

Postscript by the Translator

When the Middle East Peace Talks started in Madrid, the mass media of the whole world unanimously reported the talks hailing them as an epochmaking incident. Looking at the newspapers at that time, we can find large-sized headlines of "Moment of Historical Solution Arrived" dominating the front pages.

That moment reminded many people of the Paris Peace Talks, which were held at the final stage of the peace process of the Vietnam war. The white haired Mr. Shaifee, the head of the Palestinian delegation, reminded us of Mr. Le Doc To, who represented the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the intelligent Ms. Hanan Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the delegation, reminded us of Ms. Nguen Chi Binh, who appeared gallantly at the Paris Talks as the head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, although the positions were not the same as each other.

The Madrid Conference was reported in fanfare by the mass media, but there were not so many follow-up reports afterwards, while the rounds of talks were continuously held, failing to present any clear, concrete whole idea of the Middle East peace talks, partly due to the lack of the comprehensive commentaries on the conference. Therefore, voices wishing to know, by any means, about the developments of the situation of the Middle East peace talks were strongly heard in

Japan, too. This book, as it was mentioned in the author's preface, was written by a Palestinian, the central concerned party of the peace process, through a Palestinian eye about the peace process in order to meet such needs in Japan.

As for the process of publishing this book, as the author mentioned in the preface of this book, this book is a newly written book. He wrote it with his ardent hope and passion for peace, based on his experiences of speeches and lectures made in various cities, towns and universities throughout Japan. While writing this book he was remembering all the time numerous Japanese friends whom he met there. Technically speaking, I should say that most of the content was rather "newly told" for the Japanese friends and readers. Dividing into several chapters what the author wants the Japanese to know about the Middle East Peace Process, the author told the story of each chapter in English based on drafts he prepared in advance, chapter by chapter. Then, the editor who was representing the audience tape-recorded the Japanese translation which the translator made consecutively on the spot. The editor then transcribed and edited the drafts and these drafts were translated into English again to be confirmed by the author for the contents of each chapter. Moreover, based on the drafts, each chapter was completed after the author proofread and checked it. This series of preparation started from February this year and it took about three months until

tape—recording of the main chapters was completed. There are tens of cassette tapes which hold the presentations of the author.

This process of work was necessary, in a sense, due to the language problem and to check the contents. The sufferings and difficulties were huge, but were made less by the experience we learned from the previous book titled “Palestine in My Heart”, which was written by the same author and prepared almost in a similar way. If this book proves to be the book the author wished it to be, it is due to this joint work in this formula, which is rare in the case of translated books. In this respect, I would like to extend my special respect and thanks for the immense endeavors the author and the editor made during the preparation process of this book.

This book has its own value as the presentations through the Palestinian eye. I attach special importance to what the author says that he followed the peace process far and near. This author’s eye is sometimes moving far and nearer on other time in order to get the real picture of what is going on in the peace process.

As for the documents at the end of the book. Let me mention that I translated most of the documents. But, for some of the documents I used the already translated version writing the source at the end of each document. I am grateful to these books, such as the “UN Resolutions”, from which I used the already translated versions. I would like to add this and to extend my thanks.

Since the description is limited to the move of the peace process, the author's hope to add some reference materials on the background of Palestine cannot help but be deleted because of space. The author's life story, "Palestine in My Heart" (published by Shakai Hyoronsha) unfolds before us, with a story-telling style, what is there in the roots of the Palestine issue.

About the Middle East peace negotiations and its backgrounds, our readers are encouraged to read more books as are already published.

Truth is simple. But to establish this simple truth, it sometimes takes even several decades. They say that the Palestine issue is complicated. But, the Palestine issue is extremely simple from the viewpoint of the Palestinians' eyes.

Once, the translator was involved in the Vietnam issue. It differs from the Palestine issue. However, I wish the day will come very soon when the peace negotiations will be developed and the justice will be established. As we had witnessed through the Vietnam issue, I earnestly wish to have a similar experience with the Palestine issue by sharing the great joy, with the author, with the Palestinian people together with many friends of Palestine in Japan and abroad, to greet the moment when the Palestinian cause will be achieved.

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