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## News about News: The Language Teacher's Friend

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### Abstract

We currently live in a world of information technology that enables us to learn about today's and yesterday's events in different parts of the world very quickly. Consequently, we, as teachers, must provide our pupils with the ability to understand news, and to assess its accuracy and significance.

In particular, newspapers provide a readily available and interesting source of material for students in English and more teachers are using news items, special features, cartoons, photographs and even advertisements as supplementary materials to teach English.

This paper first describes functions of newspapers. Then it goes on to discuss the language used in the headlines and stories: about the expressions used in the newspapers; misleading headlines; judging the reliability of the source and how to persuade readers to continue to the conclusion of the article.

The last part covers a variety of exercises that help and encourage students to read newspapers with ease and with fun. All four teaching and learning skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - are involved and integrated.

We currently live in a world of information technology. It is possible to learn about today's and yesterday's events in different parts of the world very quickly - about wars and disasters, military coups and elections, fashion shows and football results. This makes the world a global village. Consequently, we, as teachers, should provide our pupils with guidelines both to understand news and to assess its accuracy and significance.

This paper attempts to find ways to:

- 1) help students follow the news with understanding,
- 2) help them develop the ability to

assess its accuracy and significance,

3) encourage the reading of newspapers with ease and with pleasure,

4) demonstrate how readers are persuaded to read to the end of the story, and

5) show that vocabulary will be automatically enlarged.

In reading newspapers, headlines are the most important signals, since headlines should tell the reader what the stories are going to be about. When reading headlines, the reader will get an idea of the content of each article or news story. Since headlines are written to attract the attention and interest of the readers and because of limits

of space for the large type, headlines use a clear pattern of special language, and often contain obscure words.

### The Common Features of Headline Language

In order to evaluate the news, headline language must be understood. The common features of headline language found in the Bangkok Post, the Nation and the Student Weekly are as follows:

1. The article and the verb "to be" are frequently omitted.

*Example:* "Proposed tax charges postponed - PM" = *The Prime Minister announces that the proposed charges in taxations will be postponed. (The, the, and will be are all omitted.)*

2. Words are often abbreviated, and short words are frequently used in place of more common, longer words.

*Example:* "RP fights ASEAN fudge" = *The Philippines government argues against proposals by the Association of South East Asian Nations which it thinks are unclear and a weak compromise. (fudge = unclear agreement and a weak compromise)*

*Other examples:*

cut	=	reduction
pact	=	agreement, treaty
row	=	argument, dispute, international disagreement, defying football referee

3. The verb system

3.1 The *present simple tense* is used to describe an ongoing process.

*Example:* "Military seizes power" = *A successful military coup has taken place in Thailand.*

3.2 The *present simple tense* is used to describe both something which has happened and which happens repeatedly.

*Example:* "Importers complain customs delay" = *Thai importing companies have complained again that the Customs Department is creating unnecessary delays passing their goods through the Port.*

3.3 The *present progressive tense*

is sometimes used, mostly to give the meaning of something that is developing.

*Example:* "Democrats *gaining* in polls" = *Latest public opinion surveys (not an actual election) show a trend of increasing support for the Democratic Party in Thailand.*

3.4 The *infinitive* is used to refer to the future.

*Example:* "East, West agree *to work* together on migration" = *The new government of a united Germany has agreed to work closely in the future with its eastern neighbours about westward migration from the Soviet Union.*

3.5 *Passive constructions*

*Example:* "NZ wool *suggested* to mop up Gulf oil spill" = *Wool from their sheep has been proposed by the New Zealand government to absorb oil spilled into the Gulf by the Iraqis.*

4. A series of nouns used as adjectives are blocked together, often without any verbs or conjunctions.

*Example:* "*Collective action by airport operatives*" = *All workers at the airport will co-operate in a strike.*

5. Acronyms

*Example:* "Researchers reveal likely causes of SUNDS" = *Researchers and doctors working on the Sudden Unexplained Nocturnal Death Syndrome have discovered a probable cause. (The popular phrase for SUNDS is "cot deaths").*

6. Space-saving punctuation

Quotations, cause/effect relations and questions are often signified through punctuation:

*Example:* "Soviets warn West: Don't dash peace bid with Ground War" = *Soviet Government tells all members of the Alliance against Iraq not to destroy new Russian efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement in the Gulf by starting a ground attack just now.*

7. Positive or negative meanings of words used in headlines

*Example:* a. 'boost' - something positive, or extra growth

- b 'soar' - a dramatic increase (could be positive or negative)
- c 'looms' - something negative is coming

### **Getting Started: Reading News from English Language Newspapers**

The most practical and effective way of starting to read news in English language newspapers is to use a native language newspaper as background for beginners. In this way the readers will gain more self-confidence and feel familiar with the news. Thus, the reader will have a head start towards understanding the English language newspapers.

The next step is skimming. By skimming, the reader should glance through the news story quickly in order to see what it is about, whether it is interesting and what its main details are. Normally, the most important facts will be contained in the first paragraph called the "lead".

## Allies poised to launch land battle

# Bush spurns Gorbachev's peace plan

Nicosia (Reuter) — US President George Bush apparently cleared the way for the start of a Gulf ground war, saying an 11th hour Soviet peace plan fell short of allied demands.

Without waiting for Iraq's response to proposals by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Bush yesterday ruled out negotiations with Baghdad and declared:

"The goals have been set out — there will be no concessions."

He told reporters the Gorbachev plan, put to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz in Kremlin talks on Monday, "falls well short of what would be required".

Bush made his remarks as more than 500,000 allied troops stood poised in Saudi Arabia to launch one of the biggest land battles in history against half of Iraq's one million strong army in and around Kuwait.

But Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko suggested Moscow was coming out firmly against a land assault after more than a month of relentless bombing.

He told reporters: "This offensive would result in greater casualties and greater destruction. Our position is to prevent this destruction."

But he said Moscow had made no specific call to Bush to hold back the assault pending a reply from Saddam.

Soviet officials have declined to re-

veal the contents of the plan. Bush, in his first comments on the proposals, said:

"President Gorbachev asked that I keep the details of it confidential and I'm going to do that," Bush said. "I will respect that request in the interest of thoroughly exploring the initiative."

The campaign to drive Iraq from Kuwait went into its 34th day with the allies tightening the screw on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Waves of bombers blasted central Baghdad all through the night in some of the heaviest raids on his capital.

Iraq's deputy prime minister was quoted in Iran as saying his country had suffered more than 20,000 dead and 60,000 wounded in the first 26 days of the war — 20 times higher than previous official lists.

Aziz left Teheran for Baghdad after briefing Iranian leaders on the Gorbachev plan. Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said the Iraqi minister "must return to Moscow in the shortest possible time."

