

Israel and Turkey end six-year standoff

The animosity began when nine Turkish activists on a flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip were killed by Israeli forces (animosity 強い憎しみ、敵意 flotilla 小艦隊、小型船隊)

- 1) Israel and Turkey have announced a reconciliation deal to end a six-year diplomatic standoff that started when Israeli naval commandos shot dead nine Turkish activists travelling on an aid flotilla making for the Gaza coast. (reconciliation 和解 standoff にらみ合い、行き詰まり commando 奇襲部隊(員))
- 2) A deal negotiated in Rome on Sunday will restore full ambassador-level relations, provide for about \$20m in compensation for the families of those killed and wounded aboard the Mavi Marmara in 2010, and clear the way for potentially lucrative contracts for Israel to transmit natural gas to Turkey. (lucrative 得な)
- 3) After agreeing to halt all proceedings in domestic and international courts against Israeli forces, Turkey is expected to be allowed to ship aid for Gaza through the Israeli port of Ashdod and to build a power station, hospital and desalination plan in the blockaded Strip. (desalination 脱塩 blockade 封鎖する)
- 4) The Turkish prime minister, Binali Yildirim, announcing the deal in Ankara, said a first shipment of 10,000 tonnes of aid would be sent next Friday but it was too early to talk about gas deals with Israel. The Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, said in a simultaneous announcement in Rome that the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza would continue.
- 5) A senior Turkish official outlined the details of the deal on Sunday:
 - Israel agreed to provide compensation to the families of Mavi Marmara victims and to allow Turkey to interfere in the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
 - Turkey will deliver humanitarian aid and other non-military products to Gaza and make infrastructure investments in the area. Along with new residential buildings, we will complete the construction of a 200-bed hospital in Gaza.
 - Concrete steps will be taken to address the energy and water crisis in Gaza. The amount of electricity and drinking water to Gaza residents will increase and new power plants will be constructed.
 - The Turkey-Israel agreement will make it possible for Turkey to launch major projects in the West Bank including the Jenin industrial zone.
- 6) The official said there were no references to Hamas in the agreement and Turkey would “continue supporting the Palestinian state and the people of Palestine”. The agreement represented a “diplomatic victory” for Turkey and had the support of the Palestinian government and Hamas, he said.
- 7) Assuming such a package is ratified by Israel’s security cabinet later in the week, it will mark a return to what has been the longest standing, if often chequered, relationship between Israel and a predominantly Muslim country. In 1949 Turkey was the first predominantly Muslim nation to recognise the new state of Israel. Plans are afoot for the details of the package to be announced jointly by Netanyahu in Rome and the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in Ankara. (ratify 批准する chequered 波乱万丈の afoot 進行中で)
- 8) Most of the recent negotiations have been over Hamas-controlled Gaza. Turkey shelved its earlier demand for an ending of the blockade, settling instead for a humanitarian aid package that will be delivered through Ashdod under Israeli supervision. And while Hamas will be allowed to retain an outpost in the country, Ankara has reportedly given assurances that the Islamic faction’s Turkish base will not be used for armed operations against Israel. 以下後略(outpost 前哨地、在外基地)【Monday 27 June 2016 / The Guardian】

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What do you know about Gaza strip?
2. What incident triggered Israel and Turkey to cut off their diplomatic ties?
3. Why did Turkey and Israel decide to restore their relationship?
4. Do you think the recent coup attempt in Turkey will affect its foreign policy?
5. Make sentences using the following words: animosity, standoff, reconciliation, lucrative, ratify and blockade.

かつて親密な同盟国であったイスラエルとトルコは、エルドアン大統領が首相に就任した 2003 年頃から関係に陰りが見え始め、「ガザ支援船拿捕事件」をきっかけに関係は悪化した。しかし、去年 11 月のロシア機の墜落事件以降、関係が冷え込むロシアに代わるエネルギーの調達先が必要なトルコは沖合にガス田を持つイスラエルと手を結びたい意思があり、イスラエルも地域の大国のトルコと関係を修復して自国の安全保障を強化する狙いがあるとみられる。