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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 17

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY: NORWAY-SOVIET UNION

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY: NORWAY-SOVIET UNION

The Governments of the Kingdom of Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have signed and ratified an Agreement and a Descriptive Protocol relating to the division of the continental shelf in the Varangerfjord. The Agreement, signed on February 15, 1957, established a Joint Soviet-Norwegian Boundary Commission to designate reference points from which the sea frontier between the two countries in the Varangerfjord could be demarcated. Ratifications were exchanged and the Agreement came into force on April 24, 1957. The Descriptive Protocol signed on November 29, 1957, specifies the demarcation of the sea frontier. The latter came into force on March 17, 1958, after the ratifications were exchanged.

The Soviet Union is a party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf; Norway is not. However, Norway has adopted an exploitability criterion relative to the continental shelf: (Provisional Act of June 21, 1963, relating to the Exploitation and Exploration of Submarine Natural Resources).

The Agreement of February 15, 1957, is as follows:

Article 1

The sea frontier between Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Varangerfjord shall follow a straight line from frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy), which is the terminal point of the frontier drawn in 1947, to the intersection of the outer limits of Norwegian and Soviet territorial waters. The said frontier is indicated on the attached Soviet chart, which is drawn on the scale 1:100,000.

Neither of the Contracting Parties shall extend its territorial waters beyond the straight line extending from the intersection referred to in the first paragraph of this article to the median point of the line between Cape Nemetsky and Cape Kibergnes. The said straight line is indicated on the aforementioned chart by a dotted line.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall establish, on a footing of equality, a Joint Soviet-Norwegian Boundary Commission, which shall calculate the geographical co-ordinates of the point of intersection of the outer limits of the territorial waters and of the median point of the line between Cape Nemetsky and Cape Kibergnes, which are referred to in article 1, shall set up reference marks whereby the location of the Norwegian-Soviet sea frontier in the Varangerfjord can be determined, and shall prepare the necessary documents.

The Joint Commission shall begin its work not later than May 1957 and shall endeavour to complete it before the end of the same year.

All expenses incurred in connexion with the said work shall be equally apportioned between the Contracting Parties.

Article 3

This Agreement shall be ratified and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

The instrument of ratification shall be exchanged at Moscow as soon as possible.

DONE at Oslo on 15 February 1957 in two copies in the Norwegian and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

By authorization
of the Royal Norwegian Government:

By authorization
of the Government of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics:

PEDER HOLT

G. I. TUNKIN

The Descriptive Protocol of November 29, 1957, set forth the following principles:

The Joint Soviet-Norwegian Commission for the Demarcation of the Sea Frontier between the USSR and Norway hereby declares that, in conformity with the Agreement of 15 February 1957 between the Royal Norwegian Government and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the sea frontier between Norway and the USSR in the Varangerfjord, it has calculated the geographical and rectangular co-ordinates of the point of intersection of the outer limits of the Norwegian and Soviet territorial waters and of the median point of the line between Cape Nemetsky and Cape Kibergnes and has also set up reference marks indicating the location of the Norwegian-Soviet sea frontier.

The initial point of the sea frontier between Norway and the USSR in the Varangerfjord is frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy), which is also the terminal point of the Norwegian-Soviet frontier demarcated in 1947. The geographical and rectangular co-ordinates of frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy) according to the documents for the demarcation of the State frontier between Norway and the USSR signed at Moscow on December 1947 are as follows:

Latitude = 69° 47' 46.14"
Longitude = 30° 49' 09.85"
x = 7,746,912.1
y = 6,415,943.7

From frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy), the sea frontier between Norway and the USSR runs in a straight line in a north-north-easterly direction to the terminal point of this frontier, which is the point of intersection between the outer limit of the Norwegian territorial waters, situated four nautical miles to the east of and parallel with a straight line between Cape Kibergnes and frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy), and the outer limit of the Soviet territorial waters, situated twelve nautical miles from the northern extremity of the unnamed cape on the Soviet coast east of the frontier river Grense Jakobselv (Vorema).

The geographical and rectangular co-ordinates of the terminal point of the sea frontier, having been calculated analytically, are as follows:

Latitude = 69° 58' 50.22"
Longitude = 31° 06' 23.11"
x = 7,767,110.9
y = 6,427,642.7

The bearing angle of the Norwegian-Soviet sea frontier from frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy) to the point of intersection of the outer limits of the Norwegian and the Soviet territorial waters in the Varangerfjord (the terminal point of the sea frontier) is 30° 04.7' or 33 g. 4199.

The length of the sea frontier is 12.6 nautical miles.

The co-ordinates of the terminal point of the sea frontier were calculated on the basis of the co-ordinates of frontier mark No. 415 (spar buoy), as determined in 1947, and of the co-ordinates of Cape Kibergnes and of the unnamed Soviet cape, as determined by the Joint Commission in 1957.

The geographical and rectangular co-ordinates of Cape Kibergnes are as follows:

Latitude = 70° 17' 17.79"
Longitude = 31° 03' 51.00"
x = 7,801,466.0
y = 6,427,119.0

The geographical and rectangular co-ordinates of the unnamed Soviet cape are as follows:

Latitude = 69° 47' 07.25"
Longitude = 30° 59' 29.92"
x = 7,745,479.8
y = 6,422,541.3

In the demarcation of the Norwegian-Soviet sea frontier in the Varangerfjord in 1957, the Joint Soviet-Norwegian Commission also calculated the co-ordinates of the median point of the line between Cape Nemetsky and Cape Kibergnes. The co-ordinates of this point are as follows:

Latitude = 70° 07' 19.98"
Longitude = 31° 30' 27.29"
x = 7,782,476.8
y = 6,443,355.5

The co-ordinates of this point were calculated on the basis of the above-mentioned co-ordinates of Cape Kibergnes and the following co-ordinates of Cape Nemetsky.

Latitude = 69° 57' 18.28"
Longitude = 31° 56' 38.11"
x = 7,763,488.5
y = 6,459,592.0

All the geographical and rectangular co-ordinates calculated by the Joint Commission and referred to in this Descriptive Protocol are given in the 1932 Pulkova System in the sixth six-degree zone having as its axis the meridian thirty-three degrees east of Greenwich. If converted to other systems, these co-ordinates will differ from the figures given here. These co-ordinates were

