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Will Nobel Peace Prize be on Israeli PM Netanyahu?

Preface



It should be like fake news or black jokes if the Nobel Peace Prize would be awarded to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. However, Israel had the history that two prime ministers, Menahem Begin and Itzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 and 1994 respectively.

There has been no doubt that the ties between Israel and the United States is now extraordinary tight since Trump was inaugurated to the President of the United States. And the Palestinian issue was stimulated since then. It is not sure that whether the permanent peace in the Middle East can be achieved or not. But it can say that the power balance in the Middle East has completely changed and the Palestinian conflict is not hot issue now.

Tail wind for PM Netanyahu

President Trump has launched pro-Israeli policies one after another. They were the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and the recognition of the Golan Heights as Israeli sovereignty. The purpose of pro-Israeli policies is said to gain support for Christian Evangelicals, who are Trump's main supporters for the coming Presidential re-election campaign. In Israel Likud party headed by Netanyahu won the general election in April 2019 with a narrow margin. Netanyahu could not form new government, and the re-election will be held. There will be a high possibility that the fifth Netanyahu government be formed. Then Netanyahu will expand the settlements of the West Bank and build a strong military base on the Golan Heights. This means to deny the two-state co-existence resolutions authorized by the United Nations.

On the other hand, Trump administration has withdrawn from the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) and banned the import of Iranian oil to all of the countries in the world including Japan and China. US also designated Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization. Hard-liners inside the administration have even proclaimed the overthrow of Iran's regime. Iran took the countermeasure against US actions. Saudi Arabia frightened by the threat of Iran became more reliant on the United States, and has even intended to cooperate with Israel.

Egypt and Turkey, the region's major powers along with Iran and Saudi Arabia, are also fading out from Palestinian issue. In Egypt, President El Sisi is working diligently about strengthening the dictatorship by constitutional referendum. Turkish President Erdogan also focuses to strengthen the political power. Two presidents need US economic and military assistance. They are trying to make a "deal" with US President Trump. Now President Trump is fighting a fierce battle of deal with four big powers in the Middle East; Iran, Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The Middle East is now in the era of "New Deal".

Trump's New Deal diplomacy

New Deal means that the parents redistribute the cards in the card game. The US New Deal during the 1930s was a domestic policy for easing money supply and stimulating investments. It was implemented by President Franklin Roosevelt to overcome the economic crisis. On the other hand, President Trump's New Deal is not domestic policy but foreign diplomacy. It is supremacy diplomacy by US in a global scale in the Middle East, China, EU and every corners in the world.

Jared Kushner's Middle East peace plan is the core of deal diplomacy of Israeli-Palestinian issue. Jared Kushner is White House senior adviser and Jewish son-in-law of President Donald Trump. He is ordered by the President to arrange peace work. It is reported that his plan will void the two states coexistence policies and Palestine will be incorporated into the "Greater Israel". It aims to improve Palestinian status through not political mediation but economic assistance. For this purpose, Kushner proposed the international conference so-called "Peace for Prosperity" in Bahrain in late June.

Kushner's peace plan is too much pro-Israel. The Palestinian Authority definitely refused the plan. Nevertheless the international community is chilly to Palestine. Palestine is isolated and is to be enslaved as a second-class citizen within the territory of Israel.

Today's Nobel Peace Prize in Middle East

Ironically, such situation is about to bring peace to the Middle East. If the word "peace" sounds disgust, it may be better to define "a political and social stability without hot war." Politicians who bring such stability are eligible for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in the Middle East has been chosen in the sense of the expectation that peace would be realized. The criteria for awarding the prize does not depend on the fact that the peace has been achieved. Peace in the Middle East has the different character from the past one. In the past the peace was a fruit of the compromise between the conflicting parties. But nowadays the peace in the Middle East is realized through a unilateral and intimidating non-combat situation by strong politicians.

Regarding to the Nobel Peace Prize for the Israeli Prime Ministers in the past, the first co-winner of Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1978 were mediated by the US President Bill Clinton after Yom Kippur War (or Ramadan War) in 1973. Begin and Sadat compromised each other despite the criticism of neighboring countries. In the second case of the 1994 peace prize, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (jointly won with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Chairman of PLO Yasser Arafat) has achieved the peace by Oslo Accord mediated by Norwegian government. Both Nobel Peace Prizes are the result of a compromise between conflicting parties.

However, peace to be created between Israel and Palestine will be different from the old one. Contemporary peace is the force-oriented one by Israel with strong back-up of the United States. It is the problem that whether this is the real peace or not. But there is a kind of peace without hot war. In that sense, if Netanyahu can calm down the conflict with Palestine by force in line with Kushner's peace plan, he will be eligible for the Nobel Peace Prize.

At that time, President Trump must surely tweet as follows. "Congratulations! Netanyahu. Don't forget that your Peace Prize is owe to me and my son-in-law!"

Lastly there is one important fact to be pointed out. President Sadat has been assassinated three years later after receiving peace prize in 1978. And the 1994 winner PM Lavin has been also assassinated two years later. It should bear in mind that the Nobel Peace Prize for the Middle East brings not only honor to him but also a risk to his life.

Your comment on this matter would be highly appreciated.

By Areha Kazuya

E-mail: Arehakazuya1@gmail.com

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