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**Committee** : UNSC



### **Agenda: Pondering upon the Kuril Islands Dispute**

The Kuril Islands dispute, also known as the northern territory dispute, dates all the way back to 1855. From the treaty of Shimoda: establishing official relations between the Russian Empire and Tokugawa Japan and 'grants the whole island of Iturup to Japan while the other Kuril Islands to the north constitute possessions of Russia', to the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration in 1956, the Kuril Islands have been a hot topic to ponder upon.

The Russian Federation has clearly maintained the treaties that were signed post wars which allocated or segregated Islands between the two nations. The Russian Federation solely accepts the fact that this island is significant due to its natural resources available, strategic importance and cultural significance.

Russian Federation's status of the Kuril Islands Dispute stands as:

A meeting with the Russian president and Japanese Prime Minister in 2018, in the East Asia Summit had clearly decided that the territorial dispute would come to an end followed by the Japanese Prime Minister agreeing to negotiate based on the 1956 declaration (the Japan-Soviet joint Declaration). There have been several occasions where the Russian Federation has been willing to talk about this matter with the concerned party on the basis of joint declaration but has received some and almost no response.

The new Russian constitution which had been enacted earlier on 1st July 2020 clearly mentions that there would be a ban "on an alienation of Russian territories" which clearly means that the Kuril islands are apart and it would be almost impossible to return any part of the Russian Federation's land back.

#### **Importance of the Kuril Islands for the Russian Federation:**

- 1) Like any country, the Russian Federation wants to acquire the Kuril Islands for our own benefits. We periodically conduct military drills on the islands and wish to go further than that.
- 2) The Kremlin is planning to deploy T-72B3 battle tanks to the Kuril Islands, this can be used to destroy enemy assault forces and small ships that are in sight.

- 3) These islands help us conduct military exercises as done in October 2020 where we deployed 300V4 air defense missile systems on our land for the first time.
- 4) The Russian Federation also speculated that due to thousands of US troops being stationed in Japan, it would not be very soon that the USA would try to invade the Kuril islands once the Moscow-Tokyo conflict is over.
- 5) There are huge amounts of resources available as the Island is surrounded with hotspots of fishing reserves and does have a few oil and gas reserves.
- 6) The Kuril islands are located in the Northern Pacific Ocean hence giving us a huge military and territorial advantage and giving us access to the east coast.

The Russian Federation does understand that these Islands are really important (strategically and territorially) as Moscow could face a threat to return Crimea to Ukraine, but do stand by the point that these Islands are solely belonging to the Russian Federation but, the Russian Federation is open to negotiate on this topic.