

Period IV (1)-ii. Documents related to the exchanges of protests between the Japanese and South Korean governments

First note verbale on the position of the Japanese government demonstrating the legitimacy of its territorial sovereignty over Takeshima (July 13, 1953)
No.52 News release material of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

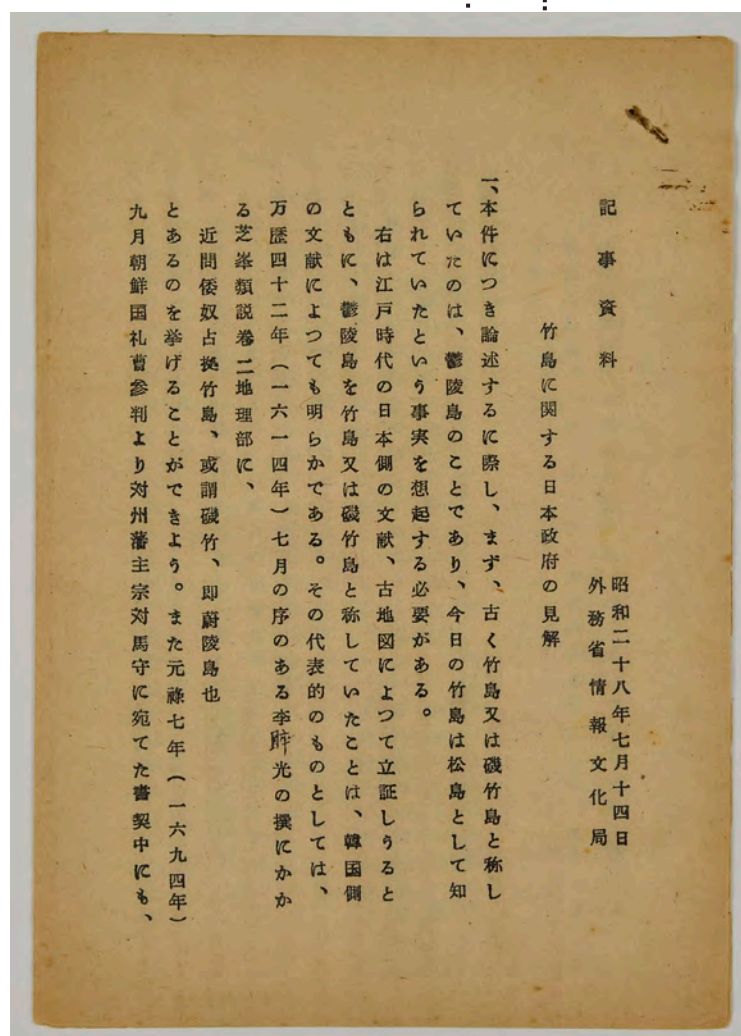
FY2017/P16

Japanese Government's Views concerning Takeshima July 14, 1953

Overview

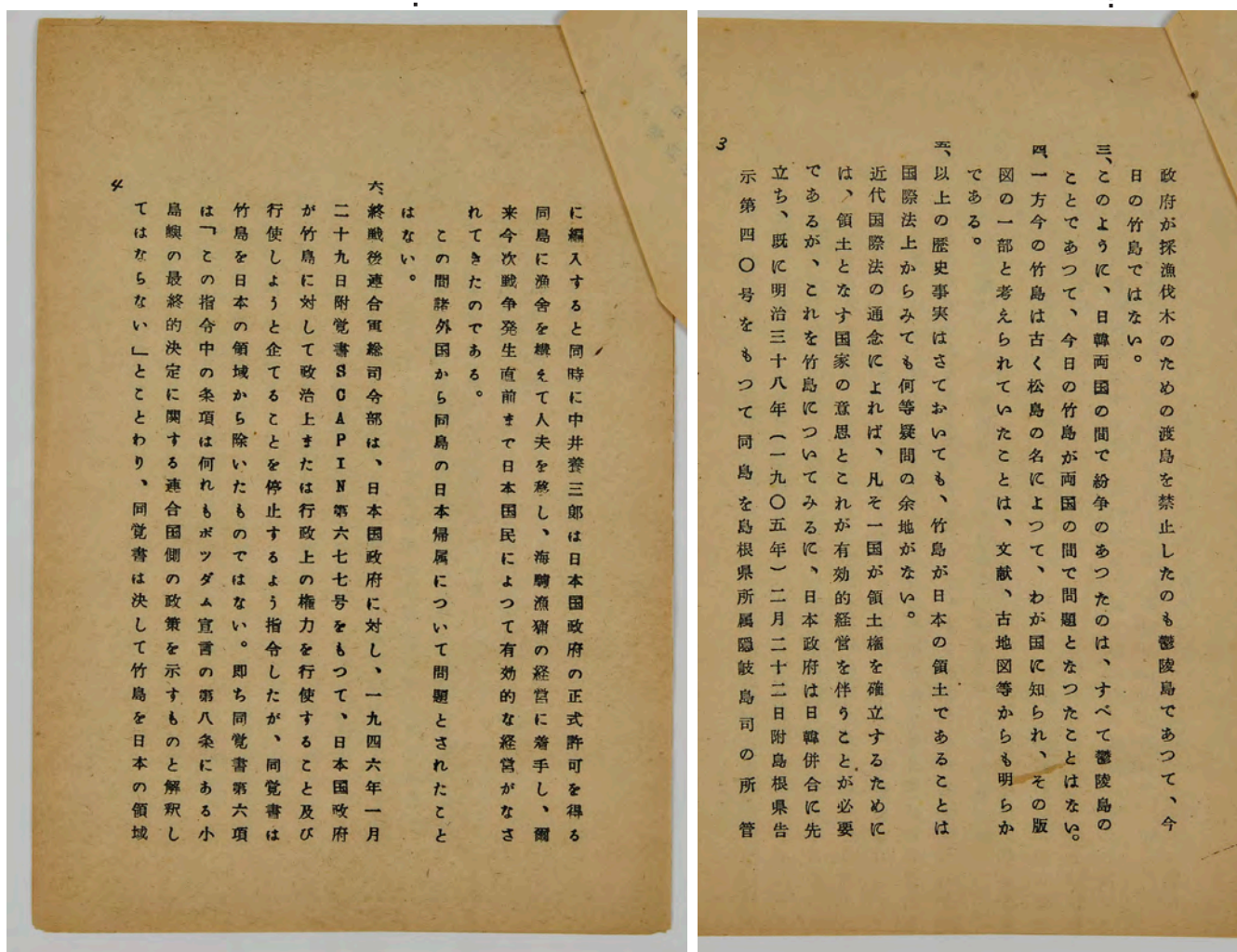
On July 13, 1953, the Government of Japan advocated the legitimacy of its territorial sovereignty over Takeshima and refuted against the ROK through a note verbale. This document is a news release with the same content as the said note verbale that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan released externally on the day following the issuance of the said note verbale (July 14th). Following this, four notes verbales (including the one mentioned above) with opinions on the territorial grounds were exchanged between the Governments of Japan and South Korea.

In this note verbale, the Government of Japan put forth its position justifying its territorial sovereignty over Takeshima with three rationales: first, unlike Korea, the government of Japan had clear recognition of Takeshima at the earlier stage of its history; second, Japan's measures including the incorporation of Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture in 1905 and its effective control over the island thereafter is consistent with international law concerning territorial acquisition; finally, noting the process in which the territory of Japan were determined after WWII.



Repository: Shimane Prefectural Library

Date Created	July 14, 1953
Author(s) & Editor(s)	Public Information and Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Publisher	-
Name of Publication	-
Language	Japanese
Medium	Paper
Public Access	Open
Repository	Shimane Prefectural Library
Reference & Information	Follow the instructions at Shimane Prefectural Library



