



Israel's new President Shimon Peres still pushing for peace

仍在为和平奋战的以色列新任总统

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Shimon Peres, known for his diplomacy, vision and political maneuvering, took office as Israel's president with a series of promises to work on weighty issues like Mideast peace and global warming, despite the limitations of his new position and his own advanced age—83.

At a ceremony Sunday afternoon, Peres entered the parliament to military fanfares¹, walking between rows of soldiers in dress uniform, stopping to talk to some of them. Peres took his oath of office and spoke of his peace goals—even an ambitious project of digging a canal and artificial lakes in the desert between Israel and Jordan.

"We must encourage peace here at home, with our neighbors, in the region," he told the parliament.

The ceremony capped² a momentous six-decade political career that has included international acclaim and a Nobel peace prize but also a string of embarrassing electoral defeats at home.

In a half-hour interview with The Associated Press, Peres—praised by his supporters as a visionary but ridiculed³ by foes as a hopeless dreamer—pledged to fight poverty and global warming, and even expressed hope of making peace with archenemy Iran.

"After such a long career, let me just say something: My appetite to manage is over. My inclination to dream and to envisage is greater," he said, looking vigorous in a dark blue suit, light blue tie and crisp shirt and discounting his age as a factor that could slow him down.

Peres, the last politically active member of ►

以外交手腕、远见卓识和政治谋略著称的西蒙·佩雷斯就任以色列总统并作出了一系列承诺,表示要着手解决像中东和平和全球变暖这样的重大问题,尽管他的新职务权力有限,而且他本人年事已高——已届 83 岁。

在周日下午举行的仪式上,佩雷斯在军乐声中进入议会。他走在身穿军装的士兵行列中间,不时停下来与其中一些人进行交谈。佩雷斯宣誓就职,并谈到了他的和平目标——甚至还谈到了一个宏伟工程:在以色列和约旦之间的沙漠开凿一条运河和几个人工湖。

"我们必须促进我国与本地区邻国之间的和平,"他在议会发表讲话时说。

在长达 60 年的重要政治生涯中,他获得过国际社会的称赞,赢得过诺贝尔和平奖,但是在国内也遭到过一系列令人尴尬的选举失败。而总统就职仪式则将其政治生涯推向了顶峰。

在接受美联社历时半个小时的采访时,佩雷斯——支持者称赞他具有远见卓识,而反对者讥嘲他是无可救药的空想家——发誓要同贫困和全球变暖作斗争,甚至表示希望与主要敌人伊朗讲和。

"经历了这么长的政治生涯,就让我说几句吧:我对当管家已经失去了兴趣,但我实现梦想和展望未来的渴望却更加强烈了,"他身穿深蓝色西装,系浅蓝色领带,衬衫挺括,神采奕奕地说道。对于年龄可能使他精力不济的说法,他不以为然。

佩雷斯是以色列开国元勋当中最后一 ►

Israel's founding generation, has been a contributor to history throughout Israel's 59-year existence. He was a senior aide to the country's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion, developed Israel's nuclear program, built up the military in the 1950s and has held every senior government post, including three stints⁴ as prime minister.

As foreign minister, he played a key role in the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, earning him the Nobel prize in 1994 and unprecedented stature abroad as a revered⁵ statesman. He also soothed the nation as caretaker⁶ leader following the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

But until last month, Peres had never won an election, an embarrassing blemish⁷ on an otherwise illustrious⁸ career.

"I don't think there was any person who was so much attacked and criticized in these last 60 years like myself. But the fact that after 60 years of criticism, of terrible remarks, they decided to elect me as the president," Peres said. "I didn't expect it."

Under Israel's parliamentary system, political power is concentrated in the hands of the prime minister. The president plays a largely ceremonial role, representing the government at official functions and serving as a unifying figure in a country riven⁹ by deep political divisions, especially over how to pursue peace with the Palestinians.

Peres has long been among the most dovish¹⁰ members of the Israeli leadership. While aware of the constraints of the new job, Peres said he would not halt his crusade for peace with the Palestinians. He said that would require Israel to withdraw from significant pieces of territory captured in the 1967 Mideast War—a position still opposed by large parts of the Israeli public. "We have to get rid of the territories," he said, referring to the West Bank, insisting that this is the majority view in Israel today.

He said he would use the presidency to "encourage" the government to take steps for peace, offer advice to the nation's leaders and "speak to the people."

"In public life, you don't use swords. You use words. You talk to people. You have dialogue. That's ►

位仍然活跃在政坛的人物。自59年前以色列建国以来,佩雷斯一直在参与创造历史。他曾是这个国家首任总理戴维·本·古里安的高级助手,制订过以色列的核计划,在上世纪50年代加强军力,在政府中担任过每一个高级职务,包括三次出任总理。

担任外长期间,他在以色列与巴勒斯坦首次达成和平协议的过程中发挥了关键作用,为此于1994年获得了诺贝尔奖,并且作为受人尊敬的政治家在国外声望空前。1995年伊扎克·拉宾总理遇刺身亡后,他还代行政府领导人职务,抚慰全国人民。

但是直到上个月,佩雷斯还从未在选举中获胜过。除了这个令人尴尬的美中不足之处外,他的政治生涯可谓成就辉煌。

"我认为,过去60年来没有任何人像我这样受到过这么多的抨击和批评。但是,虽然他们批评了我60年,对我恶评了60年,却还是决定选我当总统,"佩雷斯说,"这是我沒有料到的。"

以色列实行议会制,政治权力集中在总理手中。总统主要扮演礼仪性的角色,在公务活动中代表政府,而由于以色列国内政治分歧严重,尤其是在如何实现以巴和平问题上存在的分歧使这个国家四分五裂,因此总统也是一个发挥团结作用的人物。

