

# **The Truth of Dokdo-9**

## **-Ulleungdo Dispute-**

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### **1. The beginning of Ulleungdo Dispute**

In 1692, when a fishing boat from Tottori-han approached Ulleung Island, there were many Korean people on the island. Approximately 40 Korean fishermen, including An Yong-bok, were fishing around Ulleung Island. The Japanese fishermen watched them and went back to Japan.

The same thing happened in 1693. Japanese fishermen, who thought that it might be a big problem if they couldn't land on Ulleungdo(=Ulleung Island) for two consecutive years, came on shore to the island and engaged in a dispute. Then, they kidnapped two Korean people, An Yong-bok and Park Eo-dun, and went back to the Yonago Port, Hoki Province, Tottori-han.

After the incident, the conflict began between Joseon and Japan and lasted for three years. This incident is called 'Ulleungdo Janggye' in Korea and 'Takeshima Ikken' in Japan.

Note : 'Janggye' means a dispute on territory.

'Ikken' means an incident.

### **2. Ulleungdo Dispute and Tsushima**

#### **(1) Tsushima for Ulleungdo**

An Yong-bok and Park Eo-dun taken to Tottori-han received good treatment contrary to expectations, because the local government of Tottori-han didn't want to make their relation with Joseon bad because

of the issue of Ulleungdo.

Later, An Yong-bok stated in Bibyeonsa (the Office of Border Defense of Joseon) that he received a diplomatic document specifying that Ulleungdo is a territory of Joseon from a Kanpaku (General) of Japan. However, he said that he and Park Eo-dun were shorn of the document by the local officials of Tsushima, on their way back to Joseon.

## **(2) Tsushima's Official 'Gyul jin-jung' and the Regime of the Namin Party of Joseon**

When sending back An Yong-bok and his party to Joseon, the local government of Tsushima sent Gyul jin-jung, a high-ranking official of Tsushima, to Busan Waegwan(=Japanese consulate set up by Joseon government) with them. Gyul jin-jung sent a letter to the Joseon Dynasty stating that 'Since Takeshima (=Ulleungdo) is a territory of Japan, the Joseon Government should command the fishermen of Joseon not to come to Takeshima'.

The Namin Party in power said to King Sukjong : 'Ulleungdo is a deserted land. It is not wise to come into conflict with Japan over the deserted land.' Then, it suggested King Sukjong to reply the letter with a wrong answer. The reply is as below.

‘Ulleungdo is a territory of Joseon, but Takeshima is a territory of Japan. Therefore, we will tell the people of Joseon not to come into Takeshima.’

Ulleungdo and Takeshima are two different names of the same island. The Namin Party made a foolish decision in order to avoid conflict with Japan. Although Gyul jin-jung was pleased with the part of the reply stating 'Takeshima is a territory of Japan', he didn't like the part specifying 'Ulleungdo is a territory of Joseon'. So, he sent back the reply to the Joseon Dynasty, asking to remove the phrase 'Ulleungdo is a territory of Joseon'.

The key parts of the letter sent by Joseon to Gyul jin-jung are as below.

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We (Joseon) have been monitoring and prohibiting fishermen of Joseon not to enter into foreign waters. We even told them not to arbitrarily enter our territory of Ulleungdo, due to the long distance, so we don't let them travel to the distant island.

We've heard that the fishing boats of Joseon entered into the waters of Takeshima, a territory of Japan. We will give them a warning not to give any further annoyance to you.

We are always pleased to interact with you via correspondence. (omitted)

『Sukjong Sillok』 Volume 26, February in 1694.

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Why did they have to mention Ulleungdo in the letter? It would be better if they only mentioned Takeshima (竹島). (omitted) The Governor of Tsushima was ordered to remove the word 'Ulleungdo'... (omitted)

『Sukjong Sillok』 Volume 26, February, in 1694.

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### **3. The Removal of Lady Jang Hui-bin and Introduction of the Regime of the Seoin Party**

During this period, Lady Jang Hui-bin, who was the queen of King Sukjong, was disposed and the regime of the Namin party that ascended to power thanks to her was brought down. Using this opportunity, the Seoin party took back their power and their member, Nam Gu-man was appointed as Yeong eui jeong (Prime Minister of Joseon Dynasty).

