
TOKYO SAYS JAPAN AND RUSSIA WILL NOT DISCLOSE DETAILS OF PEACE TREATY TALKS

- 19.03.2019

Russian News Agency (19 March 2019)

Tokyo and Japan have agreed to refrain from disclosing the details of the peace treaty talks going on between the two countries, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said at a meeting the upper houses budget commission on Monday.

"Our countries are in talks based on the decision made by the leaders of Japan and Russia to step up efforts to make a peace treaty. We look forward to making an agreement but I would like to avoid discussing its details in public. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and I agreed not to disclose the details of the talks," Taro Kono said in response to a demand to provide specific information about dialogue between Tokyo and Moscow.

The Japanese top diplomat also pointed out that Tokyo had on many occasions lodged protests against the Russian Armed Forces activities on the southern Kuril Islands.

Peace treaty issue

Since the mid-20th century, Russia and Japan have been holding consultations in order to clinch a peace treaty as a follow-up to World War II. The Kuril Islands issue remains the key sticking point since after WWII the islands were handed over to the Soviet Union while Japan laid claims to the four southern islands.

In November 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Singapore and agreed that the two countries would accelerate the pace of the peace negotiations based on the 1956 Joint Declaration. The document ended the state of war and said that the Soviet government was ready to hand Shikotan Island and a group of small islands called Habomai over to Japan on condition that Tokyo would take control of them once a peace treaty was signed.

However, after Japan and the United States had signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security in 1960, the Soviet Union withdrew its obligation to hand over the islands. A Soviet governments memorandum dated January 27, 1960, said that those islands would only be handed over to Japan if all foreign troops were pulled out of the country.

Russia has pointed out on numerous occasions that the document does not clarify handover conditions and thus required further clarification.

<http://tass.com/world/1049068>

Russian News Agency (19 March 2019)

Tokyo and Japan have agreed to refrain from disclosing the details of the peace treaty talks going on between the two countries, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said at a meeting of the upper houses budget commission on Monday.

"Our countries are in talks based on the decision made by the leaders of Japan and Russia to step up efforts to make a peace treaty. We look forward to making an agreement but I would like to avoid discussing its details in public. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and I agreed not to disclose the details of the talks," Taro Kono said in response to a demand to provide specific information about dialogue between Tokyo and Moscow.

The Japanese top diplomat also pointed out that Tokyo had on many occasions lodged protests against the Russian Armed Forces activities on the southern Kuril Islands.

Peace treaty issue

Since the mid-20th century, Russia and Japan have been holding consultations in order to clinch a peace treaty as a follow-up to World War II. The Kuril Islands issue remains the key sticking point since after WWII the islands were handed over to the Soviet Union while Japan laid claims to the four southern islands.

In November 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Singapore and agreed that the two countries would accelerate the pace of the peace negotiations based on the 1956 Joint Declaration. The document ended the state of war and said that the Soviet government was ready to hand Shikotan Island and a group of small islands called Habomai over to Japan on condition that Tokyo would take control of them once a peace treaty was signed.

However, after Japan and the United States had signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security in 1960, the Soviet Union withdrew its obligation to hand over the islands. A Soviet government memorandum dated January 27, 1960, said that those islands would only be handed over to Japan if all foreign troops were pulled out of the country.

Russia has pointed out on numerous occasions that the document does not clarify handover conditions and thus required further clarification.

<http://tass.com/world/1049068>

Kaynak/Source: