

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

Article reporting on Japan’s continued protest against the Republic of Korea, and deliberation on referring the case to the International Court of Justice

No.53 Towards the clarification of the territorial sovereignty over Takeshima with the possibility of referring it to the United Nations
FY2017/P18 A hardline approach decided due to the bad faith response from the ROK

July 14, 1953, Yomiuri Shimbun

Overview

This newspaper article reported that the Government of Japan was considering its policy options on Takeshima including possible submission of the Takeshima issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in response to the shooting incident of the Japanese patrol vessel “Hekura” near Takeshima on July 12, 1953. On July 13, the Japanese Government issued a note verbale to protest to the South Korean Government and released its contents to the public on July 14(→ No.52).

In addition, this newspaper article also covered the notes verbales regarding Takeshima between Japan and the ROK that had been issued since the unilateral act of establishing the Syngman Rhee Line by the ROK and summarized the positions of the two countries.

Excerpt [English translation]

With regard to the incident in which the Maritime Safety Agency’s patrol vessel was shot at by South Korean fishing boats near Takeshima on the morning of February 12, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on February 13 at 8 p.m., sent a note verbale to the ROK mission to Japan in order to lodge a strong protest against the incident. Then, the development of this issue suddenly attracted attention, as the Government of Japan was reportedly considering possible submission to the ICJ in The Hague and the United Nations of the matter of territorial sovereignty over Takeshima, depending on the coming developments.

This protest was issued as a result of the joint conference of the Maritime Safety Agency, the Ministry of Justice, National Rural Police, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (text omitted) and the predominant opinion was that Japan should take a hardline approach if the ROK side continued to ignore the protest from Japan or continued to act in bad faith in negotiations (text omitted).



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