When Nam Gu-man saw the letter sent back by Gyul jin-jung, he got angry because of the absurd diplomacy of the Namin party. Nam Gu-man sent Gyul jin-jung a new letter insisting to prohibit Japanese people from sailing for Ulleungdo, including the sentence ‘Takeshima is a Japanese name for Ulleungdo. Japan is well informed that Takeshima is just another name of Ulleungdo.’



Yeong eui jeong Nam Gu-man

#### **4. The Edo Shogunate of Japan investigated Ulleungdo and Dokdo**

After being reported about Joseon's attitude from Tsushima-han, the Edo Shogunate started launched an investigation about Dokdo as well as Ulleungdo.

Tottori-han remarked about Takeshima (=Ulleungdo) as below.

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People are not living in Takeshima (Ulleungdo), a place that is so far from the mainland. Therefore, it is not ruled by Hokisu (the head of Hoki in Tottori-han).

(May 22th, 1693, 『The Document of the Ikeda Family』)

Takeshima (=Ulleungdo) is not a territory of Hoki and Inaba (Hoki and Inaba were land of Tottori-han).

(December 24th, 1693, 『The Document of the Ikeda Family』)

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On January 25th, 1696, the government of Tottori-han reported to the Edo Shogunate that Dokdo Island is not owned by Tottori-han nor any other regions of Japan.

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Matsushima (=Dokdo) is not a territory of two regions (Hoki and Inaba). It is an island on the way to Takeshima (=Ulleungdo). Matsushima is not owned by any other regions of Japan.

(January 25th, 1696 「Memo of Takeshima」 in 『Takeshima Documents』, housed in a Museum of Tottori-prefecture.)

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一 伯耆國赤松より出雲國雲津へと通ぬ  
拾里海

一 出雲國雲津より隠岐國鏡火山へと通ぬ  
或拾三里海

一 隠岐國鏡火山より同國瀨戸へと通ぬ  
海浦より松島八十里海

一 松島より竹島に十里海

以上

子  
正月大旨

一 松島と伯耆中より海路百拾里海陸路事

一 松島より朝鮮より八十里海陸路事

一 及兼此事

一 松島より竹島へと通ぬ海浦より海陸路事

一 兼此事

一 松島と琉球より海路百拾里海陸路事

一 海陸路より松島より琉球より海陸路事

一 不取此事尤出雲國隠岐中事者も事也

一 との同知事

以上

<Memo of Takeshima> reporting that Matsushima (松島: Dokdo) is not its territory

Based on the investigation results about Ulleungdo and Dokdo, the Edo Shogunate issued the 'Ban on Sailing to Ulleungdo' to Tottori-han on January 28th, 1696.

Since Ulleungdo was recognized as a territory of Joseon, Japanese people have not sailed to Dokdo that was a place of call of Japanese people for Ulleungdo. As mentioned in the 'Documents of Oya Family', as 'Dokdo belongs to Ulleungdo (Matsushima in Takeshima)', the 'Ban on Sailing to Ulleungdo' includes the 'Ban on Sailing to Dokdo'. Therefore, in the late 17th century, it was confirmed that Dokdo is a territory of Joseon and the dominium issue of Dokdo was concluded.

## **5. In 1870, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan reported to the Central Government that 'Dokdo Island is a territory of Joseon'.**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (hereinafter referred to as 'MOFA') confirmed that sailing to Ulleungdo Island and Dokdo Island was prohibited for Japanese people in the late 17th century and reported it to the Central Government. In 1870, three government officials of the MOFA, including Sada Hakubo, prepared a report and submitted it to the Central Government of Meiji. The contents of the report are as below.

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### **The full account proving that Takeshima and Matsushima are a territory of Joseon**

Matsushima (Dokdo) is an island next to Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and there are no official documents of Matsushima that have been published so far. There is a record for Takeshima, however: After the Genroku era (1688 to 1704), the government dispatched people to Takeshima to have them stay in Joseon during a certain period. After that, it became an uninhabited island again.

(In Ulleungdo Island,) Bamboo, reeds thicker than bamboo, and ginseng grow naturally. In addition, it is a good environment for fishing. (omitted)

『Journals for international exchange with Joseon』

(1870, housed in the Diplomatic Archives of Japan)

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The original document is as below.

