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In case of the Turkish ship inspection, a small Turkish-flagged ship that is loading relief supplies for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip was suddenly inspected by Israeli patrol boat off the coast of Gaza. Turkish ship loaded only humane relief supplies such as food, medicine and clothing. However, Israel had believed that there had to be weapons and ammunition. Israelis shot Turkish crews and nine were dead.

The Turkish ambassador insult case took place shortly before the inspection case. Israel claimed about the anti-Semitic TV program aired in Turkey and asked for an official apology. Turkish ambassador to Israel was summoned by the deputy foreign minister to visit his office. Upon entering the room, the Israeli press was already waiting. He saw that only the Israeli flag was on the table. In such places, the press usually leaves as soon as they take a picture, and it is a diplomatic ritual to display the flags of both countries on the table.

Turkish ambassador felt something strange. But he didn't pay much attention and sat on a low and spacious sofa. The deputy minister sat on tall office chair arrogantly and began to speak in Hebrew to the press looking down Turkish ambassador. The Turkish ambassador, who could not understand Hebrew, heard the deputy minister's speech with a gentle diplomatic smile. He had no way of knowing that the deputy minister was giving a ridiculous explanation to the press. If the Turkish ambassador could understand Hebrew to some extent, or if the deputy foreign minister

spoke in English, the ambassador would undoubtedly stand up with anger and expressed his protest.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)