Bessmertnykh also said Moscow wanted to see Iraq as a "flourishing state with territorial integrity and playing a worthy role in the world community."

Aziz told Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Baghdad was serious in seeking negotiations on withdrawing its troops from Kuwait, Teheran radio said.

"The acceptance of UN Security Council resolution 660 and starting negotiations on a withdrawal from Kuwait was a serious step on which we still insist," it quoted Aziz as saying.

Moscow said it wanted a swift decision from Saddam on its proposals, reported to include an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait in exchange for a pledge to keep Iraq intact, oppose sanctions, resist punishment of the Iraqi leader, and discussion of all further issues, such as the Palestinian question.

A Moscow official said foreign press accounts "more or less" reflected its contents.

British Prime Minister John Major said the war would go on until Iraq withdrew unconditionally from Kuwait.

He said in parliament he had been asked not to give details of the Gorbachev plan but added Saddam "has to withdraw unconditionally...until and unless he does that the conflict will continue."

Military leaders in Washington and the Gulf stressed they were pressing on with plans for a ground war.

Correspondents on the war front said allied forces were manoeuvring into final positions for a land battle after a month-long air onslaught of Iraqi strategic targets and troops.

Gulf tides are high — right for an amphibious landing. The next few

● Continued Page 3

In order to understand the news story, the reader should take the following steps:

1. Read the headline.
2. Look at the key word in the headline. In this case, the word "spurn" is a difficult word which may not be understood.
3. Read the lead, which will tell you what the main points of this news story are, and you can get the meaning of "spurn" in the lead : President Bush has apparently judged the last minute Soviet peace plan as inadequate, so the way was clear to begin the ground war.
4. Try to answer the questions derived from the headline, e.g.:
  - a. Why did Bush spurn Gorbachev's peace plan?
  - b. What was Gorbachev's peace plan?
  - c. When did Bush spurn Gorbachev's peace plan?
  - d. How did Bush spurn the peace plan?
  - e. What is the result of Bush's action?

By answering these questions, the reader will be better able to understand the news story.

## 'The Bear' teaches Saddam about the art of war

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Reuters) — Surrendering Iraqi soldiers didn't need English to give up. They simply shouted "Schwarzkopf, Schwarzkopf, Schwarzkopf."

It was their way of getting out of the Gulf War and paying tribute to the bear-like allied military commander who turned Saddam Hussein's "mother of battles" into the "mother of surrenders".

In the aftermath of victory, US Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf is being hailed by strategists as one of the great masters of war and his opponent to a sawdust Caesar.

With a ceasefire declared and the Iraqi army in tatters, Schwarzkopf savours one of history's biggest military victories — a 38-day air war that ended after 100 hours of ground fighting.

The Iraqi army has been battered to bloody pulp by 600,000 allied soldiers who lost less than 150 dead. So desperate were Iraqi troops to surrender that some were seen raising their hands in surrender to a pilotless robot plane.

Schwarzkopf says he does not know how many Iraqi soldiers were killed because their bodies are now in mass graves in the desert.

With the hammering the Iraqis took from the air and on land, their death toll might number in the tens of thousands.

The burly four-star general, who is nicknamed "The Bear" and "Storming Norman," also says he could have taken Baghdad if he wanted.

He says his troops pushed to within 240 kms of the Iraqi capital and as far as he knows, the Iraqis never noticed.

"If it had been our intention to overrun Iraq, we could have done it."

Schwarzkopf's tactical clincher — planned in a tiny, windowless Riyadh

military bunker — was to hide an entire army from Iraqi commanders and do it in the heart of their territory.

It was a move that made Saddam's setting up decoy tanks and planes on the ground look like a child's trick.

Schwarzkopf's deception left Iraqi commanders believing that the allies were going to attack occupied Kuwait from the sea and from the Saudi border with Kuwait.

Iraq massed its strongest forces there and set up the "Saddam line" of sand walls, oil-filled ditches and minefields. The line lasted two hours into the ground war.

With Iraq's air force grounded and its ability to track the enemy blinded, Schwarzkopf then moved the bulk of his army far to the west and invaded Iraq itself, outflanking the enemy.

It looked easy but it could have ended in disaster.

The West Point-trained Schwarzkopf conceded that when US troops arrived in Saudi Arabia last August, Saddam had the upper hand.

US forces were outnumbered by Iraqi troops in Kuwait. The Iraqis had more tanks, more artillery.

Some military experts say the Iraqis could have overrun Saudi Arabia and controlled much of the world's supply of oil.

But Saddam, according to Schwarzkopf, seems to have known nothing of the art of war.

At a briefing to reporters on Wednesday, Schwarzkopf, 66,

laughed when asked what he thought of Saddam, 63, as a military leader.

"He is neither a strategist, nor is he schooled in the art of war, nor is he a tactician, nor is he a general, nor is he a soldier," Schwarzkopf said.

"Other than that he is a great military man," he added sarcastically.

Seldom has history pitted two more unlikely men against each other.

Schwarzkopf is a soldier, a tactician, a strategist. He also puts the safety of his troops first.

Saddam had execution squads at the battlefield to stop his men deserting.

The Iraqi leader talked much of the glory of war. Schwarzkopf, whose idea of relaxation is to listen to the sounds of wild ducks on tape, spoke of the "profanity" of it all.

He wanted a war where "there was as little cost in blood as possible." Saddam wanted the "mother of battles."

Saddam told his soldiers, "This your Kuwait, you must fight and die for it." Schwarzkopf led an army that called the battle, "the fight to go home."

March 1, 1991



The Bangkok Post, March 1, 1991

In news story No., 2, there is no lead. If it is not known who "The Bear" is, the first paragraph of the news story should be read and the answer may be found. If the reader is still puzzled, then the second and the third paragraphs, etc. must be tried. (The answer is in the eighth paragraph).

The next step is to try to answer the questions suggested from the headline, for example :

1. Who is "The Bear"?
2. What does "The Bear" teach Saddam?
3. When does "The Bear" teach Saddam?
4. What is the art of war?

## Misleading Headlines

Headlines are written in the newspaper office to top news stories from home and abroad. Space is limited. Time is short. Readers must be wooed. Thus, in order to read news with understanding and accuracy, a few points have to be taken into consideration, because headlines may be misleading.

