils and the Japanese call the Northern Territories. The islands were seized from Japan by the Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II and have been under Russian control ever since, but Japan still claims them. Foreign Minister Taro Aso after summoning Russia’s deputy ambassador told reporters in Tokyo that the killing of the Japanese fisherman was an outrageous act. Steve Herman, VOA News, Tokyo.”

Background Note



■ **Kuril Islands dispute**—The Kuril Islands dispute is a dispute between Japan and Russia over sovereignty over the southernmost Kuril Islands. The disputed islands are currently under Russian administration as part of the Sakhalin Oblast, but are also claimed by Japan, which refers to them as the Northern Territories. The islands are renowned for their fogginess, but are rich in seaweed and marine life, such as fish and sea otters. Today, roughly 30,000 people inhabit the Kuril Islands. The islands have strategic and economic value, in terms of fisheries and also mineral deposits.

Key



Directions: Listen to the following news recording three times and answer the questions below in detail.

1. What has Russia expressed regret for?

It has expressed regret for the killing of a Japanese fisherman today.

2. What led to the death of the fisherman?

A Russian patrol vessel fired a warning shot at the fishing boat near the disputed Kuril Islands.

3. What blame did Russia put on Japan?

Japan does not curb Japanese fishing in Russian waters.

4. How did Russia acquire the disputed territories?

The islands were seized from Japan by the Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II.

5. What did the Japanese Foreign Minister do in response to the incident?

He summoned Russia’s deputy ambassador and told reporters in Tokyo that the killing was an outrageous act.

Section E

Listening Strategy

News Elements and Vocabulary Expansion

News reports in the current unit normally concern one of the following topics:

- Disputes and hostilities

- Imposition or lifting of sanctions/embargoes
- Worsened or improved diplomatic relations

To facilitate comprehension, a good command of key words and expressions such as *dispute*, *breakthrough*, *call for*, *recall*, *ban*, *hostile*, *strategic*, *partnership*, *mutual*, *resolve*, *settle/settlement*, *sanction*, *embargo*, *impose*, *lift*, *retaliate/retaliation*, to name just a few, is a must. The general pattern of such reports and the news elements usually involved are listed in Table I. For more related words and expressions, please refer to Table II, which presents the less frequent and yet equally important words in alphabetic order.

Table I

Event	Relations between two countries improved/worsened
Source	Source of information (organization or person)
Countries Involved	Countries involved in the event
Cause	Events leading up to the current diplomatic status
Further Details	A brief review of current relations between the countries concerned; Details about the cause; Observations made by heads of state, spokespersons, etc.

Table II

Vocabulary Expansion	
accordance <i>n.</i> 一致, 协调	motorcade <i>n.</i> 车队
accountable <i>a.</i> 有责任的	obligation <i>n.</i> 义务, 职责
aggression <i>n.</i> 进攻, 侵略	prolong <i>v.</i> 延长, 拖延
broker <i>v.</i> 作为中间人来安排	punitive <i>a.</i> 惩罚性的
clarification <i>n.</i> 澄清	rhetoric <i>n.</i> 花言巧语
constructive <i>a.</i> 建设性的	sabotage <i>v.</i> 阴谋破坏
consulate <i>n.</i> 领事馆; 领事职权	showdown <i>n.</i> 摊牌
dissident <i>n.</i> 持不同政见者	transform <i>v.</i> 改变, 转化
hinder <i>v.</i> 妨碍, 阻碍	totalitarian <i>a.</i> 极权主义的
impede <i>v.</i> 阻止, 阻碍	authoritarian <i>a.</i> 独裁主义的
irreversible <i>a.</i> 不可逆转的	ultimatum <i>n.</i> 最后通牒
lash <i>v.</i> 进行严厉的口头/书面攻击	unsubstantiated <i>a.</i> 无确实证据的
liken <i>v.</i> 把...比作	volatile <i>a.</i> 不稳定的; 易变的

Listening Tips—The 5Ws and the H

Journalists are concerned with the 5Ws and the H, namely, Who, What, Where, When, Why and How. Any good breaking news or daily announcement will provide answers to all of these.

