

## **Takeshima (Dokdo) Island is Japanese territory, no matter “the upheaval of heaven and earth”**

Moteki Hiromichi, Director of the Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact

It has been reported that, at a news conference on April 1, South Korean President Lee Myong-bak stated that, “Even if there were an upheaval of heaven and earth, that won’t change the fact that Dokdo (Korean name for Takeshima Island) is our land.” South Korea’s territorial claim over the Takeshima islets is rooted in passages found in the *Samguk Sagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms of Korea: Goguryeo, Silla, and Baekje), a compilation completed in 1145. It is stated in the *Samguk Sagi* that Usando, located near Korea's Ulleungdo Island, is the territory of Silla. South Korea claims it has been Korean territory from as early as 400AD. However, according to ancient maps, Usando lies east of Ulleungdo. (See exhibit 1) Thus, Usando cannot be the Takeshima islets because they are located about ninety-two kilometers southeast of Ulleungdo

There were no islands mentioned lying more than 90 km beyond Ulleungdo in maps of the Joseon Dynasty. What’s more, in the 1889 edition of a Korean geography book called Daehanji, there were no islands shown east of Ulleungdo. It makes sense. People were prohibited from living on Ulleungdo as a policy of the dynasty. Further, the dynasty had no interest in or concern about Takeshima, as it was even farther away than Ulleungdo. In Japan, on the other hand, the Tokugawa Shogunate gave permission to the Oya and Murakami families to travel to Ulleungdo for fishing, hunting seal, and harvesting bamboo and other woods.

As the Japanese circumstance is a verifiable historical fact, and South Korea’s assertion has no actual basis, on September 25, 1954, the Japanese government proposed to submit the dispute to International Court of Justice for arbitration. However, South Korea declined to participate. If, as has been stated, “there were an upheaval of heaven and earth, that won’t change the fact that Dokdo is our land”, then we wonder why the dispute cannot be openly decided in a competent court.

In fact, just before Japanese territories were to be decided upon at the San Francisco Peace Conference, South Korea made a formal request to the U.S. to include Takeshima (Dokdo) in territories to be renounced by Japan. In response, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk provided the following explanation in his responding document sent to Yang You Chan, then-South Korean ambassador to the U.S. on August 10, 1951.

“As regards the island of Dokdo, otherwise known as Takeshima or Liancourt Rocks, this normally uninhabited rock formation was, according to our information, never treated as part of Korea and, since about 1905, has been under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of Shimane Prefecture, Japan. The island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea.”  
(See exhibit 2)

Feeling pressured in such a circumstance, three months prior to the effective date of the Treaty of San Francisco on April 28, 1952, South Korea rushed to forcefully establish the Syngman Rhee line on January 18, 1952 and incorporate Takeshima as part of South Korean territory. It is an undeniable historical fact that “even if there were an upheaval of heaven and earth.”

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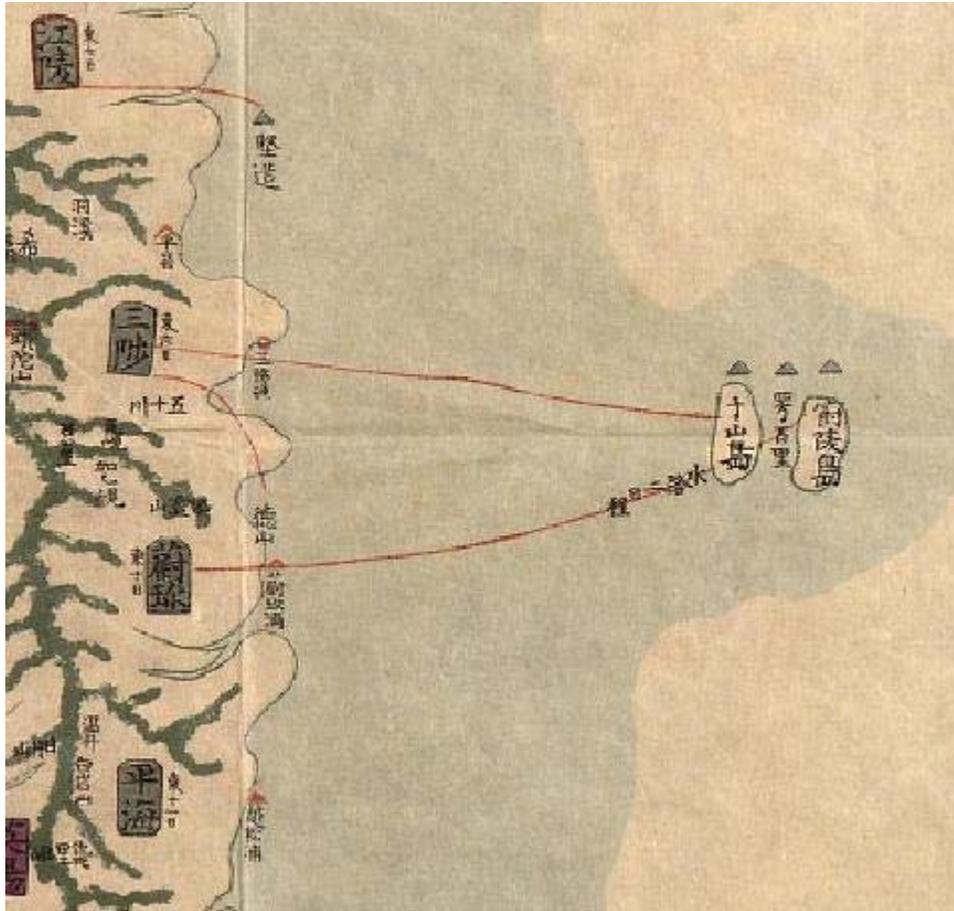
<Attachment>

