

MOD's final statement regarding the incident of an ROK naval vessel directing its fire-control radar at an MSDF patrol aircraft (Provisional Translation)

Introduction

- The MOD, in light of firmly seeking for prevention of recurrence, has decided to summarize and make publicly available the objective facts that are possessed by the Japanese side.

1. Regarding the fire-control radar irradiation

- Aiming fire-control radars is an extremely hazardous act that may cause unintended consequences. The CUES stipulates it as an action a commander might avoid.
- The Japanese side lodged a strong protest against the ROK side and urged for the prevention of recurrence, but the ROK side denied the fact this incident occurred, and demanded Japan to “stop distorting facts” and “apologize for conducting a threateningly low-altitude flight”.
- Upon analysis of the radar waves directed at the P-1, it was confirmed that the P-1 was continuously irradiated for a certain period, multiple times by the ROK destroyer's STIR-180.
- It is clear from the footage released by the MOD on December 28, 2018 that the ROK destroyer directed its radar. The MOD has decided to make publicly available the recorded sounds.
- The ROK side rejected MOD's proposal to conduct a joint verification of data using factual evidence submitted from both the Japanese and ROK side.
- The ROK's Ministry of National Defense denounced the MOD's proposals as “extremely rude”, and, in violation of the agreement made between the Japan side and the ROK side ahead of the meeting, one-sidedly disclosed information contrary to facts regarding the content of the meeting.
- It can only be concluded that the ROK side has been repeating claims that by all means differ from truth.

2. (1) Regarding the flight of the MSDF P-1

- The MSDF P-1 maintained a sufficiently safe altitude (approx. 150m) and distance (approx. 500m), and did not conduct flight that may interrupt the ROK destroyer's activities. The MSDF P-1 was unable to recognize that the ROK was conducting rescue activities because there were no call outs.
- In the past, the MSDF had conducted similar flights and has photographed vessels when observing foreign vessels during its intelligence collection and warning and surveillance activities.
- The MOD has concluded that the ROK side's claim lacks support from factual evidence, and was made to dilute other important issues regarding the fire-control radar incident.

2. (2) Regarding communication conditions

- The P-1 called out to the ROK destroyer using three frequencies, but there was no response.
- The ROK side has explained that the destroyer did not respond because the communication condition on site was poor, but it is clear from the weather conditions and the fact P-1's communication equipment was operating normally that communication conditions were extremely good.
- The P-1's call outs can be heard from the video released by the ROK side.
- The MOD urges the ROK side to take measures to improve communication on site.

3. Path forward

- The MOD strongly protests against the ROK destroyer's fire-control radar irradiation, and strongly urges the ROK side to take thorough measures to prevent its recurrence.
- The MOD deems that it is difficult to continue to hold consultations with the ROK side as it is unlikely that the truth will ever be made clear.
- We will continue to make sincere efforts towards continuous Japan-ROK and Japan-ROK-U.S defense cooperation.