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China to Send Its First Infantry Troops to U.N. Mission in South Sudan (2)

China's first infantry contribution to a United Nations peacekeeping force will depart for South Sudan in January, the state news media has reported. (8)

The move is widely seen as a sign of greater Chinese commitment to United Nations peacekeeping efforts and of Beijing's wishes to step up protection of its commercial interests in the country. (8)

South Sudan remains one of the world's most troubled regions as fighting between the forces of President Salva Kiir (薩瓦基爾) and the former vice president, Riek Machar (里克馬沙爾), has killed and displaced thousands of people, as well as threatened the country's economic lifeline, oil. (12)

第四題 (20 分)

2014 Breaks Heat Record, Challenging Global Warming Skeptics (3)

Last year was the hottest on earth since record-keeping began in 1880, scientists reported on Friday, underscoring warnings about the risks of runaway greenhouse gas emissions and undermining claims by climate change contrarians that global warming had somehow stopped. (10)

Skeptics of climate change have long argued that global warming stopped around 1998, when an unusually powerful El Niño (聖嬰) produced the hottest year of the 20th century. (7)