## Takeshima after WWII

## After WWII: The San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Illegal Occupation of Takeshima by the Republic of Korea

The San Francisco Peace Treaty, which ended the state of war after World War II, stipulated that Japan "renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet." A closer look at the drafting of this provision shows that Takeshima was deliberately excluded from the text. Although the Republic of Korea (ROK) was aware that Takeshima was not included in the "Korea" that Japan renounced in the Peace Treaty, in January 1952, shortly before

the San Francisco Peace Treaty entered into force, the ROK issued a declaration concerning maritime sovereignty, with which it unilaterally established the "Syngman Rhee Line," encompassing Takeshima in contravention of international law. Despite protests from the international community, the ROK did not withdraw the declaration. From 1953 to 1954, the ROK illegally occupied Takeshima by physical force, including firing on Japan's patrol vessels.

## Consultation between the countries concerned in the drafting of the San Francisco Peace Treaty

## Acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration

The sovereignty of Japan was limited to Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and "such minor islands as we determine."



Preparatory work for the drafting of the treaty in the US and the Commonwealth countries, respectively **Around 1947:** 

Around the end Moves towards early conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan in the US, UK, etc. (The US State Department drew up its own draft, which stated that Takeshima was Japanese territory) of 1949:

September 1950: "Seven Point's Proposal on Japanese Peace Treaty"

> The US presented the contents of the treaty to the countries concerned in a simple seven-point summary, and held informal discussions.

Australia asked the US about the treatment of various small islands October 19, 1950:

October 1950: The US replied that Takeshima would be held by Japan

Around January 1951: The US and the UK each prepared a draft treaty.

March 23, 1951: The US draft April 7, 1951: The UK draft

> "Japan renounces all rights, titles and In order to avoid disputes, it stipulates claims to Korea, Formosa and that Japanese territory would be the area enclosed by lines. the Pescadores." It only stipulates the territories that Japan would renounce.

April 25 – May 4, US-UK working-level consultations 1951: Intensive discussions were held in Washington. A joint US-UK draft was prepared. The US and the UK agreed to

specify only the territories over which Japan would renounce sovereignty, and agreed to clearly state that the "Korea" over which Japan would renounce sovereignty would include Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet.

Joint US-UK Draft June 14, 1951:

Consultations with countries concerned regarding the US-UK joint draft July 3, 1951:

The US and the UK agreed on the draft text in substance.

Presented to countries with a high level of interest, such as Australia. Later, presented to all countries with an interest and announced to the press.

July 19, 1951: ROK requested revisions to the draft

August 10, 1951: US responded to the ROK through the Rusk letter ROK's request regarding Takeshima was rejected.

September 8, 1951: San Francisco Peace Conference and the Peace Treaty was signed

The ROK President issued a declaration concerning maritime sovereignty January 18, 1952:

The issue became more serious as a number of incidents occur in which Japanese fishing boats were seized for allegedly violating the so-called "Syngman Rhee Line," mainly in the waters from around Jeju (Quelpart)

Island to Tsushima.

The San Francisco Peace Treaty entered into force April 28, 1952:

Takeshima was provided to the US Forces as a bombing range. In March 1953, the designation of the island as a bombing range was lifted in response to requests from Shimane Prefecture. Travel to Takeshima was resumed. Meanwhile, as illegal landings by ROK nationals were being confirmed, the Japanese authorities began taking enforcement

measures.

The Hekura gunfire incident involving a Japan Maritime Safety July 12, 1953:

Agency patrol boat The Japan Maritime Safety Agency patrol boat "Hekura" was fired at

dozens of times near Takeshima. June 1954: ROK deployed a maritime police unit to illegally occupy Takeshima

Although it is obivious that Takeshima continues to be Japanese territory under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the ROK illegally occupied it using physical force.