### *Headline No.1*

<p><b>Turkish embassy bombed</b></p> <p>Beirut (Reuter) — A bomb exploded outside the Turkish embassy in Lebanon early yesterday, causing damage but no injuries, security sources said.</p> <p>The blast shattered windows in the building and set ablaze two cars parked opposite the embassy, located in the Baabda area in the hills above east Beirut.</p> <p>The explosion brought to 13 the number of attacks in Lebanon on embassies, banks or establishments of countries associated with the US-led coalition.</p>
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*The Bangkok Post, February 9, 1991*

If only the headline is looked at, there are two possible meanings: the bombing happened in Baghdad (because of the Gulf War at that time) or in the country of the reader. (Also, "bombing" can mean a bomb placed on the ground or dropped from the air to the ground.) If the dateline<sup>2</sup> is read, the answer is clear; it was in Beirut, Lebanon. When the news story is read, it will be discovered that a bomb exploded on the ground *outside* the Turkish Embassy in Lebanon, in the hills above East Beirut

*Headline No.2***6 held for CNN takeover bid**

Jerusalem (Reuter) — Six activists from Israel's far-right Kach movement were remanded in custody for six days yesterday after trying to take over an office of the Cable News Network television company.

Police said the activists broke into a CNN office at the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv on Thursday night in an attempt to broadcast a message urging Israel to retaliate against Iraq for its Scud missile attacks, using nuclear weapons if necessary. Feb 9, 1991

*The Bangkok Post, February 9, 1991*

If only the headline is read, it may be thought that some businessmen have been arrested for trying to buy CNN (Cable News Network, the U.S. television organisation owned by Mr. Ted Turner). "Takeover" as used in this headline involves physical force. When the reader looks at the dateline and finds out that it is Jerusalem, the puzzlement increases. Only after reading through the whole story, will it become clear that, in fact, six right-wing Israeli activists broke into the CNN office at the Hilton Hotel in *Tel Aviv* in order to try to broadcast a message against Iraq urging Israel to use nuclear weapons. It is not an attempt to topple Mr. Ted Turner..



## Headline No.3

# I'nesian books lack a touch of professionalism

Jakarta (Reuters) — Impressive figures, say foreign investors flicking through the books of many a company in Indonesia's booming private sector. But are they genuine?

As business blossoms, the stock market opens up and the government gets serious about collecting tax and accountants are snowed under with work.

But many even within the industry say dubious accounting principles, dodgy ethical standards and a dearth of professionalism are jeopardising growth.

"Indonesia has been asleep for so long. Now it's rattled awake, but you can't possibly expect professional education to keep up," said one accountant turned business consultant.

As a new breed of Western-educated businessmen takes over from company founders, accountability is becoming more

important.

"Rather than govern by instinct like the old men, the new generation want to rely on statistics. They look at the numbers and if the numbers are lying, they can't make sensible decisions," said a senior Indonesian partner in a multinational accountancy firm.

Many local firms have for years kept basic financial data away from the prying eyes of the public and the taxman, and they are unable or unwilling to obey disclosure rules fully when they list in the newly-energetic stock market, accountants say.

"With the best will in the world, lots of firms don't even know what a good set of books is," said one local accountant.

"I've had clients breaking rules that were the wrong rules in the first place, creating books that were more damaging than if they had kept proper books."

The recent scandal at Bank Duta, which revealed long-standing foreign exchange losses of \$420 million a few months after going public, shows how unreliable disclosure is.

There was not a mention of the losses in Duta's prospectus, which included accounts audited by a little-known firm.

Indonesia's President Suharto, who chairs charities which own over 70% of Bank Duta's shares, called soon after the debacle for more ethical behaviour by accountants.

"Most firms are working with principles that

wouldn't pass muster for a second elsewhere," said the local accountant. "Disclosure is all very well, but if the figures are untrue then it's irrelevant."

Professionalism is at low ebb particularly in the smaller local firms, which are often compromised by relying on one or two big clients for huge slabs of income, industry sources say.

"If a client who provides you with 80% of your income is playing acrobatics with the tax office but tells you to keep your mouth closed, you keep your mouth closed," the accountant said.

## SUPPORT

Although the Indonesian Accountants Association (IAI) has a proliferation of committees trying, so far with little result, to work out new accounting principles and tighter controls, they say the government does too little to support them.

"It's a political question. The government has become shy about reprimanding smaller accountants and making them behave. It doesn't invite public sympathy if you're labelled 'pro-big business,'" said a prominent IAI member.

The industry suffers from a lack of personnel. There are some 8,000 qualified accountants in Indonesia, but only around a fifth are in private practice.

They are regularly poached by rich firms, and much-criticised gov-

ernment rules make them hard to replace. Jakarta does not accept credentials from private institutions, which excludes people who cannot find places in state universities.

"We understand it's unfair, but it's hard to change the law," said Katjep Abdoekadir, head of the World Bank-backed Coordinating Agency for Accounting Development.

All accountants who do qualify have to do two years of government service, from which many never emerge.

Despite the deluge of work from companies that have decided to straighten up their books to pay taxes or go public, competition remains fierce, and accountants accuse one another of faw-cuttling that promotes an unprofessional approach.

"We were offered a public company audit at four million rupiah (\$2,100). We couldn't have done it for less than 75 million rupiah (\$40,000)," said the partner in the multinational firm. "The only way you can afford to take those sorts of fees is by not doing the work."

Things will improve if the industry can define and stick to up-to-date accounting principles, and if foreign investors make it clear that honest book-keeping is a prerequisite for successful joint ventures, accountants and consultants agree.

"But it says something about accountancy that Indonesian businesses have so far got along so well without it," said a foreign business consultant. Nov. 17, 1991

*The Bangkok Post, November 17, 1991*

This is curiously misleading. Reading of only the headline may lead to conclusions about shoddy printing and production of books in Indonesia. However, if the whole story is read, the reader will learn about dishonesty by businessmen and accountants not keeping proper records and account books.

In this example, it is necessary to take account of the fact that the headline and news story were printed on the business pages.

It is important to note the particular section of a paper that a story appears in, as it will give a clue to the meaning of some words, e.g. "takeover", which can involve:

money (business section)

force (world news section)

personality (political section, e.g. John Major take over from Margaret Thatcher as party leader.)

## Headline No.4

## Chinese people back Americans in Gulf

**Peking** AP  
**A BANK CLERK** wants to join the US forces in the Gulf War. A factory worker suggests the Americans dress like Arabs and march into Iraq. A retiree predicts a US victory and asks to attend the White House celebration.

They are among dozens of Chinese who have sent advice, encouragement and even money to the US Embassy in Peking since the Gulf War started on January 17. Despite official Chinese calls for both sides to stop fighting, public opinion appears overwhelmingly behind the US use of force.

"I have thought of a way to remove Iraq's mines. Though it is very simple, yet I think the US commander in the Gulf may not have thought of it," one letter from an inland city begins.

The writer suggested creating huge mats with strips of rubber from used tires and placing these over the mines to protect against their explosion. Construction workers in his city use such mats when blocking out foundations, he said.

"Some of the letters are really touching," a US Embassy official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "What is interesting is that the Chinese publicitive are allowing them to come through."

