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Muslims think that atheism is not only unable to understand but also the thought of devil. Mujahidin did fight against the communist government on behalf of Allah. Muslims in the Arab countries sympathized for the Mujahidin. Muslims in the oil-rich Gulf countries prayed at mosque for Afghanistan jihad fighters and then put their money into the Zakat box when leaving mosque. Zakat means the donation and is a religious duty of Muslims. They were willing to donate money. The money to help rebel fighters in the Afghan civil war could not be sent officially. Money laundering was taken place through several banks. But some portion of money transferred into a fund for Islamic extremists in the latter stage of the war. Governments of Middle East and Western countries overlooked or encouraged the money laundering.

In the Afghan war the Arab countries supplied soldiers and money. While the United States supplied modern weapons and intelligent information via Pakistan. The information about missile and army deployment of USSR was sent from US military satellites. Arab countries and the US collaborated each other and annoyed the socialist regime of USSR. Historically, Islam had hostile relations with Christianity. So, the cooperation between Islam and Christianity was the old allegory; "Bitter enemies in the same boat".

The principles of both sides which aimed to overthrow the USSR was completely different from each other. The Arab side had intense antipathy to communist atheism. The USSR was the Devil or Satan. Therefore, it was jihad (holy war) to defeat communism ideology. Arabs are implanted ethnicity and Islam religion. Arabs have no room for ideology. In contrast, the purpose of the United States to

defeat the USSR was simple. US aimed to hold the hegemony of the world order. The war was the battle of ideology, so-called Liberalism vs Socialism and Capitalism vs Communism. The United States got initiative in the Western hemisphere through the advanced country Summit (G7) in 1975. It was the same year when the muddy Vietnamese War was ended. For the United States, the USSR was the last enemy. The Afghan war was its forefront.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)