

The position of the Government of Japan on the situation in Ukraine, Japan-Russia relations, and the temporary detention of a Japanese diplomat in China.

1 The situation in Ukraine and Japan-Russia relations

Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force. It is an act that undermines the very foundations of the international order. It constitutes a clear violation of international law, and is totally unacceptable. Japan strongly condemns it in the strongest terms. Now is the time for us to unite in taking resolute actions in order to fully defend the foundations of the international order. Japan will decisively act to demonstrate this stance and show clearly that this kind of outrage comes with high price.

The international community believes that, because of Russia's aggression, it can no longer carry on relations with Russia as they have been. Japan, together with the G7 countries and the international community, will impose stringent sanctions against Russia.

With regard to Russia, Japan has persistently advanced negotiations under the policy of resolving the Northern Territories issue, the most outstanding issue between the two countries, and concluding a peace treaty. However, we must act resolutely in response to Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine in solidarity with the G7 and the international community.

There is no change in Japan's stance regarding the issue of the Northern Territories and in the desire to respond to the wishes of the elderly former island residents. However, in light of the current situation, I am not in a situation where I am able to make any statements regarding the prospects for peace treaty negotiations.

I hope that the day will come soon when Russia will take the condemnation of the international community seriously, stop aggression, work toward a diplomatic solution to the problem, and return to normal relations with the international community, including Japan.

2 Temporary detention of a Japanese diplomat in China

Recently, a Japanese diplomat was temporarily detained by the Chinese authority against its will in Beijing. This is a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and cannot be overlooked. It is absolutely unacceptable. The Government of Japan strongly urges China to express apologies and take concrete measures to prevent recurrence.