About 50 letters have arrived so far, some sent via Chinese government offices that forwarded them without comment. Many contained money — a total of about 600 yuan, or \$116, which the embassy said will be deposited in a Washington bank account for war use. No one has called the daily phone calls of support. Only two or three letters have been critical of the US role, the em-

bassy said. Most portrayed President George Bush as a hero and predicted an allied victory.

More directly criticized China's communist rulers, who crushed a popular democracy movement in 1989. But many condemned dictatorship and expressed a poignant wish that the United States would fight for justice in other places, too.

"Besides Iraq, there still exist more aggression and oppression in this world," wrote a man who identified himself as an engineer. "How will you deal with them?"

Another writer condemned Saddam Hussein and Josef Stalin, the late Soviet dictator, and urged Bush to support independence for the Soviet Baltic states.

Most of the letters were signed, but the embassy requested the writers' names and hometowns not be published for fear of official Chinese retaliation.

Western diplomats say it is an accident that the Chinese government is wary of supporting the United States in the Gulf, while the Chinese public embraces Washington warmly.

Although China's leaders condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, they face a world in which the United States is the unchallenged arbiter of justice. Many Chinese seem to welcome it.

"There needs to be an international policeman and the United States should be it," a graduate student said recently.

"Chinese students identify Saddam with their own leaders," a European diplomat said. "They see the United States as the hero going against the dictator."

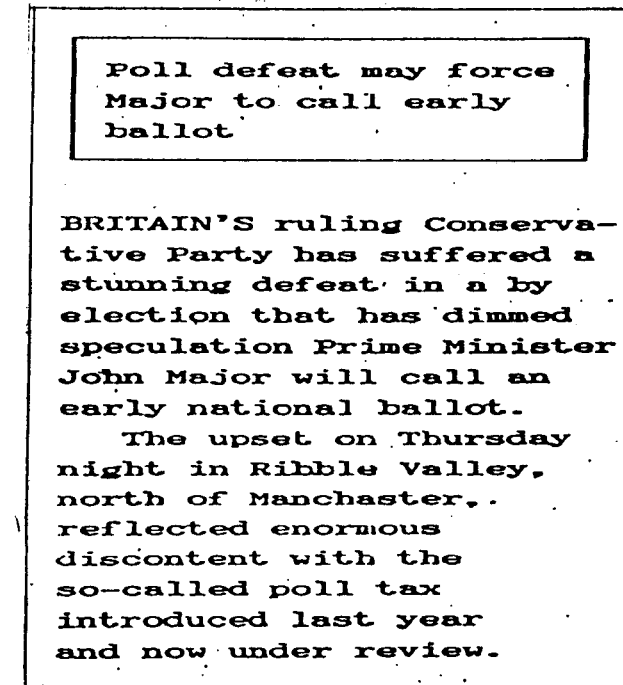
*The Bangkok Post - Feb. 10, 1991*

*The Bangkok Post, February 10, 1991*

From the headline, it may be supposed that most of the Chinese people supported the Americans in the Gulf War. In fact, if the news story is read, the opinions are gathered from a bank clerk, a factory worker and a retiree from about 50 letters sent to the US Embassy in Peking since the Gulf War started on January 17, 1991 expressing support for the Americans. This is much, much less than the headline appears to claim.

## A Fascinating Conflict between Headline & Lead

### *Headline No.5*



*The Nation, March 9, 1991*

Look first at Headline No. 5 in the Nation on March 9, 1991 about a by-election result in England. The headline says that the defeat of the government candidate may force (= compel) Prime Minister John Major to call an early General Election i.e. before the absolute deadline of summer 1992. The lead sentence describes the defeat as stunning (= huge & surprising), but argues the opposite of the headline - saying that the defeat has dimmed (= reduced) speculation that Mr. Major will call an early General Election.

Of course, the lead in the Nation (from Reuters) is correct. and the headline added in Bangkok is wrong. Could it be that the sub-editor writing the headline didn't understand the word 'dimmed'?

### Judging the Reliability of the Source

The reliability of the source contributes a great deal to the reliability of the news. There are four reputable independent international news agencies:

- i) Reuter - British
  - ii) AFP (Agence France Presse) - French
  - iii) UPI (United Press International.) - American
  - iv) AP (Associated Press) - American
- Many countries also have a state news agency such as

TASS of Russia

Bernama of Malaysia

NCNA of China (New China News Agency)

INA of Iraq (Iraqi News Agency) etc. alongside which the international news agencies may or may not be permitted to work. In addition, specifying the source of information is often very important in news articles, which is why reported speech is often used. When the source is not specified, the words "allegedly", "reportedly" and "supposedly" are frequently used. Moreover, "sources close to" may mean the great man himself - but he does not want to be quoted directly. Sometimes, the news story may quote an official or a diplomat who wishes to remain anonymous.

Some sources are biased, and readers must keep this possibility in mind when reading news stories.

The following are some examples of biased sources.

1. "Official" news agencies controlled by the state, such as TASS and NCNA.

All communist countries used to have official news agencies.

2. Media reports from countries where it is controlled to a greater or lesser degree: Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and all Arab countries.

3. Government spokesmen in one-party states.

4. Sports managers who are always optimistic that their players or teams will be the best or the winners.

5. Business companies, always putting forward propaganda for their products.

6. Show-business agents, who try to get good publicity for actors or pop stars.

### How much should the following news stories be trusted?

When reading through the next two news stories, all about Saddam, ask yourself how much you can believe in them, by judging

- 1. the dateline
- 2. the source
- 3. the details
- 4. the headline
- 5. absence of byline (byline = name of the writer)

## Jordan shocked by Iraqi pullout

Amman (Reuter) — Anger, disbelief, despair.

Those were the reactions sweeping Jordan after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced his army was leaving Kuwait.

"This is a trick. Someone is imitating the voice of Saddam, it can't be him saying he wants to withdraw," said Mohammed Sairouti, a Jordanian who phoned Reuters seeking confirmation of the news. He said he was surrounded by 50 disbelieving people.

"God be against the conspirators," said a cleric leading noon prayers at Amman's big al-Hussein

mosque. "God be against America, God unite the Muslims."

The mood outside the mosque turned ugly when a man said: "Saddam has destroyed us. We backed him, but he deserted us. We were willing to sacrifice our lives, our sons for him, but he deceived us."

There was also despair and feelings of abandonment among Jordan's Palestinian population, who pinned their hopes on Saddam after he linked Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Feb. 27, 1991

*The Bangkok Post, February 27, 1991*

1. The dateline - Amman, Jordan.
2. The source - Reuter, an international news agency.
3. The details - Jordanians are quoted (75% of Jordanians are Palestinians). Now, after Saddam promised to withdraw from Kuwait, they are very disappointed.
4. The headline (written in Bangkok) - an accurate description of the following story.

