

## EDITORIAL: Turmoil around Trump threatens stability of the world order

- 1) Political turmoil over alleged dubious ties between U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia is shaping up not only as an acid test of the credibility of the United States as a nation under the rule of law. It is also growing into an increasingly worrisome threat to the stability of the world order. (acid test (人や物の価値等の厳密な検査 ※金の純度を硝酸によって検査したことから))
- 2) The United States has been rocked by alleged Russian intervention in the presidential election last year. Trump is also suspected of having tried to block the Federal Bureau of Investigation's inquiry into the allegations.
- 3) The Justice Department has appointed an independent special counsel to look into ties between the Trump campaign and Moscow. As it progresses, the probe is likely to generate massive, often disruptive, political repercussions in the country. (disruptive 崩壊させる、邪魔する repercussion 跳ね返り(継続的)悪影響)
- 4) The United States should play the leading role in the international efforts to create stability in the world, which is awash with security risks, such as rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, territorial disputes in the South China Sea and chaotic situations in the Middle East. Continued political turbulence at home would cast a dark shadow over Washington's foreign policy as well. (be awash with ~でいっぱい)
- 5) Trump has only himself to blame for the current mess. He has taken a series of highly suspicious actions, including firing James Comey as FBI director. Trump can only start bringing things back to normal if he cooperates fully with the investigation and offers full explanations about the allegations to the public.
- 6) Needless to say, Robert Mueller, the former FBI director who has been named to investigate the Trump campaign's connections to Russia, has to carry out his job in a rigorous and convincing manner.
- 7) Allegations that Trump attempted to obstruct the FBI's investigation into the matter have really serious implications. If media reports that the president was urging Comey to terminate the inquiry are true, he certainly deserves to be impeached. (impeach(公務員等を職務上の不法行為に対して)弾劾する)
- 8) The United States has been preaching the importance of the rule of law to the world. But it would no longer be able to make a convincing argument for this principle.
- 9) The nature of the relationship between the Trump campaign and Russia around the time of the 2016 presidential election needs to be sufficiently clarified.
- 10) Was Russia really involved in the leaks of Hillary Clinton's e-mails? Was there any kind of collusion between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin? These and other related questions need to be answered clearly for the two countries to restore the health to their relationship.
- 11) It has also been reported that Trump recently shared with the Russian foreign minister highly sensitive classified information provided by Israel, a key U.S. ally.
- 12) If a country hands classified information provided by its ally to another country without getting the consent of the ally, the act, even if not illegal, could seriously damage their alliance.
- 13) The report could make Japan and many other allies of the United States around the world wonder how much trust they should put in the Trump administration.
- 14) The first four months of the Trump presidency have been a constant stream of questionable presidential actions that testify to his imprudence and selfishness.
- 15) His approval ratings have been languishing at record-low levels without showing any signs of picking up. But Trump has remained defiant. "No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly," he said recently.
- 16) Why can't Trump just start making serious political efforts to tackle the raft of challenges he should deal with instead of fighting futile battles with the judicial and intelligence organizations and news media he should respect as the national leaders?
- 17) The U.S. judiciary, Congress and the media all have to perform their roles of monitoring and checking the way the president uses his colossal power. The current situation is sorely testing the fundamental strength of American democracy. 【2017-05-21 | Asahi Shimbun】

### ☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What can you say about Mr. Trump ousting James Comey from being the FBI chief?
2. If you were James Comey, will you be brave enough to testify against the president?
3. Do you think Russia really has something to do with Mr. Trump's win?
4. What do you think about the US's future under the administration of Donald Trump?
5. Make sentences using the following words: acid test, awash, repercussion, mess, dubious and suspicious.