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Prepare for war with Iran, says France

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18th September, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Prepare for war with Iran, says France

France's foreign minister has warned the world that it may have to prepare for war with Iran over its nuclear programme: "We have to prepare for the worst, and the worst is war," he stated. He even said Europe should be prepared to act alone to stop Iran developing nuclear weapons. His comments have sparked protests and outrage in Teheran. Iran's official news agency is furious and retaliated by saying France was really the USA in disguise, and that the country "has taken on American skin". The agency issued a stinging response to what it calls France's total lack of logic: "The occupants of France's presidential palace have become the executors of the will of Washington. They have adopted a tone that is even harder, more inflammatory and more illogical than that of America's," it said.

Iran continues to deny that it has any intention of building a nuclear arsenal. Teheran says it only wants nuclear power to supply the country with electricity. The West is unconvinced, especially as Teheran has repeatedly rejected United Nation requests to give up its nuclear programme and buy subsidized electricity from neighbouring countries. Iran has also warned that any further economic sanctions or punishments could result in a total abandoning of co-operation with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iranian army bosses have also made it very clear to the USA that any military attack on Iran will result in catastrophe for US missions in the region. A top general warned that American positions in Iraq and Afghanistan "are well within our range".

WARM-UPS

1. WAR: Walk around the class and talk to other students about war. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

foreign ministers / nuclear programmes / being furious / retaliation / logic / skin / denying things / rejection / economic sanctions / military attacks / catastrophe

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. QUICK ROLE PLAY: Students A are the French foreign minister; Students B are the Iranian foreign minister. Role play a meeting between them. After the role play, talk about your roles – do you really believe what you said?

4. CONFLICTS: With your partner(s), talk about these conflicts. What do you know about them? When and how will they end?

- Gaza - Israel
- Darfur
- Myanmar – Karen ethnic group
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- The war on terror
- Colombia - FARC
- other _____

5. DANGER LANDS: With your partner(s), talk about which of these countries are dangerous. What are the dangers?

- Iran
- France
- America
- Finland
- Zimbabwe
- North Korea
- Swaziland
- China

6. IRAN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Iran. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

7. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think the French foreign minister should apologize for his remarks; Students B think there's nothing wrong with what he said. Change partners often. After your debates, share what you talked about.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. France has put many of its troops on standby to fight Iraq. | T / F |
| b. France has said Europe may have to go it alone against Iraq. | T / F |
| c. Iran's news agency accused France of having an American skin. | T / F |
| d. The agency still thinks US actions are more illogical. | T / F |
| e. Iranian authorities say they want nuclear power, not weapons. | T / F |
| f. Iran has said no to buying cheap power from its neighbours. | T / F |
| g. Teheran has said it is thinking of imposing sanctions on the UN. | T / F |
| h. An Iranian general warned US bases in Iraq are within reach. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. sparked | a. provocative |
| 2. disguise | b. disaster |
| 3. will | c. continually |
| 4. inflammatory | d. desire |
| 5. illogical | e. reject |
| 6. deny | f. ignited |
| 7. repeatedly | g. inspector |
| 8. sanctions | h. full of holes |
| 9. watchdog | i. penalties |
| 10. catastrophe | j. camouflage |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. prepare for war with Iran | a. of building a nuclear arsenal |
| 2. Europe should be prepared | b. response |
| 3. His comments have sparked | c. a tone that is even harder |
| 4. The agency issued a stinging | d. to act alone |
| 5. They have adopted | e. in catastrophe for US missions |
| 6. deny that it has any intention | f. over its nuclear programme |
| 7. Teheran has repeatedly | g. sanctions or punishments |
| 8. further economic | h. protests and outrage in Teheran |
| 9. any military attack on Iran will result | i. our range |
| 10. well within | j. rejected United Nation requests |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Prepare for war with Iran, says France

France's foreign minister has _____ the world that it may have to prepare for war with Iran over its nuclear programme: "We have to prepare for the _____, and the worst is war," he stated. He even said Europe should be prepared to _____ alone to stop Iran developing nuclear weapons. His comments have _____ protests and outrage in Teheran. Iran's official news agency is furious and _____ by saying France was really the USA in disguise, and that the country "has taken on American skin". The agency issued a _____ response to what it calls France's total lack of logic: "The occupants of France's presidential palace have become the _____ of the will of Washington. They have adopted a _____ that is even harder, more inflammatory and more illogical than that of America's," it said.

