



Minister stunned by estranged relative's phonecall

英國大臣電台call-in節目認遠親

Britain's Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband was **knocked for six** when a long-lost Russian family member rang in as he appeared on a radio show in Moscow.

In the country to discuss climate change, Miliband was taking questions on Ekho Moskv when an 87-year-old woman rang up and said in Russian: "I am Sofia Davidovna Miliband, I am your relative; I am the only one left."

Thinking the call was a hoax, the radio station initially cut her short.

However, through translation the pair worked out that his great-great-grandfather was the brother of her grandfather, both of whom were born in the Jewish quarter of Warsaw.

The minister's grandfather **fled** to Belgium in the 1920s and then to Britain on forged papers to escape the Nazis. Unbeknownst to them, another branch of the family had headed east to Moscow.

Ed, whose brother David is Britain's foreign secretary, rushed off to meet Sofia, **ditching** the British ambassador and invited guests at a reception.

Miliband told BBC radio it was a "very moving and fantastic experience", describing his relative as "an amazing woman".

Sofia Miliband was once an expert on Iran at the Moscow

School of Oriental Studies.

"After the program she described who she was, I knew that absolutely checked out and this was absolutely her," he said.

"I did sort of **vaguely** know when I was a kid about her existence. The way I know about it, if you look on a library computer her name pops up.

"I've always slightly wondered about her ever since I was a kid. It was just amazing for me to come face to face with her and it was fantastic."

(AFP)

英

國氣候變遷大臣艾德·米利班在莫斯科上廣播節目時，接到一通失聯已久的俄國家族成員來電，讓他大感震驚。

米利班在俄國討論氣候變遷問題時，接受艾克侯·莫司克維的訪問，接到一通一位八十七歲老太太的來電，她用俄語說：「我是蘇菲亞·姐薇朵夫娜·米利班，我是你的親戚；僅存的一個。」

電台原以為這是一通惡作劇電話，就打斷她的話。

然而，經過翻譯，他們倆才釐清他的曾曾祖父和她的祖父是兄弟，兩人都出生於華沙的猶太區。

這位大臣的祖父在一九二〇年代逃到比利時，之後又為了躲避納粹，用假身份逃到英國。他們並不知道，家族的另一分支向東逃往莫斯科。

艾德的哥哥大衛是英國外相，他得知消息後就拋下接待會上的英

國大使和受邀賓客，趕去和蘇菲亞會面。

米利班對英國廣播公司廣播網表示，這是個「非常感人又不可思議的經驗」，並形容他這位親戚是「一位了不起的女士」。

蘇菲亞·米利班曾是莫斯科東方研究學院的伊朗專家。

他說：「聽完她在節目上的敘述後，我知道她所言絕對不假，絕對就是她本人。」

「我小時候就隱約知道她的存在。我會知道是因為，只要上圖書館用電腦一查，就會看到她的名字。」

「我從小就對她略感好奇。能和她親自碰面對我來說真不可思議，感覺太棒了。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星豐)

Top left: Britain's Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband appears on the BBC's *The Andrew Marr Show* in London on Sept. 13, 2009.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Top right: Ed Miliband arrives on the "green" carpet at the premiere of director Franny Armstrong's *The Age of Stupid*, in Leicester Square, central London, on March 15, 2009.

PHOTO: EPA

左上圖：九月十三日，英國能源及氣候變遷大臣艾德·米利班在倫敦出席英國廣播公司的《安德魯馬爾秀》。

照片：路透社

右上圖：三月十五日，在倫敦市中心萊斯特廣場舉行的《愚蠢年代》電影首映會上，艾德·米利班出席走「綠」地毯。《愚》片由芬妮·阿莫斯執導。

照片：歐新社

TODAY'S WORDS

今日單字

1. **flee** /fli/ v.

逃 (tao2)

例：The robbers fled the scene as soon as the alarm started ringing.

(警鈴一響，搶匪立刻逃離現場。)

2. **ditch** /dɪtʃ/ v.

捨棄 (she3 qi4)

例：When it started to rain we ditched our sunglasses and looked for shelter.

(一下雨我們就摘下太陽眼鏡，找尋避雨處。)

3. **vaguely** /'veɪglɪ/ adv.

隱約地 (yin3 yue1 de5)

例：I can vaguely remember my first visit to the fairground.

(我隱約記得第一次去露天市集的情形。)

IDIOM POINT

重要片語

knock for six
震驚到無法思考

If something **knocks you for six**, it shocks you so you're unable to think clearly. The idiom derives from cricket, where a "six" is the maximum that can be scored from one ball.

Examples: "Paul was **knocked for six** when he found out that his wife was pregnant," or "I was really **knocked for six** when I saw this month's sales figures."

若說某事「**knock you for six**」，就表示這件事讓你震驚到無法好好思考。這個片語源於板球，因為在板球比賽中，一球至多只能得「六分」。

例如：「保羅得知他太太懷孕的消息時震驚不已」，或是「我看到這個月的銷售數字時震驚得無法思考」。