5. No byline.<sup>3</sup>

This news story had a high degree of truth because it came from Reuter. Yet, the writer uses the word "sweeping" in the second sentence, whereas the quoted evidence is thin.<sup>4</sup> Did he interview people himself, or translate from Arabic articles in local newspapers? He is probably an experienced journalist and may well *himself* be Palestinian. Nevertheless, his story was predictable under the circumstances.

## News story No.4

Bangkok Post Friday March 1, 1991

## Saddam made mistakes every step of the way

Nicosia (Reuter) — Saddam Hussein seemed to miscalculate almost every step of the way in the Gulf crisis.

By the time the ceasefire came yesterday, his enemies were openly saying you could count on Saddam to get it wrong. Former admirers were shaking their heads, lamenting that the Iraqi leader had brought humiliation on all Arabs.

The small-town street fighter from Tikrit, little-travelled and moulded by the viciousness of Iraqi politics, appeared to misread the outside world.

His first miscalculation was to believe the West would let him get away with conquering Kuwait last August. —

Diplomats in the Gulf say had Saddam limited his military operations to the seizure of the disputed Rumailah oilfield and a few border posts, he may well have bullied Kuwait into making concessions without drawing in outside powers.

"Saddam could have

slowly blackmailed the entire Gulf but he went too far on Day One," one western diplomat said.

Instead Saddam carried out an invasion that outraged and united the world, bringing sanctions and massive military retribution.

The Iraqi leader probably calculated his arms-suppliers in Moscow would stand by him. In the end the only help he got from the Soviet Union was in stopping the war.

Saddam's strategy misfired. He thought his call to share Gulf oil riches with the poor and under-privileged of the Arab world would trigger pro-Baghdad street uprisings and undermine his Arab opponents. It didn't.

His depiction of foreign forces as infidels defiling the Islamic heritage drew some support from Muslim fundamentalists. But they were powerless to offer Saddam material support or tip the diplomatic balance in his favour.

Saddam hoped taking western and Japanese hostages would deter the West. It didn't.

He calculated that firing Scud missiles into Israel would bring the Jewish state into the war and split the US-Arab coalition against him. It didn't.

He repeatedly misjudged his chief adversary, US President George Bush, apparently convinced that eventually Washington, scarred by its Vietnam experience, would not go to war.

Saddam, 53, who had never attended a military academy, took control of the army from his generals — another gross mistake, according to the allies.

As bombs rained down with remarkable precision, a clearly baffled Baghdad openly acknowledged that it could not compete with high technology weaponry in the air war. The Iraqi air force flew to safety in Iran.

When it was clear that the ground war too was lost, Iraq — possibly to save Saddam's face — procrastinated in accepting the UN resolutions. It provided the allies with more time to smash his once mighty army.

*The Bangkok Post, March 1, 1991*

1. The dateline - Nicosia.
2. It is from Reuter - which is an international news agency.
3. The details.

The background to a Nicosia dateline is crucial to understand this item. It is in Nicosia, Cyprus, that NATO monitors Arab radio, and some TV journalists based there are given written summaries and become

experts. This story is more of an analytical think piece; i.e. an article rather than a news story

Diplomats based in Cyprus, however, are unlikely to comment. The writer is using old quotes from western diplomats in the Gulf or whole area.

4. Headline - accurate.
5. The story deserved a byline.

## Never a Day without New Words

By reading newspapers day by day until it becomes routine, the reader's vocabulary will be enlarged unbelievably.

The following are some techniques in helping the reader understand new words without using a dictionary.

### 1. Guessing the meaning of the new words.

a.

**More Thai Medics  
To Fly To The Gulf**  
**A SECOND**  
group of 30 Thai doctors and  
nurses is scheduled to leave for  
Saudi Arabia next Wednesday, according  
to a Public Health Ministry source.

**The Bangkok Post, January 19, 1991**

What is the meaning of "medics"?

It might be guessed from the context, as meaning "doctors and nurses".

b.

**IRAQ PLEDGES IT WON'T  
BACK TERRORIST ATTACKS**

Iraq yesterday said it would not support  
terrorism against Thailand and also  
promised to honour a 2,000-million-baht  
debt owed to a Thai rice exporting  
consortium.

**The Bangkok Post, January 11, 1991**

What are the meanings of "pledges" and "back"? It might be guessed from the context, as meaning "promises" and "support".

c.

**Bush keen to quash image of US role as policeman**

Washington (AFP)-In the wake of the allied victory in the Gulf, President George Bush is trying to dispel the notion that the United States is the world's policeman, while asserting its readiness to act if its security is at stake.

The Bangkok Post, March 4, 1991

What does "to quash image" mean?

If the reader reads the first paragraph, he will see the phrase "to dispel the notion." Again, if he does not know either "quash" or "dispel", he has to guess. Actually it means "destroy". So, Bush does not want people to think of the U.S. as the world's policeman.

2. Understanding the new word by reading the whole news story.

The reader has to read the complete news story, then he can understand its meaning.

a.

**BRIEFS**

**Sudan govt extends truce**

Khartoum, Sudan (AP) — Sudan's military leader, Lt Gen Omar Hassan el-Bashir, on Saturday extended for another month a unilateral ceasefire in the 6-year-old civil war.

El-Bashir made the announcement during a meeting of a committee he created to discuss ways to end fighting between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

El-Bashir said he extended the ceasefire, which expired on Saturday, for another month to enhance "the atmosphere of dialogue." Oct 2, 1989

The Bangkok Post, October 2, 1989

truce = ceasefire or end of hostilities / fighting  
 = a temporary halt in a violent conflict  
 = the stopping of fighting for a period



b.

## 'Rubble of Baghdad' at Pentagon

United Press International  
Washington

PROTESTERS dumped several piles of debris, to represent "the rubble of Baghdad," on a road in front of the Pentagon yesterday.

Pentagon police said nine protesters were briefly detained by police after they spread several piles of large chunks of concrete and a pile of what appeared to be asphalt and dirt on both sides of the road in front of one of the Pentagon's main entrances.

The piles forced traffic onto the sidewalks adjacent to the road but the roadway was not closed during the morning rush hour.

Protester Brian Barrett said the purpose of the stunt was "to bring the rubble of Baghdad right where it belongs" and to protest the loss of more than 100,000 lives in the Gulf war.

"We're repenting for the whole thing," he said. "We're repenting for the sins of the government that were done in our name."

Elizabeth McAlister, an anti-war activist since the Vietnam War and wife of political activist Philip Berrigan, said, "As soon as we do it to another country [create destruction] it comes back to us."

One Presbyterian minister, The Rev. John Bell, said he came to offer prayers in front of the rubble.

*The Nation, March 6, 1991*

rubble = several piles of large chunks of concrete and a pile of what appeared to be asphalt and dirt on both sides of the road.

### Advising students about reading to the end of news stories and articles

There are three chief techniques used by newspapers to persuade readers to continue to the end of the story/article:

1. by using sub-headings.

