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Trump declares a national emergency, and provokes a constitutional clash 特朗普宣布美国进入紧急状态,并引发了一场关于宪法的冲突

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on the border with Mexico on Friday to access billions of dollars that Congress refused to give him to build a wall there, transforming a highly charged policy dispute into a confrontation over the separation of powers outlined in the Constitution.

唐纳德·特朗普总统周五宣布,美国南部与墨西哥接壤的边境进入国家紧急状态,以此获取数十亿美金的拨款,此前,国会拒绝向特朗普提供这笔用来修建边境墙的款项。此举将一场剑拔 弩张的政策争端变成了关于宪法所载的三权分立的冲突。

Trying to regain momentum after losing a grinding two-month battle with lawmakers over funding the wall, Trump asserted that the flow of drugs, criminals and unauthorized immigrants from Mexico constituted a profound threat to national security that justified unilateral action.

在与立法者就修建边境墙的资金问题进行了为期两个月的漫长斗争并以失败告终后,特朗普试

图重整旗鼓。他坚称,墨西哥的毒品、犯罪分子和非法移民的流入是国家安全的重大威胁,因此,有理由采取单边行动。

The president's decision incited instant condemnation from Democrats, who called it an unconstitutional abuse of his authority and vowed to try to overturn it with the support of Republicans who also objected to the move.

总统的决定立即激起了民主党人的谴责,他们称这是总统对于权力的违宪滥用,并发誓要试图 在同样反对这一举动的共和党人的支持下推翻这个决定。

The emergency declaration, according to White House officials, enables the president to divert \$3.6 billion from military construction projects to the wall.

据白宫官员称,这份紧急声明使总统能够将 36 亿美元从军事建设项目上转移到边境墙的修建上。

White House officials rejected criticism from across the ideological spectrum that Trump was creating a precedent that future presidents could use to ignore the will of Congress. Republicans have expressed concern that a Democratic commander in chief could cite Trump's move to declare a national emergency over gun violence or climate change without legislation from Congress.

白宫官员拒绝了来自政治光谱两端的批评,这些批评提出特朗普正在创造一个先例,而未来的总统可以利用这个先例,忽视国会的意愿。共和党人担心,如果没有国会的立法,民主党之后当选的总统可能将特朗普的举动视作范例,针对枪支暴力或气候变化的事宜宣布国家进入紧急状态。

"It actually creates zero precedent," Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, told reporters. "This is authority given to the president in law already. It's not as if he just didn't get what he wanted so he's waving a magic wand and taking a bunch of money." "这其实并没有创造先例,"白宫办公厅代理主任米克·马尔瓦尼告诉记者。 "这是法律已经赋予总统的权力,并不是说他没有得到想要的东西,就无中生有,挪用了一大笔钱。"

----- 文章来源 / 纽约时报

重点词汇

declare/d1'kler/

v.宣布,声明

• 英文释义: to say sth. officially or publicly

搭配短语: declare sth.

constitutional/,kainsti'tuijənl/

adj. 宪法的,章程的

• 词性拓展: constitution (n.)

• 英文释义: a set of basic laws that a country is governed by

confrontation/,kainfrən'teijn/

n. 冲突,对峙

• 词性拓展: confront (v.)

momentum/moʊˈmentəm/

n. 势头,推动力

- 英文释义: the ability to keep increasing or developing
- 例句: We needed strong momentum right up until the last minute.

grinding/'graIndIn/

adj. 无休止的,毫无起色的

- 英文释义: very difficult and unpleasant, and never seeming to improve
- 例句: Most African countries suffer from grinding poverty.

unilateral/juːnɪˈlætrəl/

adj. 单边的,单方的

• 词根词缀:uni- (单一的)

• 搭配短语: unilateral trade

• 搭配短语: unilateral control

搭配短语: unilateral agreement

相关词汇: bilateral, multilateral

incite/In'saIt/

v. 刺激,煽动

近义词:provoke

搭配短语: to incite crime

• 搭配短语: to incite racial hatred

• 搭配短语: to incite violence

• 词义辨析: incite, provoke

二者都有"刺激,煽动"的意思,区别在于 provoke 后面可以接中性或者褒义的名词,而 incite 常和一些不太好的事情连用。

condemnation/,kaindem'neifn/

- n. 谴责,指责
- 词性拓展: condemn (v.)
- 搭配短语:strong condemnation
- 搭配短语: widespread condemnation
- 搭配短语: universal condemnation
- 搭配短语: express condemnation
- 搭配短语:issue condemnation
- 例句:I can only express my strong condemnation of this dreadful behaviour.

abuse/ə'bjuːs/

- n. 滥用(权力)
- 词根词缀:ab-(偏离)

overturn/,oʊvər'tɜːrn/

- v. 推翻,撤销(判决等)
- 英文释义: to officially decide that a legal decision is not correct, and to make it no longer valid

divert/daI'v3Irt/

- v. 转移, 改变(资金)的用途
- 搭配短语: divert sth. from A to B

spectrum/'spektram/

- n. 范围,系列
- 英文释义: a range of different positions, opinions, etc. between two extreme points

precedent/'presidant/

- n. 先例,前例
- 例句: The court's decision has set a legal precedent.
- 词性拓展: precedented (adj.)
- 词性拓展: unprecedented (adj.)
- 例句: This century has witnessed environmental destruction on an unprecedented scale.

commander in chief

总司令,总指挥

wave a magic wand

挥动魔杖,施展魔法