

Protest by the Government of Japan against the declaration by the President of the Republic of Korea

No.51 A note verbale of protest from the Government of Japan to the Government of the ROK on January 28, 1952, in response to a declaration concerning “maritime sovereignty” by the President of the ROK, Syngman RHEE January 28, 1952

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<p>1. 1952.1.28 字 日蘭口述書</p> <p>The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Korean Diplomatic Mission in Japan and concerning the proclamation of the President of the Republic of Korea of January 18, 1952 claiming sovereignty over the shelf and seas adjacent to Korean territory has the honour to request the Mission to transmit the following statement to the Government of the Republic of Korea:</p> <p>The Japanese Government considers that the contents of the proclamation of the President of the Republic of Korea of January 18, 1952 not only are entirely incompatible with the long internationally established principle of the freedom of the high seas, but also run counter to the basic principle of international cooperation for the development and protection on an equal footing of the marine resources of the high seas. This unilateral proclamation is utterly untenable under any of the accepted ideas of international society, and therefore cannot be acquiesced in by the Japanese Government.</p> <p>While the Japanese Government is preparing in good faith to enter into negotiation with the Government of the Republic of Korea for the adjustment of the fishing interests of both countries in adherence to the principle of friendly cooperation underlying the Peace Treaty signed at San Francisco and for the mutual prosperity of Japan and Korea, it can not but take a serious view of the attitude of the Korean Government in making the proclamation in question just as a conference on fisheries,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-1-</p>	<p>among other subjects, is about to be opened between the two Governments. The Korean Government, in taking such a step, will be destroying the necessary base for the success of the negotiations, and it is much to be regretted that doubt is thrown as to the good faith of the Korean Government in participating in the forthcoming conference.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the proclamation the Republic of Korea appears to assume territorial rights over the islets in the Japan Sea known as Takeshima (otherwise known as Liancourt Rocks). The Japanese Government does not recognize any such assumption or claim by the Republic of Korea concerning these islets which are without question Japanese territory.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tokyo, January 28, 1952.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-2-</p>
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Overview

On January 18, 1952, the ROK unilaterally established the so-called “Syngman Rhee Line”, and claimed Korean fishing jurisdiction over the vast body of water inside the line encompassing Takeshima. In response to this, Japan protested by a note verbal sent to the Government of the ROK on January 28. In the note, the Government of Japan strongly protested against the Government of the ROK stating “in the proclamation the Republic of Korea appears to assume territorial rights over the islets in the Japan Sea known as Takeshima (otherwise known as Liancourt Rocks). The Japanese Government does not recognize any such assumption or claim by the Republic of Korea concerning these islets, which are without question Japanese territory” (provisional translation).

In the first part of this note, the Japanese Government strongly criticized this unilateral proclamation by the President of the ROK stating, “entirely incompatible with the long internationally established principle of freedom of the high seas,” and running “counter to the basic principle of international cooperation for the development and protection on an equal footing of the marine resources of the high seas.”

Excerpt [English translation]

Furthermore, in the proclamation the Republic of Korea appears to assume territorial rights over the islets in the Japan Sea known as Takeshima (otherwise known as Liancourt Rocks). The Japanese Government does not recognize any such assumption or claim by the Republic of Korea concerning these islets which are without question Japanese territory.

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