THE NATION | Sunday March 3, 1991

BUSINESS



A design model of the Don Muang Railway, several mega-projects of AEC scale will likely be investigated

## Keeping business on track

Critical economic issues, and the consequences of the coup, are being given top priority by the country's new military leaders.

**Commerce**

The barometer in the Commerce Ministry seems to have complete control over their motions. But the proposed extension of the tariff cuts on steel bars and coils is still up in the air.

The tax concessions, which allow duty-free imports to process with local steel products, sparked another round of controversy between the two interest groups involved — the contractors on one side and the steel makers on the other.

The then Commerce Minister Anand Sittanon was about to recommend to the Cabinet to continue the tax cuts for another year from April 30, but did not get the chance.

The permanent secretaries of the three economic ministries — Industry, Commerce and Finance — are assigned by the military leaders to study the proposal again.

Another immediate concern is the bilateral negotiations between Thailand and the United States. Two ministerial-level consultations have already been postponed.

Anand was initially scheduled to meet with his counterpart, Commerce Secretary Robert Moskowitz, in Washington DC on March 20-21 to discuss trade relations. The bilateral trade talks, which were to take place in Hawaii in the first week of March, have also been put off.

Only the official-level consultations on copyright enforcement and patent protection are still intact. A Thai delegation led by Kiat-Uthairat, deputy permanent secretary, will leave for Los Angeles early this month.

This negotiation is crucial because the United States Trade Representative (US TR) is to announce on March 15 whether to accept a petition filed by the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association alleging failure by the Thai government to provide patent protection to American drugs.

The acceptance of the petition would mean that Thailand will be a country under investigation for inadequate patent protection, under the prior stipulation that it failed to protect copyright of the American video and audio industries.

After all, it remains unclear whether the US will accept any concession that the Thai officials may offer. The US announced earlier this week a cut in military and development assistance to Thailand because of the overthrow of the elected government.

Planned loan guarantees also lie in the balance. One bid, which is one of three methods used to attract investment, is under review by the European Community. It is widely believed that this method was influenced by Chulachit's adviser. Four finance trade associations are mounting campaigns against the system, saying that it did not lead to lowered prices for raw materials, which is vital in the making of exports products.

**Industry/Energy**

On Friday, the National Powerkeeping Council ordered a marginal reduction of retail oil prices, a move which will benefit motorists and the industrial sector using gasoline and fuel oil. New prices of premium and regular gasoline are B18.74 and B16.06/10.20 (including B2.72), respectively, while fuel oil prices were cut B48.20 to B34.37-3.83 a ton.

Production cuts in industries will be favored marginally, but the transport sector will not gain since it mainly uses diesel oil which remains unchanged. The NPKC also expects the price of basic daily necessities to decline as a result of the oil price cut.

**Finance**

When Satchinda met the bankers last Monday he sought their cooperation in the provision of information regarding the assets of suspected corrupt politicians. He asked them to continue to do business as normal.

The deputy junta leader said the Bank of Thailand was already looking after the banking system. It had asked the banks not to suspend credit facilities (which had led to a situation of high loan rates) and not to lend to unproductive sectors such as golf courses. "I accept the central bank's decision even though I'm chairman of many golf courses," Satchinda said half-jokingly.

He asked the bankers to submit recommendations to the junta for changes in the banking system which he knew had been difficult under the previous government, since the ministers were afraid of the political consequences.

"We can change things afterwards. I also know that politicians had gone to the bankers for money during an election, and that some bankers had tried to evade them by going overseas during election time," he added.

Satchinda urged bankers to help to restore confidence in Thailand within the international financial community affected by the coup.

The first order came on Wednesday when the military junta instructed commercial banks and financial institutions through the Bank of Thailand, to freeze the assets of the 22 Cabinet members in Gen Chulachit's administration for alleged unscrupulous gain of wealth through corruption. The assets of the ministers' immediate families were also to be frozen.

In the meantime, the Bank of Thailand was ordered to prepare an

**Agriculture**

There appears to be no clear-cut direction on several pending issues involving the Agricultural Ministry — the controversial private rubberization, the falling prices of natural rubber and the setting up of the massive agricultural fund worth B110 billion.

Gen Satchinda did not say clearly when he met with the press last Sunday, what he wanted to do with the previous government's reformations project.

"I am no expert on forestry. The Royal Forest Department is the real expert," he said, throwing the ball to the bureaucrats to make the decision.

The department, which itself has failed to replant trees on degraded forest land, has been a strong supporter of private investment in the country's reforestation programme.

To place the responsibility on them certainly means that the policy of former Agriculture Minister Manang Wongsawat would survive its creator.

Still, there is hope of Satchinda being accountable to his word. At least he realized that the project has faced strong opposition from conservationists and the general public. "Some projects may be good on paper, but are unworkable when it comes to implementation," Satchinda told the news editors.

Little is known about the future of other pending agricultural issues. Even the bureaucrats are uncertain about how to implement the previous government's decision to assist farmers by setting up a massive fund worth B10 billion. The assistance package for rubber planters in the south, which was approved by the Cabinet a few days before the coup, might also not be implemented.

Yet Satchinda, permanent secretary in charge of industry affairs, only

related three problems at a talk with Airforce Commander-in-Chief ACM Kasit Rajanand, the chairman of the Economic Advisory Board. None of these crucial issues were among them.

The three proposals that the officials discussed with Kasit covered around the reimbursement of the committed budgets and the proposed development projects.

**MEGA-PROJECTS**

When it became clear that the military junta had no wish to stay in power forever and would appoint an interim government, and then hold an election in six months under a new constitution, the stock market rallied on Tuesday. Again it was business as usual, although foreign investors were still staying away.

**Mega-projects**

On Tuesday, the junta announced the "transfer" of five permanent secretaries: Anand Anantakul, from the Interior Ministry, and Sribhaem Jarkhaem, from Transport and Communications. Their shuffling to incentive posts will have a bearing on the deputy project — Anand is chairman of the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand — and other multi-billion baht infrastructure schemes of the Transport and Communications Ministry.

ACH Kasit Rajanand, another deputy leader of the NPC, also confirmed that some of the major "questionable" projects would be investigated.

In that part, the Chulachit ministers had backed their decisions as very topsy-turvy when it came to forging ahead with major projects to resolve Thailand's infrastructure problems.

Compared to the Prem Administration, when the country adopted sound fiscal and monetary policies, the Chulachit government came to office at a time when oil prices were falling and exports were booming. At the start it quickly cut retail oil prices and embarked on new initiatives.

But the bigger the projects were the more left there was of lobbying and large kick-backs. It will be just a matter of time before the new legislative assemblies are able to scrutinize these projects.

