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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

Series A

LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 29

STRAIGHT BASELINES: MOZAMBIQUE

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Directorate for Functional Research
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

STRAIGHT BASELINES: MOZAMBIQUE

The Government of Portugal, on August 22, 1966, published Law No. 2130 on the territorial sea of the state and the overseas provinces. The text of the law is as follows:

LAW OF THE SEA

PORTUGAL
LAW 2130

In the name of the Nation, the National Assembly decrees and I promulgate the following law:

Base I

1. The normal base line from which the width of the territorial sea is measured is defined by the low-tide line along the coast, as it is indicated in maritime maps officially recognized for this purpose by the Portuguese State.
2. The closing between points on its coast and straight base lines will be drawn by the Portuguese State in accordance with International Law and published in a special decree.

Base II

1. The Portuguese State recognizes the right of ships of all States to innocent passage through its territorial sea, with the limitations provided by International Law.
2. Passage is not innocent to the extent that it threatens either directly or indirectly the peace, order, or security of the Portuguese State, and specifically when a ship:
 - (a) does not identify itself by name and flag when asked to;
 - (b) being a submarine, does not navigate at normal surface level with its flag hoisted;
 - (c) stops or anchors without a normal navigational reason or force majeure requiring it;
 - (d) by its proceedings, its objectives, the nature of its cargo, the people on board, or for any other reasons does not meet the standards of Portuguese law which govern jurisdiction within the territorial sea.

Base III

The Portuguese State exercises in the high sea zone contiguous to its territorial sea, up to twelve miles from the base line, powers granted by international law and specifically the control necessary:

(a) to prevent and stop infractions of customs, fiscal, sanitation, or immigration laws in its territory or in its territorial sea;

(b) to guarantee, in case of emergency or when national security is believed threatened, its legitimate defense as permitted by International Law.

Base IV

When no agreement to the contrary exists with a State whose coasts are adjacent or facing those of the Portuguese State, the limit of the territorial sea or contiguous zone will not go beyond the median line in which all points are equidistant from the nearest points along the base lines from which the territorial sea of each of the two States are measured.

Base V

1. Without prejudice to historical rights, conventions, and other international agreements, the Portuguese State exercises exclusive fishing rights and jurisdiction over fishing matters in the high sea zones adjacent to its territorial sea up to twelve miles from the base line of that sea.

2. In the zone between six and twelve miles from the base line of its territorial sea, it is incumbent upon the Portuguese State to regulate fishing and enforce such regulations, as long as they do not discriminate against foreign ships which have a right to fish in this zone.

3. The outer limits of the fishing zones established in this Base will be reconciled with the provisions of the preceding Base.

Let it be published and its provisions carried out.

Government of the Republic, August 22, 1966 -- Americo Deus Rodrigues Thomaz.

The law permitted the construction of bay-closing lines or straight baselines by a later law or decree. On June 27, 1967, Decree Law No. 47,771 was issued by the Ministry of the Navy. The sections applicable to Mozambique are as follows:¹

Decree-Law No. 47,771

Whereas it has become necessary to define straight closing lines and baselines to supplement the baseline for the continental European coast and the coasts of the Provinces of Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique established in Section I, Article 1, of Law No. 2130 of August 22, 1966;

By virtue of Section I, Article 2, thereof;

By virtue of the authority conferred under Article 109 (2) (1) of the Constitution, the Government decrees and I hereby promulgate the following law:

1. See International Boundary Study, Series A, No. 27 - Straight Baselines: Portugal, for the full text of the law.

Article 1

Along the continental European coast and the coast of the Provinces of Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique, the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea, established in Section I of Law No. 2130, shall be supplemented by the straight closing lines and baselines defined by the points whose geographic coordinates are contained in the following tables:

...

(4) Straight closing lines and baselines supplementing the normal baseline in Mozambique:

Points	Latitude S.	Longitude E.
(1) Cabo Delgado.....	10° 41' 24"	40° 38' 54"
(2) Ilha Tecomaqi.....	10° 45' 24"	40° 40' 22"
(3) Ilha Rongui.....	10° 50' 08"	40° 41' 38"
(4) Ilha Vamizi.....	11° 00' 50"	40° 43' 53"
(5) Ilha Quero-Niuni.....	11° 41' 30"	40° 39' 12"
(6) Ilha Medjumbi.....	11° 49' 09"	40° 38' 09"
(7) Ilha Querimba.....	12° 27' 09"	40° 38' 40"
(8) Ponta do Diabo.....	12° 45' 48"	40° 38' 09"
(9) Ponta Maunbane.....	12° 58' 32"	40° 36' 02"
(10) Ponta Metamnia.....	14° 01' 24"	40° 38' 42"
(11) Point N. da ponta Coque.....	14° 10' 39"	40° 44' 06"
(12) Point E. of lower end baixo da Pinda...	14° 13' 52"	40° 47' 49"
(13) Ponta Relamzano.....	14° 27' 43"	40° 50' 55"
(14) Ilha Quitanqonha.....	14° 51' 15"	40° 50' 04"
(15) Ilha Injaca.....	15° 00' 12"	40° 48' 17"
(16) Ilha de Goa.....	15° 03' 14"	40° 47' 33"
(17) Ilha de Sena.....	15° 05' 12"	40° 46' 37"
(18) Farol de Infusse.....	15° 29' 42"	40° 33' 54"
(19) Ilha de Mafamede.....	16° 21' 38"	40° 02' 45"
(20) Ilha Puga-Puga.....	16° 27' 36"	39° 57' 12"
(21) Ilha Caldeira.....	16° 39' 12"	39° 43' 52"
(22) Ilha de Moma.....	16° 49' 04"	39° 31' 52"
(23) Ilha Epidendron.....	17° 05' 54"	39° 08' 12"
(24) Ilha Casuarina.....	17° 07' 52"	39° 05' 28"
(25) Ilha do Fogo.....	17° 14' 58"	38° 52' 47"
(26) Ilha Quisungo.....	17° 19' 40"	38° 05' 15"
(27) Point N.E. da ponta Padjini.....	25° 17' 12"	33° 19' 20"
(28) Cabo Inhaca.....	25° 58' 10"	32° 59' 40"

