

- I. Please read the following news report and write a commentary on this in English. Please note that this is not a translation test from English to Chinese. 50%

“Barely a month and a half into a government dominated by a general who had displaced a Muslim Brother in a coup that was cheered on by most of the people, Egypt is once again plunged into violence. On August 14th armed police, backed by helicopters in the skies and bulldozers on the streets, stormed thousands of the Brothers’ supporters encamped beside a mosque and a university in Cairo. Hundreds were killed and nearly 3,000 injured and the violence spread to other cities. --- The government has pleaded that it used “the utmost degree of self-restraint” this week. In fact, its choice to unleash deadly force against its own people was brutal and reckless. Far from making the closing chapter in the popular coup, the killing threatens a period of strife that could drag the country towards civil war.” (cited from the Economist, August 17th 2013)

- II. Please translate and comment on this paragraph in Chinese. With regard to people’s names or places, you can put them into your Chinese translation directly (50%).

EU Calls for Ukraine Elections, Shies Away From Sanctions. The European Union has called for the formation of a new government in Ukraine, to be followed by free and fair presidential elections. But it stopped short Monday of calling for sanctions. Anti-government protests erupted in November after President Viktor Yanukovich backed out of signing a trade deal with the European Union. Barricades still block off the heart of Kyiv as the standoff between protesters and the government enters its third week. The opposition’s demand that Yanukovich step down has been amplified by the European Union. Meeting in Brussels Monday, EU foreign ministers issued a joint statement urging the formation of a new government and constitutional reforms that would pave the way to free and fair presidential elections. “We are working closely with civil society leaders who I’ve spent some time with, talking about their issues and concerns,” said Catherine Ashton, EU foreign affairs chief. “The importance of stopping any form of violence; bringing to justice those who have perpetrated that violence; and moving forward to the work of the parliament on constitutional reform which is a key part of trying to solve this crisis; and onwards to free and fair elections.” As the EU offers closer trade ties, it has stopped short of imposing sanctions. But Orysia Lutsevych of the London-based policy institute Chatham House says the EU should target the wealthy backers of Ukraine’s leadership. “The oligarchs, the business people. And I’m not talking here about sanctions as such. I’m talking about the existing legal basis of scrutiny of financial accounts in European banks of politically exposed people,” she said. “And we do know there are senior government officials in Ukraine who are banking in Europe - and the source of this funding is quite dubious.” Yanukovich turned away from signing a trade deal with Europe in November, choosing a loan agreement with Moscow. All eyes are now on Russia as it hosts the Winter Olympics. Once that scrutiny is lifted, many protesters in Ukraine fear another crackdown by authorities - backed by Russia. “There are some really quite worrying comments coming out of Moscow about Moscow’s thinking that maybe Ukraine would be better if it were federalized, which I think is code for some sort of split between east and west,” said Ian Bond, who is from the analyst group, Center for European Reform. As the geopolitical rivalry plays out, the protesters say they will not leave their barricades until their demands are met (<http://www.voanews.com/content/eu-calls-for-ukraine-elections-shies-away-from-sanctions/1848570.html>, accessed on 10, February, 2014)