Mega projects which were cancelled or came close to finalization during the Chulachit government were the B30-billion plus express project under the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, which has swelled its cost by 28 per cent due to the prolonged negotiations and the delayed decision making.

But most of the mega projects were under the auspices of Minister Pongpanit's Transport and Communications Ministry. They include the B7.2-billion railway project, in which the

contribution of CP Group and British Telecom was picked by the ministry's selection committee, the controversial B14-billion satellite project, in which the initial bid was scrapped and Shinawatra Computer Co emerged as the winner in the revised tender, the B18 billion Don Muang Railway project, Hasegawa's controversial B60-billion elevated tram project and a string of other telecommunications projects.

emergency credit line, but the foreign fund outflows proved to be manageable.

Paet Simasathien, permanent secretary for finance, said the second phase of the foreign exchange liberalization scheme would proceed as scheduled on April 1.

Charalit Thanachavan said an urgent fiscal issue is to introduce the value added tax (VAT) which was the subject of much political objection under the previous government.

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When an article has sub-headings, the reader can glance through them quickly and will know immediately what each sub-paragraph/section is about. The secondary points are explained under sub-headings. In the example, there are five sub-headings: Mega-projects, Finance, Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry/Energy. In addition, the reader can choose any sub-heading according to his preference and read that section or paragraph(s) only.

2. by using "turning-over" the story/article to another page, often in the middle of a sentence. Popular English language

newspapers, especially tabloids<sup>5</sup> do this more blatantly than the more serious. However, this technique is especially favoured by the prestigious New York Times and the Washington Post. Most of the readers will turn-over even if what they have read so far is not all that interesting and if they come across the news story half way through, they will turn to the page where it began and read from the beginning (see example on page 12).

3. by using a double topic style of writing designed to keep the readers' attention.

#### **END FLOODS, QUICKER TRAFFIC PLEDGED**

Governor Chamlong presented two proposals yesterday to make living in Bangkok less unpleasant. He outlined detailed expenditure, which he promised to put into effect during the next few weeks, to prevent flooding in the north-east of the capital during the rainy season. Secondly, the Governor published the exact route of his promised 'over-head' railway network, which is in addition to, and complimentary with, the government's 'Sky Train' project.

**(headline)**

(lead - in which the writer has set up a two-part news story)

"Last year's flooding will not be repeated", the Governor said yesterday ..... (SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW)

#### **FEWER TRAFFIC JAMS**

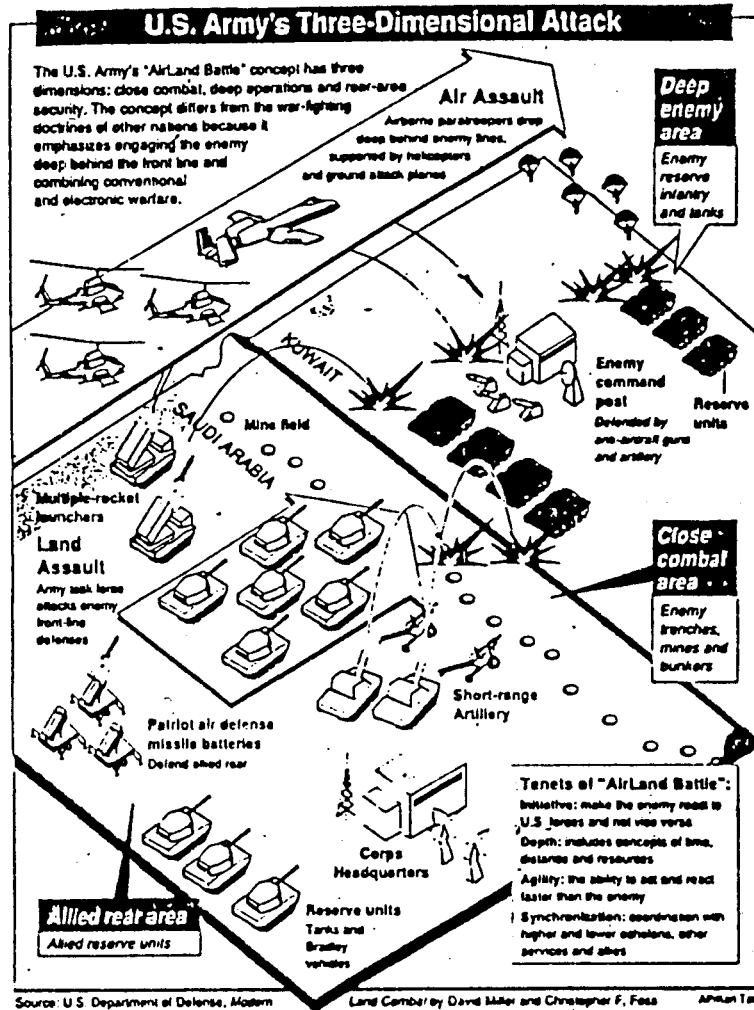
**sub-heading**

Turning to his plans for an 'over-head' railway, Governor Chamlong told reporters yesterday ....

(SEVERAL MORE PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW)

(Residents of north-eastern Bangkok will read every word of the first half of the story. People who live elsewhere in the city will study the second half of the story to discover if the proposed route of the 'over-head' railway will help them personally.)

- by having a striking picture, map or diagram to attract readers' attention.



*The Bangkok Post, February 22, 1991*

NB. Students of newspapers should be warned that the skill and art of fitting a news story into the exact space available on the page *against the clock* often results in the final paragraph(s) being cut. So, newspaper writers will avoid delaying strong points for the end of the story, and will generally put conclusions not at the end (for fear of being cut) but soon after the opening paragraphs. Since, when working against the clock, there is just not time to make careful cuts in the middle of a story, possibly involving re-writing and re-setting, so the cutting of final paragraphs or sentences is widely practised, as is

the cutting of final sentences of any paragraph.

In conclusion, in reading and understanding the news with accuracy, readers must be on the lookout for the misleading nature of some of the news, for the sources from which the news comes, and the section in which the news is printed, e.g. sport, business, as it is sometimes necessary to guess the meaning of some words from the context. If readers can follow the news, they will absorb a new vocabulary day by day without using a dictionary, and then can enjoy reading newspapers with ease and pleasure.

**NOTES:**

1. This article has been adapted from the paper presented at IATEFL'S 25th International Conference, 3-6 April 1991, University of Exeter, England.

2. The dateline indicates the place where the news story was written and may also show the date when the story was filed/sent.

3. Is the Reuter's correspondent a Palestinian himself?

4. The writer claims anger, disbelief and despair were/are "sweeping" (= found across the country and increasing). He does not appear to have the evidence to use the word "sweeping"

5. A tabloid is a newspaper with about half the page size of an ordinary newspaper and usually contains many pictures and a limited amount of serious news.