Exhibit 1: 1710 Korean Map of Gangwon Province

Exhibit 2: Rusk's Reply To Yang

Exhibit 1.

## 1710 Korean Map of Gangwon Province



The above map shows Usando (于山島) to the west of Ulleungdo (鬱陵島).

On the red line is written “Two days travel time by boat.” There leaves little doubt that the two days travel time refers to both Usando and Ulleungdo from the port of Uljin (蔚珍). Takeshima (Dokdo) lies 92 km south east of Ullgeungdo. So it takes another day travel time. It means that the map producer had no idea on the island which was 92 km far away from Ulleungdo.

Source: <http://www.occidentalism.org/?p=319>

Exhibit 2. Rusk's Reply to Yang

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your notes of July 19 and August 2, 1951 presenting certain requests for the consideration of the Government of the United States with regard to the draft treaty of peace with Japan.

With respect to the request of the Korean Government that Article 2(a) of the draft be revised to provide that Japan "confirms that it renounced on August 9, 1945, all right, title and claim to Korea and the islands which were part of Korea prior to its annexation by Japan, including the islands Quelpart, Port Hamilton, Dagelet, Dokdo and Parangdo," the United States Government regrets that it is unable to accede in this proposed amendment. The United States Government does not feel that the Treaty should adopt the theory that Japan's acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration on August 9, 1945 constituted a formal

His Excellency

Dr. Yoo Chan Yang,

Ambassador of Korea.

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or final renunciation of sovereignty by Japan over the areas dealt with in the Declaration. As regards the island of Bokdo, otherwise known as Takshima or Liancourt Rocks, this normally uninhabited rock formation was according to our information never treated as part of Korea and, since about 1905, has been under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of Shimane Prefecture of Japan. The island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea. It is understood that the Korean Government's request that "Parangdo" be included among the islands named in the treaty as having been renounced by Japan has been withdrawn.

The United States Government agrees that the terms of paragraph (a) of Article 4 of the draft treaty are subject to misunderstanding and accordingly proposes, in order to meet the view of the Korean Government, to insert at the beginning of paragraph (a) the phrase, "Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Article", and then to add a new paragraph (b) reading as follows:

(b) "Japan recognizes the validity of dispositions of property of Japan and Japanese nationals made by or pursuant to directives of United States Military Government in any of

the areas referred to in Articles 2 and 3".

The present paragraph (b) of Article 4 becomes paragraph (c).

The Government of the United States regrets that it is unable to accept the Korean Government's amendment to Article 9 of the draft treaty. In view of the many national interests involved, any attempt to include in the treaty provisions governing fishing in high seas areas would indefinitely delay the treaty's conclusion. It is desired to point out, however, that the so-called MacArthur line will stand until the treaty comes into force, and that Korea, which obtains the benefits of Article 9, will have the opportunity of negotiating a fishing agreement with Japan prior to that date.

With respect to the Korean Government's desire to obtain the benefits of Article 15(a) of the treaty, there would seem to be no necessity to oblige Japan to return the property of persons in Japan of Korean origin since such property was not sequestered or otherwise interfered with by the Japanese Government during the war. In view of the fact that such persons had the status of

Japanese nationals it would not seem appropriate that they  
obtain compensation for damage to their property as a result of  
the war.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest con-  
sideration.

For the Secretary of State:

**Dean Rusk**

FE:NA:RFEAREY:SB  
..... 9. 1951.