

請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

伊朗同西方达成核协议，同意减少其核活动并且在日内瓦历史性会谈期间允许更多的国际监督人员入境检查。作为交换条件世界大国将取消对伊朗实施的一些金融制裁。这一协议将 试行六个月。BBC 记者 Mark Wooldridge 发回以下报道：

In public, a key step along the path to the deal was the dialogue opened up at this year's UN General Assembly between President Rouhani and Western nations, after years of the relationship being dominated by whether Iran is, or is not, **seeking** to develop nuclear weapons.

And - more than 30 years after the US embassy **siege** in Tehran - September's fifteen-minute phone conversation between President Obama and Mr Rouhani gave further hope of potential progress towards resolving the nuclear dispute.

But behind the scenes, it has now been revealed, the US and Iran have been **engaged in** secret face-to-face talks for months, in Oman and elsewhere. The Associated Press news agency says they were kept hidden even from America's allies and negotiating partners until two months ago.

It was a **high-stakes** diplomatic **gamble**. While Israel argues that the deal reached in Geneva is dangerously **skewed** in favour of Iran, most of Iran's Arab neighbours are clearly **uneasy** too.

But the public and private diplomacy from here on will clearly need to be just as intense - and is likely to face many more severe tests - if a more **comprehensive** nuclear agreement is to be achieved, and Iran's relationships in its volatile region and with the rest of the world are to return to normal.

## Questions

1. True or false? *The US and Iran were in secret talks for months before this year's UN General Assembly dialogue between President Rouhani and Western nations.*
2. Can you name one place where the face-to-face secret talks were held?
3. How many years has it been since the US embassy siege took place in Tehran?
4. True or false? *Israel is unhappy with the deal, but Iran's Arab neighbours are happy and comfortable with it.*

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>seeking</b>	想方设法，力图
<b>siege</b>	武装包围
<b>engaged in</b>	参与，接触
<b>high-stakes</b>	高风险
<b>gamble</b>	赌博，风险
<b>skewed</b>	不公平的，更倾向于
<b>uneasy</b>	感觉不舒服/不自在的，担心的
<b>comprehensive</b>	全面的

### Answers to the questions:

1. True or false? *The US and Iran were in secret talks for months before this year's UN General Assembly dialogue between President Rouhani and Western nations.*  
**Answer:** True. Behind the scenes, it has now been revealed, the US and Iran have been **engaged in** secret face-to-face talks for months.
2. Can you name one place where the face-to-face secret talks were held?  
**Answer:** Oman.
3. How many years has it been since the US embassy siege took place in Tehran?  
**Answer:** More than 30.
4. True or false? *Israel is unhappy with the deal, but Iran's Arab neighbours are happy and comfortable with it.*  
**Answer:** False. Most of Iran's neighbours are clearly uneasy too.