**The Author**

Associate Professor Malinee Chandavimol was the Director of Chulalongkorn University Language Institute (CULI) from 1988 to 1992, during which time she was also on the governing board of the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre (RELC), chairperson of the RELC National Co-ordinating Committee for Thailand and a member of various committees of Chulalongkorn University. Amongst other things, she has written texts for CULI and the Ministry of Education.

**References**

*The Bangkok Post*, October 2, 1989; November 17, 1991; January 11, 19, 1991; February 9, 10, 20, 22, 27, 1991; March 1, 4, 1991.  
*The Nation*, March 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 1991.

## APPENDIX

### Practice Exercise

Read the following headlines under A and match with the news stories under B.

#### A

- \_\_\_\_\_1. PATRIOTS SCARE AWAY SCUD NIGHTMARES
- \_\_\_\_\_2. BAGHDAD USING CAPTURED AIRMEN AS HUMAN SHIELDS
- \_\_\_\_\_3. CITY ON 48 HOUR-TERRORIST ALERT
- \_\_\_\_\_4. SHIPPING FIRMS SHUN GULF AS WAR RISK CHARGES SOAR
- \_\_\_\_\_5. GOVT CONFIDENT ECONOMY TO GROW FAVOURABLY DESPITE WAR
- \_\_\_\_\_6. SADDAM WARNS OF LONG AND BLOODY WAR
- \_\_\_\_\_7. SADDAM'S SCUD BARRAGE A RECURRING NIGHTMARE
- \_\_\_\_\_8. HEAVY BOMBING AS FORCES PREPARE FOR GROUND WAR
- \_\_\_\_\_9. IRAQI PILOTS IN IRAN NOT DEFECTIONERS, SAY BRITISH
- \_\_\_\_\_10. ALLIES IN HUDDLE TO PLOT STRATEGY
- \_\_\_\_\_11. BAGHDAD REELS ON BEING HIT BY WAVES OF BOMBING
- \_\_\_\_\_12. IRAQ REJECTS PROPOSAL FOR CEASEFIRE

#### B

- a. In the judgement of the British government, the Iraqi pilots who have flown many of the most modern planes in the Iraqi airforce to neighbouring Iran have done so under orders and are not running away from the war.
- b. Iraq is firing Scud missiles from mobile launchers, as yet not destroyed by Allied airforces, night after night against neutral Israel (and against enemy Saudi Arabia) giving civilians in those countries sleepless nights, perhaps in air raid shelters - all like a bad dream which is repeated, a recurring and frightening experience.
- c. Someone, an Allied leader or Russian leader perhaps, has put forward a plan to bring about a quick ceasefire in the Gulf War, but Iraq has turned down this proposal completely.
- d. The American ground-to-air missile, the Patriot, is providing a mostly effective defence against the Scud short-range ground-to-ground Iraqi missiles fired from mobile launchers and, so, is allowing Israeli citizens to sleep more soundly and their government to remain neutral in the war.
- e. The Thai government forecasts that the country's economic growth will continue at much the same rate as at present or better, notwithstanding the Gulf War, which Thailand supports, but to which it is contributing very little.
- f. Even more bombing raids against Iraqi strategic and tactical targets are in progress as a prelude to the ground attack to liberate Kuwait, with the specific objective of saving the lives of Allied ground troops.
- g. The President of Iraq forecasts that the war over Kuwait will last a long time and that many will be killed on

- both sides.
- h. Allied airmen who have landed in Iraq, or have bailed out over Iraqi territory, have been taken by the Iraqi government to places in the country where there are strategic targets (which the Allies might attack from the air) in the hope that the risk of killing their colleagues will deter attack.
- i. The people of the city of Baghdad, and the Iraqi military leaders stationed there, are finding it difficult to stand upright (physically and metaphorically) as more and more bombs rain down from allied aircraft.
- j. The Thai Government has warned everyone living in Bangkok to be on special lookout for Arab/Iraqi terrorists during the next couple of days, and has deployed police and soldiers at foreign embassies.
- k. Due to the war to liberate Kuwait, insurance premiums on cargoes, in particular, and on ships have been hugely increased, and consequently shipping lines have decided to avoid sailing to the area.
- l. Allied political and military leaders have met (or spoken on the telephone, more likely) and discussed future policy in the Gulf War.

II. Read the following news stories and then complete each headline with the words given in the list below.

- |                |             |          |
|----------------|-------------|----------|
| air raid       | speculation | fails    |
| peace bid      | threatens   | gear for |
| wages          | spurns      | step up  |
| under scrutiny | dumps       |          |

1. UN CHIEF'S MISSION TO BAGHDAD.....  
The Secretary General of the United Nations has been unsuccessful during talks in Baghdad with the Iraqi President to try and persuade him to withdraw from Kuwait.
2. ....OVER GROUND OFFENSIVE MAY BE PREMATURE  
It is too soon since the Desert Storm air offensive began to fix the date when the ground troops of the allies may begin advancing into Kuwait.
3. ALLIES.....GROUND OFFENSIVE  
Allied ground forces in Saudi Arabia, and at sea in the Gulf, are moving forward nearer the front line or shore in preparation for an attack to liberate Kuwait.

## 4. ....ON BAGHDAD KILLS CAPTURED PILOT

The Iraqis have reported that an Allied pilot held as a prisoner of war in Baghdad has been killed in an air attack.

## 5. WHITE HOUSE.....US: SOVIET PEACE PLAN

The American President personally (or the American government) has dropped a plan to bring about peace in the Gulf war which had had joint American-Russian backing.

## 6. ALLIES.....AIR WAR

The air offensive by the Allies against Iraq is increasing in intensity.

## 7. MOSCOW HAS MADE LAST.....

The Soviet government has put forward a last minute peace plan to bring the Gulf War to an end.

## 8. MASSIVE OIL SLICK.....GULF

The Iraqis have deliberately spilt into the Gulf from Kuwait a large quantity of oil which will do little or nothing to affect the war--but, floating on the surface of the sea for some while, it will damage severely bird and marine life and perhaps destroy Saudi Arabian and Gulf states desalinization plants.

## 9. US....."SECRET" WAR FROM BASE IN TURKEY

Under the North Atlantic Treaty, Turkey, which is a member of this organisation, has granted a fellow member, the USA, bases. From one of these the newspaper says an unpublicised (and therefore "secret") part of the war against Iraq is being pursued.

## 10. TV ROLE IN GULF WAR.....

Allied military and political leaders are looking closely at the pictures shown on television worldwide about the Gulf War to judge if there should be further censorship, not only owing to the danger of giving too much information to the enemy, but also in case the pictures inflame public opinion in Allied countries against the war.

## 11. BUSH.....GORBACHEV'S PEACE PLAN

President Bush has ignored the last minute so-called peace plan put forward by the Soviet Union, on the eve of the land battle in the Gulf.