

Chapter 2 Miscalculation of a flight route

As for the flight route to bomb Natanz, three routes were examined. The first plan was to invade Iran passing through Turkey from the Mediterranean sea. This idea was the highest priority. The second plan that passed border between Saudi Arabia and Iraq route and the third plan that passed Syrian border and then Iraq border were also examined. In any case, territorial air space of Turkey, Syria, Iraqi or Saudi Arabia would be violated. There is a possibility of violating airspace of Lebanon or Jordan, too. However, Israel was disregarding two countries from the beginning. Even if the trouble between Jordan or Lebanon was occurred, Israel was going to disregard claim of the two countries.

The route to Iran without violating any territorial space of third country would be safest one. The fighter takes a roundabout way on the high seas around the Arabian Peninsula for that. In a word, after passing the Red Sea and Arabian Sea, then the fighter invades Iran through the Persian Gulf. However, this route was out of the question. It is too long distance for jet fighters to cruise. The top executive of Israel army sighed even if Israel had the aircraft carrier. The fighter was able to make a sortie to Natanz directly if the Israeli aircraft carrier in Arabian Sea.

After all, it made comparative study of three routes. In three plans, a Syria-Iraqi route is the shortest and a physical risk is fewest. However, this idea was repelled first. The dispute over Golan Heights continues between Israel and Syria now. Moreover, Syria was a strong military

power in the region, and it was likely to expand to the full-scale war if passing over the territorial air space of Syria.

Which Turkish route or the Saudi-Iraq route should be selected? The conclusion was clear. It is Turkish route. There were close relationship based on military cooperation between Israel and Turkey intermediated by US. Turkey bought state-of-the-art arms from Israel. Turkey will admit the Israeli military aircraft to pass over the sky in Turkey as the award.

Why did an intimate military relationship arise between the two countries? It is difficult to explain in a single phrase because a complicated diplomatic element is intertwined. In short, Israel and Turkey are both the pro-American countries. And Iran is an enemy for Israel. Iran is a potential threat for Turkey, too. If the enemy of Israel is an enemy of Turkey, that is to say, enemy's enemy is an ally.

In addition to diplomatic ties, Turkish route is more convenient from the point of the midair refueling to the fighter. Taking consideration of any route exceeding 1700 kilometers of the cruising range of the fighter, it is necessary to refuel somewhere at one's way back. Any problems will not occur when the jet fighters pass through Turkish territorial air. They can refuel when they reach in the sky above the Mediterranean sea.

However, if it is a Saudi-Iraq route, it is necessary to refuel in the sky above the Arabian Peninsula. Jet fighters might face the interception by

Saudi Arabian air force. After all, Israel selected a Turkish route. Israel sent the fighters and pilots to U.S. bases in Turkey. The base was located very near to Iran. They maneuvered secret training to bomb Natanz many times. The preparation for the bombing in Natanz has advanced with steady steps. Three pilots who had taken off this morning also were among the trainees in Turkey.

The unanticipated accident was suddenly occurred. A small ship of Turkey going south over the Mediterranean sea received the inspection of Israel at offshore of Gaza. Israeli soldier fired, and nine Turks died. A Turkish ship was piling up goods for Palestinian in Gaza Strip. They were humane support goods such as food, the medicines, and clothes. However, Israel suspected that there would be an arms and ammunition. The tragedy occurred when Israeli soldiers had inspected them.

Israel is constantly threatened by the terroristic activity by Palestinian extremists Hamas domestically. At the same time, Israel is in face of outside threat. She is jeopardized by neighboring Arab countries and showered by a diplomatic criticism from Iran. Therefore, Israeli government and the military hard-liner are always being driven by the paranoid. On the other hand, they have the success experience of four Middle East Wars. They have excessive self-confidence. Such contradicted feelings cohabit strangely within them. The contradictory emotion precipitates little by little in their minds, and a normal spirit is being lost now. The tragic accident with Turkey happened in such situation.

The voice to criticize Israel has become clamorous fiercely in Turkey. Several years ago the Islamic political party took the power in Turkey. The public opinion in Turkey to protect Palestinian and to criticize Israeli government has strengthened since then. The accident spouted the fire. The diplomatic dispute rubbed up the public sentiment of Turkey.

Several months ago a certain small diplomatic dispute by TV program had actually occurred. Israeli government lodged an objection against the television program telecasted in Turkey. Israel requested an official apology from Turkey.

Generally speaking, when the foreign TV on-air the program that insults the nation, the government immediately raises the claim to the ambassador of the counter-part. That is a common procedure in the field of diplomacy. Turkish Ambassador to Israel was called by the Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. Israeli TV crew had already waited there when the ambassador entered senior vice minister's office. In this case, as soon as reporters take the photograph, they used to leave office immediately. In addition, it is etiquette on diplomacy to decorate the table with the flag of both countries. However, reporters did not leave the office, and there was only one flag of Israel on the table.

Turkish ambassador held the doubt momentarily. However, he sank his body in a voluminous sofa. The senior vice minister was arrogantly sitting on a tall clerical work chair. He looks down Turkish ambassador sitting on a low sofa. And he started his speech in Hebrew to reporters who had

surrounded him. Turkish ambassador could not understand Hebrew. He was waiting for senior vice minister's speech to end with a calm and diplomatic smile.

The senior vice minister actually has given reporters a complete different explanation. Turkish ambassador was not able to understand the situation at all. He should have protested if he can understand Hebrew even a little. Or, if the senior vice minister spoke in English in which the ambassador can understand, the ambassador would have left the office immediately showing a uncompromising protest to Israel by Turkey.

The senior vice minister declared arrogantly by Hebrew pointing Turkish ambassador by the finger. He said that Turkey was deeply ashamed of the anti-Judea program telecasted in its country. The visiting purpose of Turkish ambassador is to apologize for that.

When this news reported on the television next morning and the content of the senior vice minister's remark was clarified, a Turkish public opinion got angry. The senior vice minister's remark has developed into the diplomatic dispute between two countries. Israel government apologized senior vice minister's impoliteness. Thus, the problem looked like cooling down. However, a strong antipathy against Israel arose to the Turkish people.

Two serious problem: one is remarks by Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, and another is murder in Gaza relief ship by Israeli army. The

relation between Israel and Turkey turned to irrecoverable by these two problems. Israel could not help giving up the Iran bombing via Turkey, and changing to the Saudi Arabia-Iraqi route with a high risk.