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## **Level 5**

### **Media says Obama knew US spied on Merkel**

**29th October, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131029-angela-merkel-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131029-angela-merkel-5.html>

German media is questioning how much President Obama knows about the US spying on Chancellor Angela Merkel. One magazine said the USA's National Security Agency (NSA) started tapping Ms Merkel's mobile phone in 2002, under the George W. Bush administration. It says Obama knew that the tap was there in 2010, before his visit to Berlin to tell Germans of the warm friendship between their two countries. A newspaper reported that Ms Merkel's SMS messages and phone calls went straight to the White House. The US Embassy in Berlin was the base for the spying.

The spying began when former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder was in power. America was suspicious of his refusal to support the Iraq War. Obama told Ms Merkel last week that he knew nothing about the bugging. However, an NSA official said Mr Obama ordered the programme to be escalated. The NSA warned of "grave damage for relations" if its spying programme was discovered. Ms Merkel is shocked that the USA could do the sort of spying she thought was from the Cold War. This happened in the former East Germany, before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communism.

Sources: <http://www.dw.de/media-reports-suggest-obama-knew-nsa-spied-on-merkel/a-17185662>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24690055>  
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/517190/20131027/nsa-snowden-germany-obama-merkel-spy-phone.htm?fs=2d762>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131029-angela-merkel-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Obama knows about             | a. Ms Merkel's mobile phone    |
| 2. started tapping               | b. in Berlin                   |
| 3. under the George W. Bush      | c. tap was there in 2010       |
| 4. Obama knew that the           | d. straight to the White House |
| 5. warm                          | e. for the spying              |
| 6. messages and phone calls went | f. the US spying               |
| 7. The US Embassy                | g. friendship                  |
| 8. the base                      | h. administration              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. his refusal to                 | a. former East Germany   |
| 2. he knew nothing                | b. damage for relations  |
| 3. Obama ordered the programme    | c. was from the Cold War |
| 4. The NSA warned of grave        | d. communism             |
| 5. the sort of spying she thought | e. to be escalated       |
| 6. This happened in the           | f. Berlin Wall           |
| 7. before the fall of the         | g. support the Iraq War  |
| 8. the end of                     | h. about the bugging     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131029-angela-merkel-5.html>

German media is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ President Obama knows about the US spying on Chancellor Angela Merkel. One magazine said the USA's National Security Agency (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Ms Merkel's mobile phone in 2002, under the George W. Bush administration. It says Obama knew (3) \_\_\_\_\_ there in 2010, before his visit to Berlin to tell Germans of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ between their two countries. A newspaper reported that Ms Merkel's (5) \_\_\_\_\_ phone calls went straight to the White House. The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ was the base for the spying.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder was in power. America was suspicious (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Iraq War. Obama told Ms Merkel last week that he knew nothing about the bugging. However, an NSA official said Mr Obama (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to be escalated. The NSA warned of "(10) \_\_\_\_\_ relations" if its spying programme was discovered. Ms Merkel is shocked that the USA could (11) \_\_\_\_\_ spying she thought was from the Cold War. This happened in the former East Germany, before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# SPYING SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131029-angela-merkel-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about spying 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

