

Trump declares a national emergency, and provokes a constitutional *clash*

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.

clash 冲突

confrontation 冲突; 对抗

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.

grinding 刺耳的; 难以忍受的

unilateral 单边的

The president's decision *incite* distant 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.

incite 煽动; 刺激

vow 发誓

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

military 军事的

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.

spectrum 光谱; 范围

"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."