长期以来,佩雷斯一直是立场最为温和的以色列领导人之一。尽管清楚其新职务的权力有限,但他仍表示将为实现以巴和平奋斗不辍。他说,那将需要以色列撤出在1967年中东战争中夺取的大片领土——以色列大量民众仍然反对这一立场。"我们必须放弃这些领土,"他意指西岸说,并且坚持认为这是当今以色列大多数人的看法。

他说,他将利用总统一职"鼓励"政府采取和平步骤,向国家领导层进言,并"与人民交谈"。

"在公共生活中,不能使用刀剑,要运用言词,要同人们交谈,要对话。这就是 ►

1. fanfare [ˈfænfə(r)] n. (仪式等开始前吹奏的) 响亮的喇叭声

2. cap [kæp] vt. 使兴趣、激动等) 达极点

3. ridicule [ˈrɪdɪkjʊ:l] vt. 嘲笑, 嘲弄; 戏弄

4. stint [stɪnt] n. 工作期限, 规定的任期

5. revere [rɪˈvɪə(r)] vt. 尊崇, 崇敬; 敬畏

6. caretaker [ˈkeəˌteɪkə(r)] a. 临时代理的

7. blemish [ˈblemɪʃ] n. 瑕疵; 污点; 缺点

8. illustrious [ɪˈlʌstriəs] a. 辉煌的, 灿烂的

9. rive [raɪv] vt. 使四分五裂

10. dovish [ˈdʌvɪʃ] a. 温和派的, 鸽派的

what I'm going to do. I don't have any force but the force of my conviction," he said.

Many Israelis have scorned Peres as a romantic for his belief in a "new Middle East," a phrase he coined in the 1990s when peace with the Palestinians seemed close.

Though that optimistic vision never materialized, Peres has not lost his idealism. Throughout Sunday's conversation, he refused to dwell on¹¹ the past and insisted on discussing future projects like ending global warming and poverty, making vague references to "the cosmos"¹² and improving the world for youth.

Peres said he would even be willing to meet a president of Iran if it would advance the cause of peace, but not the current leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has repeatedly called for Israel's elimination. Peres noted the long history of ties between Jewish and Persian leaders from Biblical times and until the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Peres succeeds Moshe Katsav, who left office in a cloud of scandal after four former female employees accused him of a series of sex crimes, including rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Facing indictment¹³, Katsav resigned two weeks ago under a plea bargain¹⁴ that allowed him to escape the most serious charges and avoid jail. The deal has been put on hold pending¹⁵ a court challenge by women's right groups.

Peres said he is confident the presidency has not been damaged by the scandal. "The accusations are against a person," not the institution, he said.

Peres, bruised¹⁶ but never broken by his defeats, appeared eager to take on a new role after 48 years in parliament.

Peres, who turns 84 next month, said "a very deep belief in what I'm doing" has kept him going all this time. "I am willing and I think I have to contribute to my country. For me, my country is like my family," Peres said.



Yitzhak Rabin, left, and Yasir Arafat, right, shake hands in 1993 after the signing of a peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. U.S. President Bill Clinton, center, helped forge the historic agreement.

我所做的。给予我力量的只有我的信念。”他说。

许多以色列人对佩雷斯不屑一顾，认为他是个浪漫主义者，因为他相信能够建设一个“新中东”。这个词是他在上世纪90年代创造的，当时以巴和平似乎已近在眼前。

尽管这一乐观的想法从未成为现实，但是佩雷斯并没有放弃自己的理想主义。在周日的访谈中，他不愿老提过去的事情，而

是坚持谈论像结束全球变暖和贫困这样的未来计划。他模模糊糊地提到了“和谐”和为青年人改善世界的问题。

佩雷斯说，如果有助于促进和平事业，他甚至愿意会晤某位伊朗总统，但不是现任领导人马哈茂德·艾哈迈迪内贾德，后者一再呼吁消灭以色列。佩雷斯指出，犹太领导人与波斯人领导人之间的关系历史悠久，从圣经时代一直保持到1979年伊朗爆发伊斯兰革命。

佩雷斯接替的是摩西·卡察夫的职务。卡察夫在丑闻阴云的笼罩下离职，此前4名前女性雇员指控他进行一系列性犯罪，其中包括强奸、性侵害和性骚扰。

在面临起诉的情况下，卡察夫两周前依据一份认罪辩诉协议辞职。该协议使他得以逃脱最严重的指控，避免了牢狱之灾。由于妇女权利组织向法院提出异议，该协议已经暂时停止执行。

佩雷斯说，他相信总统职位没有受到丑闻的影响。“指控针对的是一个人”，不是这个制度，他说。

愈挫愈奋的佩雷斯，在48年的议员生涯后，对即将开始的新角色似乎充满热切之情。

下月将年满84岁的佩雷斯说，“我对我所做的一切深信不疑”，所以能够一直勇往直前。“我愿意、我也认为我必须为国家作出贡献。对我来说，我的国家就像是我的家，”佩雷斯说。（金进龙译自 International Herald Tribune Jul. 15, 2007）

11. dwell on (或 upon) 老是想

12. cosmos [ˈkɒzmos] n. 秩序; 和谐

13. indictment [ɪnˈdɪktmənt] n. 控告, 告发; 起诉

14. plea bargain (检察官与刑事被告或被告律师达成的由被告承认轻罪以便减轻处罚的) 认罪辩诉协议

15. pending [ˈpendɪŋ] prep. 在...期间, 在...过程中

16. bruise [bruːz] vt. 挫伤, 伤害 感情等