

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim is to set forth the basis for national arrangements for the measurement of the territorial sea or the division of the continental shelf of maritime nations.

This research document is intended for background use only. This document does not represent an official acceptance by the United States Government of the line or lines represented on the charts or, necessarily, of the special principles involved, if any, in the original drafting of the lines. Additional copies of the studies may be requested by mail from The Geographer, Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20520 or by phone (Telephone 63-22021 or 63-22022).

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 12

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY: *BAHRAIN-SAUDI ARABIA*

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

X/KZ
4131 6398
.L54 .R45
no.12

BAHRAIN-SAUDI ARABIA CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

The Government of the S^hayk^hdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed an Agreement on February 22, 1958, dividing the continental shelf in the Persian Gulf between the two countries. The two Governments also agreed to share equally in the income from the exploitation of petroleum resources in the Fasht bu Saafa Hexagon, which is located in Saudi Arabian waters. Ratifications were exchanged on February 26, 1958, and the Agreement then came into force.

Neither country is a party to the Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf; however, the two countries have adopted the shelf concept in general proclamations which give no precise definition to the shelf. The proclamations are:

Bahrain: Proclamation of June 5, 1949

Saudi Arabia: (1) Royal Proclamation of May 28, 1949 (revoked and superceded by Royal Pronouncement No. 33 of February 16, 1958;

(2) Regulations for the Ownership of Red Sea Resources, Royal Decree No. M/27 of October 1, 1968.

The Continental Shelf Boundary Agreement between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia set forth the following principles:

Article 1.

1. The boundary line between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Bahrain, on the basis of the median line, begins at Point 1 located at the midpoint of the line connecting the tip of Ras al-Barr at the southernmost extremity of Bahrain, and Ras Abu Maharah (B) on the coast of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

2. The above-mentioned median line then extends from Point 1 to Point 2 located at the midpoint of the line connecting Point (A) with the northern tip of the island of al-Zakhuniyah (C).

3. The line then extends from Point 2 to Point 3 located at the midpoint of the line connecting (A) with the tip of Ras Sayyah (D).

4. The line then extends from Point 3 to Point 4 shown on the attached map and located at the midpoint of the line connecting Points (E) and (F) shown on the map.

5. The line then extends from Point 4 to Point 5 shown on the map and located at the midpoint of the line connecting Points (G) and (H) shown on the map.

6. The line then extends from Point 5 to Point 6 shown on the map and located at the midpoint of the line connecting Points (I) and (J) shown on the map.

7. The line then extends from Point 6 to Point 7 located at the midpoint of the line connecting the southwestern tip of the island of Umm al-Na'san (K) with Ras al-Qurayyah (L).

8. The line then extends from Point 7 to Point 8 located on the westernmost tip of the island of Lubainah al-Saghirah, leaving this island to the Government of Bahrain.

9. The line then extends from Point 8 to Point 9 located on the easternmost tip of the island of Lubainah al-Kabirah, leaving this island to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

10. The line then extends from Point 9 to Point 10 located at the midpoint of the line connecting the northwestern tip of Khaur Fasht (M) with the southern tip of the island of Kaskus (N).

11. The line then extends from Point 10 to Point 11 located at the midpoint of the line connecting Point (O) on the western edge of Fasht al-Jarim with Point (N) mentioned in Paragraph 10 above.