Repository: Shimane Prefectural Library

Excerpt from the original English translation

1. In considering this matter, it should be recalled in the first place that the island which bore the name of Takeshima or Isotakeshima in former times was what is now called Ul-Lung island and that the present Takeshima was known as Matsushima

(text omitted)

3. Thus, all the conflicts which have existed between Japan and Korea have referred to Ul-Lung island, and the present Takeshima has never been made an issue by both governments.

4. On the other hand, literature, old maps, etc. clearly show that the present Takeshima was known to Japan in olden times by the name of Matsushima, and considered as an integral part of her territory.

5. Apart from the historical facts as mentioned above, there is not the slightest doubt either from the viewpoint of international law that Takeshima is included in the Japanese territory.

In order that a nation may establish its territorial right over

any extension of land, it is required, according to the accepted idea of modern international law, to have an intention of making the land a part of its territory, and to exercise an effective administration thereupon. In the case of Takeshima, the Japanese Government, prior to the annexation of Korea, placed the island under the jurisdiction of the head of Okishima belonging to Shimane prefecture by Notification No. 40 of the Prefectural Government under date of February 22nd of the 38th year of Meiji (1905). At the same time, a Japanese national, Yosaburo Nakai, obtained an official permission of the Japanese Government, and undertook the catching of sea-lions near the island by building cottage on the island for the fishermen whom he took there. And ever since that time the island had been effectively developed by the Japanese people until the outbreak of the last war.

All this while the Japanese jurisdiction over the island had never been questioned by any foreign countries.

(text omitted)