- **Who** names the subject(s) of the story. The **who**, a noun, can refer to a person, a group, a building, an institution, a concept—anything that is newsworthy.

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- The **what** is the action taking place. It is a verb that tells what the **who** is doing. Reporters almost invariably use active voice and action verbs for the **what** because they make the wording direct and lively.
- **When** tells the time the action is happening. It is an adverb or an adverb phrase.
- **Where** is the place the action is happening. Again, it is an adverb or an adverb phrase.
- **Why**, another adverb, explains the action in the news story.
- **How** usually describes the manner in which the action occurs.

While listening, a good news listener is supposed to be able to identify all or most of the 5Ws and the H, which are also the most important and newsworthy elements of a news report.

Exercise: Identification of the 5Ws and the H

Tapescript



1. Congo is holding its first free elections in 40 years today that people hope will end years of war and chaos. There are 33 people running for president and more than 9, 000 people running for seats in the legislature. This is NPR News from Washington.
2. It's been a violent weekend in New Orleans. Officials say 6 people were shot to death in 3 incidents within 24 hours, including 3 brothers gunned down as they sat on the porch of an abandoned house.
3. Afghanistan and the United Nations appealed today for 43 million dollars. The money would be used to help people affected by a severe drought. It would also go to thousands of people who have been displaced by fighting in southern Afghanistan. This is NPR News.
4. Apple Computer is recalling 1.8 million laptop batteries after complaints from users. It follows the manufacturer Dell, which recalled some of its computers last week, the largest in history.
5. Also in Iraq today officials say gunmen kidnapped 11 Iraqi soldiers in a town north of Baghdad. They say the soldiers were traveling in a minibus wearing civilian clothes when they were stopped at a phony checkpoint.

Key



Directions: Practice finding the *Ws* and the *H* in the following news items.

Item 1

What	First (1) free elections in 40 years
Who	(2) 33 people running for president; (3) 9,000 people running for the legislature
When	(4) Today
Where	(5) Congo

Item 2

What	3 shooting (1) incidents
Who	(2) 6 people , including (3) 3 brothers
When	(4) Weekend
Where	(5) New Orleans
How	(6) Shot to death

Item 3

What	An (1) appeal for 43 million dollars in aid
Who	Afghanistan and (2) the United Nations
When	(3) Today
Where	(4) Afghanistan
Why	People were affected by a severe (5) drought ; Thousands of people have been (6) displaced by fighting.

Item 4

What	A computer battery (1) recall
Who	(2) Apple Computer; Dell
When	(3) Last week

Item 5

What	A (1) kidnapping case
Who/whom	(2) gunmen ; 11 (3) Iraqi soldiers
When	(4) Today
Where	A town (5) north of Baghdad
How	(6) Stopped at a phony checkpoint



Home Listening

Tapescript



Item 1

Russia has been evacuating some of its embassy staff and military personnel from Georgia after four Russian intelligence officers were charged with spying by Georgia. The four men have been remanded in custody. Russia says the accusations of spying are false and is demanding their release.

Item 2

Canada has become the first government besides Israel to cut off assistance to the Palestinian authority. Canada says it is suspending assistance because Hamas refuses to renounce violence and recognize Israel. Canada, like the United States and the European Union, considers Hamas a terrorist organization. Meanwhile the Bush Administration said today it is reviewing all contacts with Palestinian officials now that a Hamas-led government has been sworn in.

Item 3

India says its relationship with the United States is in the midst of a major transformation. Some of that might be evident this week as the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is in Washington for meetings with President Bush and other officials, plus a chance to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

Item 4

U.S. officials say Sudan has apologized to visiting Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice after members of her staff and reporters traveling with her were manhandled by Sudanese security personnel in Khartoum. Miss Rice had expressed outrage and demanded an apology after the incident, which occurred as she met with President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir at his residence for talks on the situation in Sudan's Darfur region. U.S. officials say security personnel shoved members of Miss Rice's staff as they tried to enter the meeting. Later when Miss Rice arrived in Darfur, her spokesman said she had received a personal phone call from Sudan's Foreign Minister apologizing for the incident.

