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The Peace on The Horizon - 75 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (37)

Chapter 1. Wave of nationalism and socialism (1945-1956) (21)

037. Both East and West blocks were at the mercy of Nasser (2/3)



Nasser, then 34 years old, gave the post of President and Prime Minister to his boss Major General Mohammed Naguib. In 1954, however, he took office as president himself through power struggle. Nasser came into the power and made Egypt the leader of the Arab world. He advocated Pan-Arabism. Pan-Arabism is an ideology to combine socialism with Arab nationalism. It was originated by the Ba'ath Party in Syria. By nature, Pan-Arabism was hostile to British and French colonial imperialism and US capitalism, but familiar to the Soviet socialism.

Idealist Nasser aimed the nationalization of the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal opened in the middle of the 19th century by Ferdinand de Lesseps of France. Later the UK has acquired 44% of the Canal's equity from Egypt who suffered debt due to lack of fiscal discipline. Financing for equity was burdened by Jewish Lord Rothschild. Until the end of World War II, UK and France had controlled the Suez Canal jointly.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)