

Period III (2)-ii. Adjustment of opinions on territorial provisions in US-UK discussions

The United States and the United Kingdom concurred on referring to the three islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton, and Dagelet as a part of “Korea” to which Japan renounced rights to, and affirmed that Takeshima is a part of Japan’s territory

No.40 7th Meeting, Anglo-American Meetings on Japanese Peace Treaty
FY2017/P33 May 2, 1951

Overview

This document is a summary record (prepared by the United Kingdom) of the seventh Anglo-American Meeting held on May 2, 1951, at the final stage of the working level discussions between the two countries.

Concerning the Article on territory of the draft, it states that “Both Delegations [United States and United Kingdom] agreed that it would be preferable to specify only the territory over which Japan was renouncing sovereignty,” and that “United States Article 3 would require the insertion of the three islands: Quelpart, Port Hamilton, and Dagelet.”

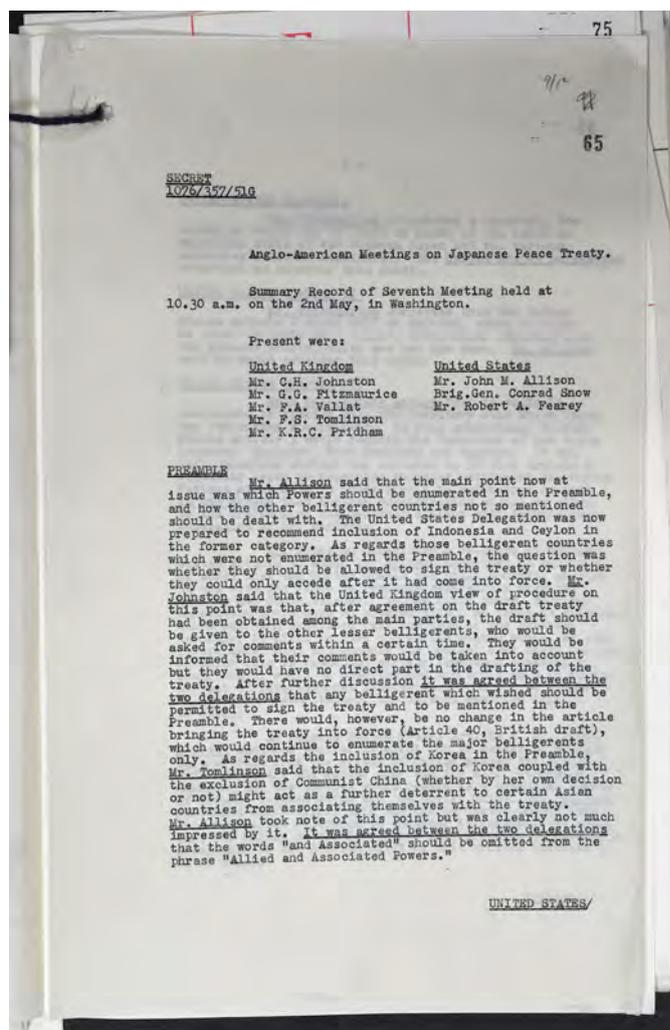
Based on this document, we can see that through the Anglo-American Meeting, the two countries agreed to adopt the structure of the United States draft that sets out only the territories that Japan would renounce, instead of the method pursued in the United Kingdom draft of prescribing the islands that would remain under Japanese rule.

Furthermore, based on this conclusion, we can see that the two countries came to a compromise with regard to the clarification of Japan’s territory as requested by the United Kingdom, by referring to the three islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton, and Dagelet as part of the Republic of Korea that Japan would renounce.

The position of the United States was that Takeshima had long been a part of Japan’s territory (→No.38). The United Kingdom draft was withdrawn, clarifying that Takeshima would be retained by Japan.

Excerpt
UNITED STATES CHAPTER III

Both Delegations agreed that it would be preferable to specify only the territory over which Japan was renouncing sovereignty. In this connection, United States Article 3 would require the insertion of the three islands: Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet. (text omitted)



Repository: The National Archives (United Kingdom)

Date Created	May 2, 1951
Author(s) & Editor(s)	-
Publisher	-
Name of Publication	Foreign Office: Political Departments: General Correspondence from 1906-1966 (FO371/92547)
Language	English
Medium	Paper
Public Access	Open
Repository	The National Archives (United Kingdom)
Reference & Information	Follow the instructions at The National Archives (United Kingdom)

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UNITED STATES CHAPTER I

Mr. Fitzmaurice circulated a re-draft, the object of which was to leave no doubt of the dates on which the state of war between Japan and the various countries would be terminated. The United States Delegation undertook to consider this draft.

UNITED STATES CHAPTER II

Mr. Fitzmaurice suggested that the United States Article 2 might well be omitted, since it might be taken to imply that Japan's sovereignty depended upon the present treaty, which was not the case. Mr. Allison said he would consider this point.

UNITED STATES CHAPTER III

Both Delegations agreed that it would be preferable to specify only the territory over which Japan was renouncing sovereignty. In this connection, United States Article 3 would require the insertion of the three islands: Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet. It was left undecided whether the sentence in British Article 2 requiring Japan to recognise whatever settlement the United Nations might make in Korea should be maintained or not. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the drafting of the sentence dealing with Japan's renunciation of her mandates.

Mr. Johnston circulated a re-draft of United States Article 4, which Mr. Allison undertook to consider. He added that the United States was still doubtful whether it was wise for Japan to renounce sovereignty over the Ryukyus and Bonin Islands. In the first place, such renunciation would have an adverse effect on Japanese opinion, which was much exercised over the fate of the Ryukyus; secondly, it might be that the United States would, at some future date, wish to renounce its control over these islands, in which case if Japan had already renounced sovereignty, their status would be undetermined and would have to be the subject of international discussion. It might be simpler if, in such circumstances, the islands reverted legally to Japan.

As regards United States Article 5, Mr. Fitzmaurice wondered whether it might not be better to exclude this article from the effect of United States Article 19, and thus settle the matter once and for all. Otherwise Sakhalin and the Kuriles would remain as a potential source of trouble between Japan and the Soviet Union. Mr. Allison mentioned difficulties with the United States Senate over this matter but undertook to consider it further. He added that the United States Delegation were prepared to recommend acceptance of the British draft of this article (Article 3) as it stood.

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