Iran continues to _____ that it has any intention of building a nuclear arsenal. Teheran says it only wants nuclear power to _____ the country with electricity. The West is unconvinced, especially as Teheran has repeatedly _____ United Nation requests to give up its nuclear programme and buy _____ electricity from neighbouring countries. Iran has also warned that any further economic sanctions or punishments could result in a _____ abandoning of co-operation with the UN nuclear _____, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iranian army bosses have also made it very clear to the USA that any military attack on Iran will _____ in catastrophe for US missions in the region. A top general warned that American positions in Iraq and Afghanistan "are _____ within our range".

stinging
act
retaliated
tone
warned
sparked
worst
executors
subsidized
result
rejected
watchdog
total
deny
well
supply

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Prepare for war with Iran, says France

France's foreign minister _____ that it may have to prepare for war with Iran over its nuclear programme: "We have to _____, and the worst is war," he stated. He even said Europe should be prepared _____ Iran developing nuclear weapons. His comments have sparked protests and outrage in Teheran. Iran's official news agency is furious _____ France was really the USA in disguise, and that the country "has taken on American skin". The agency _____ to what it calls France's total lack of logic: "The occupants of France's presidential palace have become the executors of the will of Washington. They have adopted a tone that is even harder, more inflammatory and _____ of America's," it said.

Iran continues to _____ intention of building a nuclear arsenal. Teheran says it only wants nuclear power _____ electricity. The West is unconvinced, especially as Teheran has repeatedly rejected United Nation requests to give up its nuclear programme and _____ neighbouring countries. Iran has also warned that any further economic sanctions or punishments could _____ of co-operation with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iranian army bosses have also made it very clear to the USA that any military attack on Iran _____ US missions in the region. A top general warned that American positions in Iraq and Afghanistan "are well within our range".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'foreign' and 'minister'.

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| foreign | minister |
|----------------|-----------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• warned• worst• outrage• skin• will• illogical | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deny• unconvinced• subsidized• bosses• result• range |
|--|---|

STUDENT WAR SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about WAR in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) How serious do you think the foreign minister is?
- c) How worried do you think Iran is?
- d) Do you think the foreign minister should apologize for or resign over his comments?
- e) What do you guess Europeans think about the minister's comments?
- f) Do you think France is becoming more like the UK and following everything the USA does?
- g) Do you think France is displaying a total lack of logic?
- h) How inflammatory are the comments to ordinary Iranians?
- i) How would you react if Europe prepared for war with Iran?
- j) When was the last time you were furious and retaliated?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think Iran is building nuclear weapons?
- c) Is a nuclear armed Iran any different from a nuclear armed USA, France, Britain, India, Israel...?
- d) Do you think Iran should listen to the United Nations?
- e) Do you think economic sanctions are effective?
- f) What is the danger of Iran not co-operating with the IAEA?
- g) What would the consequences be of Iranian attacks on US positions in Iraq and Afghanistan?
- h) What would you do to resolve this situation?
- i) What questions would you like to ask France's foreign minister?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Prepare for war with Iran, says France

France's foreign minister has (1) _____ the world that it may have to prepare for war with Iran over its nuclear programme: "We have to prepare for the worst, and the (2) _____ is war," he stated. He even said Europe should be prepared to act alone to stop Iran developing nuclear weapons. His comments have (3) _____ protests and outrage in Teheran. Iran's official news agency is furious and retaliated by saying France was really the USA (4) _____ disguise, and that the country "has taken on American skin". The agency issued a stinging response to what it calls France's (5) _____ lack of logic: "The occupants of France's presidential palace have become the executors of the (6) _____ of Washington. They have adopted a tone that is even harder, more inflammatory and more illogical than that of America's," it said.

