

Task 3 WIKILEAKS

You will hear seven extracts from a programme about Wikileaks. Read the statements below and match them with the relevant extract. There can be more than one statement for some of the extracts. You will hear each extract TWICE.

- a) Russian politicians don't mind corruption being discussed in abstract terms.
- b) Conflicting loyalties in times of war.
- c) Biased opinions on the releasing of sensitive information.
- d) Diplomatic problems for a declining empire.
- e) Unsurprising information which had not previously been so openly stated.
- f) Russian politicians feel cornered by some attitudes coming from the West.
- g) Unexpected information about North Korea.
- h) Bribery is widespread in Russia.
- i) The dirty side of diplomacy.

Extract	Statement(s) for each extract
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Task 3 WIKILEAKS KEY

Extract	Statement(s) for each extract
1	e
2	g
3	d
4	c
5	b, i
6	f
7	a, h

LISTENING N° 3 WIKILEAKS TRANSCRIPT

EXTRACT 1

The Arab states cables that we published on day one were fairly extraordinary, not, not because it would have come as any great surprise to President Ahmadinejad, but just seeing the names of kings and prime ministers attached to these remarks was very stark. I think the North Korea cables, here the Chinese speak very frankly; I think the extent of the detail in the Russian cables is pretty stark too, so I think wherever you look there are things that either we suspected to be the position but had never seen quite so frankly expressed before, or where we had really learned new things.

EXTRACT 2

Well, I for one certainly didn't know that the Chinese were willing to see a reunification of Korea. I was quite startled at that discovery and as I read the papers saying that belligerence was ramping up between North and South Korea, that altered my perception of the events a lot.

EXTRACT 3

It hasn't changed a great deal of substance, apart from some of the revelations on North Korea, but it has shown the United States struggling to get its way in the world, it's shown a super power beginning, I think, what is going to be a long period of relative decline. And you see an American diplomatic machine thrashing around, really struggling in different parts of the world to impose its will; you see American diplomats being remarkably courageous in speaking truth to power, I do applaud that, it's not always the case that diplomats are prepared to tell their capital things that they don't want to hear.

EXTRACT 4

Well, it just shows you the way that everybody takes from these cables the message they want to take, so here we have somebody saying, "the message from these is two-fold: first of all, this is a bad person doing a bad thing; and secondly, oh it says in here

that Iran is a terrible danger, and I agree with that and it is good that we should all know it”.

Oh, we had that kind of split when the Afghan and Iraq war diaries came out as well, when the White House was saying “Oh, it's all dreadful, we deplore all this, and by the way, those things he says about Pakistan being very untrustworthy.... oh, we're right behind that”.

So, I think what you just hear is people mouthing off, frankly.

EXTRACT 5

And I, in my time have had lots of requests from, from our own agencies,.. I remember during the Falklands War they discovered that a distant cousin of mine was an Argentine diplomat, and they asked me if I would approach him, and I said that I was not prepared to ask him to betray his country. That wasn't gathering intelligence, it was asking us to help with the...basic laying the foundations of gathering intelligence, and I, I don't find that illegitimate, it's slightly distasteful, but it's, I'm afraid, part of the grubby business of *Realpolitik*.

EXTRACT 6

I think, if anything, the recent cables will merely increase Russia's, you know, scarcely hidden kind of hostility, I think towards, well not exactly towards the West, but certainly their suspicion that there are forces in the West and in countries like the US, but also in Britain that are kind of out to get Russia, if you like, to kind of destabilize it in some way; um, on the other hand, I think, well the cables from Russia are really rather sensational; of all the Wikileaks revelations, the Russian ones are absolutely kind of gob-smacking. I think they kind of confirm what actually Russians know intuitively, but really never see kind of broadcast on their own state-controlled TV or read in their newspapers which are basically all kind of pro-Kremlin, so it's a kind of revelatory moment. But the other thing to say is, of course, is that most Russians won't find out anything about this whatsoever because this story is being roundly ignored in Russia and it's been eclipsed by Russia's 2018 World Cup triumph.

They are pretty unembarrassable, but I think what is damaging for the Russian government is the sheer level of detail; it's not merely allegations of corruption, I mean...

EXTRACT 7

...that Dimitri Medvedev as Russia's President and Vladimir Putin....they're happy to talk about corruption as a kind of abstract metaphysical concept, what they're less happy about is seeing very senior US diplomats detailing how exactly the system works, and how the system works is that

Russia's intelligence agencies, its interior ministry, its police, prosecutors, Kremlin officials, are all involved in this kind of network, if you like, of, of kind of sleaze; and if you're a business in Moscow, for example, if you're someone who has a large corporation, you have to pay bribes. If you don't pay bribes, then you risk losing your business or imprisonment, and it's a very depressing picture, but speaking as someone who's been living in Moscow for four years, I think it's entirely accurate...