Item 5

Canada and the United States have dismissed a Russian submarine expedition to plant a flag on the seabed of the North Pole. The operation carried out by two Russian mini-submarines was intended to bolster Russia's claim to an area thought to be rich in oil and gas reserves. The Canadian Foreign Minister Peter MacKay said Canada's claims were well established.

"There is no question over Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. We've made that very clear. We've established a long time ago that these are Canadian waters and this is Canadian property."

Item 6

The U.S. military has released 8 Iranians who were detained last night in Baghdad. The incident is likely to add further strain to the already tense relations between the U.S. and Iran. NPR's Corey Flintoff reports from the Iraqi capital.

The incident began when U.S. troops raided the Sheraton Ishtar Hotel in Baghdad where the Iranian delegation was staying. Iranian diplomats said the people arrested included officials from

Iran's Electricity Ministry who are in the city to negotiate contracts with the Iraqi government. The release comes just a day after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told reporters in Tehran that U.S. political power in Iraq is collapsing. Corey Flintoff for NPR News, Baghdad.

**Key**

Directions: Listen to the following news items once and circle the correct letter for each answer.

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given five seconds to answer each question.

Now listen to the news.

1. What has Russia been doing?
 - A. Trying four Georgian spies.
 - B. Withdrawing diplomatic staff from Georgia.**
 - C. Evacuating spies.
 - D. Sending military personnel to Georgia.
2. The four Russians _____.
 - A. were charged with spying for Georgia
 - B. will remain in custody in Russia
 - C. will soon be released at the request of Russia
 - D. are in detention**

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given five seconds to answer each question.

Now listen to the news.

3. Canada has become _____.
 - A. the first government to suspend aid to the Palestinian authority
 - B. the second government to cut off aid to the Palestinians**
 - C. the first government to renounce violence
 - D. the second government to provide assistance to Israel
4. _____ is NOT mentioned as one of the countries which consider Hamas a terrorist organization.
 - A. The United States
 - B. The EU
 - C. Indonesia**
 - D. Canada

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Question 5 is based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given five seconds to answer the question.

Now listen to the news.

5. India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh _____.
- A. **will deliver a speech to both the U.S. House and the Senate**
 - B. will meet with President Bush in New Delhi
 - C. has transformed the U.S.-Indian relationship
 - D. says his country's relationship with the U.S. has been improved

Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given five seconds to answer each question.

Now listen to the news.

6. What happened to the U.S. delegation?
- A. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was roughly treated in Sudan.
 - B. **Rice's staff were not treated politely.**
 - C. Rice's security personnel were manhandled in Khartoum.
 - D. Reporters traveling with Rice were shoved.
7. In the wake of the incident, Ms. Rice _____.
- A. was outrageous
 - B. **received an apology from Sudan's Foreign Minister**
 - C. immediately demanded an apology from the Sudanese president
 - D. talked about it at President al-Bashir's residence

Question 8 is based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given five seconds to answer the question.

Now listen to the news.

8. The two mini-submarines _____.
- A. **were sent in support of Russia's sovereignty claims**
 - B. were sent by Canada and the United States on an expedition
 - C. found rich oil and gas deposits on the seabed of the North Pole
 - D. planted a Russian flag on the North Pole

Questions 9 and 10 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given five seconds to answer each question.

Now listen to the news.

9. What can be learned about the 8 detainees?
- A. They are diplomats from the Iraqi government.
 - B. They were detained at the Sheraton Ishtar Hotel in Tehran.

C. The 8 detainees are officials from Iran's Electricity Ministry.

D. They were arrested last night at the hotel where they stayed.

10. The incident _____.

A. comes one day after Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made critical remarks about the U.S.

B. will hopefully improve the relations between the U.S. and Iran

C. is likely to add further strain to the already tense relations between the U.S. and Iraq

D. will not affect the contracts between Iran and Iraq

YOUR SCORE:  /10 POINTS