Iran continues to deny that it has any intention (7) _____ building a nuclear arsenal. Teheran says it only wants nuclear power to supply the country with electricity. The West is unconvinced, especially as Teheran has (8) _____ rejected United Nation requests to (9) _____ up its nuclear programme and buy subsidized electricity from neighbouring countries. Iran has also warned that any further economic sanctions or punishments could result (10) _____ a total abandoning of co-operation with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iranian army bosses have also made it very (11) _____ to the USA that any military attack on Iran will result in catastrophe for US missions in the region. A top general warned that American positions in Iraq and Afghanistan "are well (12) _____ our range".

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) warned | (b) warmed | (c) waxed | (d) waned |
| 2. | (a) least | (b) most | (c) worst | (d) prepare |
| 3. | (a) spanked | (b) sparked | (c) sparkled | (d) spiked |
| 4. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) out | (d) of |
| 5. | (a) every | (b) whole | (c) all | (d) total |
| 6. | (a) can | (b) would | (c) will | (d) must |
| 7. | (a) of | (b) for | (c) by | (d) to |
| 8. | (a) repeats | (b) repeatedly | (c) repeated | (d) repeat |
| 9. | (a) blow | (b) pull | (c) take | (d) give |
| 10. | (a) out | (b) on | (c) in | (d) of |
| 11. | (a) clear | (b) clarity | (c) clears | (d) clearly |
| 12. | (a) with | (b) within | (c) without | (d) wither |

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about France's foreign minister. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WAR POSTER: Make a poster showing different wars around the world. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the effects of a European attack on Iran. Include imaginary interviews with Iran's president and the French foreign minister.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the French foreign minister. Ask him three questions about his comments. Give him three pieces of advice on how to make the world a safer place. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. T c. T d. F e. T f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. sparked | a. ignited |
| 2. disguise | b. camouflage |
| 3. will | c. desire |
| 4. inflammatory | d. provocative |
| 5. illogical | e. full of holes |
| 6. deny | f. reject |
| 7. repeatedly | g. continually |
| 8. sanctions | h. penalties |
| 9. watchdog | i. inspector |
| 10. catastrophe | j. disaster |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. prepare for war with Iran | a. over its nuclear programme |
| 2. Europe should be prepared | b. to act alone |
| 3. His comments have sparked | c. protests and outrage in Teheran |
| 4. The agency issued a stinging | d. response |
| 5. They have adopted | e. a tone that is even harder |
| 6. deny that it has any intention | f. of building a nuclear arsenal |
| 7. Teheran has repeatedly | g. rejected United Nation requests |
| 8. further economic | h. sanctions or punishments |
| 9. any military attack on Iran will result | i. in catastrophe for US missions |
| 10. well within | j. our range |

GAP FILL:

Prepare for war with Iran, says France

France's foreign minister has **warned** the world that it may have to prepare for war with Iran over its nuclear programme: "We have to prepare for the **worst**, and the worst is war," he stated. He even said Europe should be prepared to **act** alone to stop Iran developing nuclear weapons. His comments have **sparked** protests and outrage in Teheran. Iran's official news agency is furious and **retaliated** by saying France was really the USA in disguise, and that the country "has taken on American skin". The agency issued a **stinging** response to what it calls France's total lack of logic: "The occupants of France's presidential palace have become the **executors** of the will of Washington. They have adopted a **tone** that is even harder, more inflammatory and more illogical than that of America's," it said.

Iran continues to **deny** that it has any intention of building a nuclear arsenal. Teheran says it only wants nuclear power to **supply** the country with electricity. The West is unconvinced, especially as Teheran has repeatedly **rejected** United Nation requests to give up its nuclear programme and buy **subsidized** electricity from neighbouring countries. Iran has also warned that any further economic sanctions or punishments could result in a **total** abandoning of co-operation with the UN nuclear **watchdog**, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iranian army bosses have also made it very clear to the USA that any military attack on Iran will **result** in catastrophe for US missions in the region. A top general warned that American positions in Iraq and Afghanistan "are **well** within our range".

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - a 2 - c 3 - b 4 - d 5 - d 6 - c 7 - a 8 - b 9 - d 10 - c 11 - a 12 - b