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Let us move far to the East to Beijing. Abdulaziz just said that Saudi Arabia has condemned the Turkish incursion. China does not seem to condemn anything, just looking at the situation and enjoying it. There are no real statements on Yemen or the Turkish incursion into Syria. China seems to wait until opportunities open up for both economic and increasingly also political and security engagement throughout the region - economic definitely in Syria in Iraq, security engagement with the UN in South Sudan for example. Does China have some ideas of its own and does it want to launch any initiatives of its own to solve any of the conflicts we have been talking about here?

DONG Manyuan

I am only expressing my personal views, partner of the vision. I believe that China is closely watching the whole Middle East and paying attention to the changing situation. Today, my main argument is that a situation of détente will emerge in the Middle East, even though the international community currently is focused on the Turkish operation in Northern Syria, which triggered the various responses towards this incident. However, I think the general trend will be the change of détente in the very near future in the Middle East.

The reasons are as follows. First, the United States is the first actor in the Middle East but let us give a very close look at the behaviour of Trump administration, what Mr Trump wants to do and his domestic and international priorities. Domestically I think the top priority for Mr. Trump is to win the election next year and globally speaking I think Mr. Trump's attention is mainly focused on China. If his international agenda is focused on China that means the United States should concentrate enough and necessary resources to deal with China. Let us look at the Middle East. I believe that the resources at the disposal of the US are limited. If the United States wants to concentrate resources to deal with China, that means the United States has to maintain its interest in the Middle East at the lowest cost.

Volker PERTHES

Excuse me, we are all good at analysing the United States, however we are actually interested in learning about the Chinese priorities and Chinese policy.

DONG Manyuan

I will present the Chinese position later.

Volker PERTHES

Do not take too long to get to the Chinese priorities, please.

DONG Manyuan

Secondly, since the United States wants to keep the stability of this regional alliance at the lowest cost, to safeguard US interests at the lowest cost, that means the United States right now cannot do big things in the Middle East. Even though the United States cannot do big things in the Middle East, that means that the regional allies also cannot do big things, because they hope the United States will take the lead and contribute more resources. This is my first point.

Let us look at Russia.

Volker PERTHES

No, let us look at China, please. You must admit that I squeezed Memduh on Turkey.

DONG Manyuan

Okay. Let me summarize. Since you do not allow me to extend my argument, let me summarize in one word. The various stakeholders in the Middle East are all tired, even exhausted to some extent, Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Iran and even Turkey. To generalize, their wish is that at least the current attention is not further escalated, which lays down a great foundation for the situation to reach détente. My recommendation for the World Policy Conference is that the international community should grab this opportunity for détente, firstly to hammer-out a security framework in the Gulf region, the Middle East. Maybe it can organize certain kinds of international conference to explore the possibility and feasibility of how this region can be left more stable and peaceful. Second, the international community and regional countries should focus on the fight against international terrorism, religious extremists as well as ethnic separatists. Third, I think the general key to address regional peace, stability and development, is to enhance regional cooperation.

In this regard, China wants to offer its contribution to that within the framework of potential initiatives and this cooperation with all Middle East countries. However, the reality is that China keeps good relations with all Middle East countries, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Iran. It has very good relations with all Middle East countries and I think that is a better condition to have cooperation with all Middle East countries. I think the Chinese position towards the Middle East has already been clearly iterated by President Xi Jinping during his visit to Egypt and his speech at the headquarters of the Arab League. That was three noes; China seeks no proxy in the Middle East; does not seek to fill the power vacuum; and does not seek regime change. Rather, we persist in our traditional policy of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. We also call for the United Nations to play a leading role in addressing peace, stability and development in the Middle East. We also very strongly support the Palestinian cause and support the two-state solution based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and with the border before the 1967 war and Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. We also support the Arab Peace Initiative led by Saudi Arabia. We also highly appreciate the Saudi Arabian and the Arab League's response to the recent so-called, 'deal of the century' and our positions and Saudi Arabia's positions. This is a very short summary.

Volker PERTHES

Thank you very much for laying that out.