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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 62

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY:

INDIA - INDONESIA

This paper is one of a series issued by The Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State. The aim of the series 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.

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Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Governments of the Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia signed an Agreement on August 8, 1974, regarding the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Great Channel between Great Nicobar Island and Sumatra. Ratifications were exchanged and the Agreement came into force on December 17, 1974. Neither government is a party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf.

The Agreement set forth the following principles:

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,**

DESIRING to strengthen the existing historical bonds of friendship between the two countries,

AND DESIRING to establish the continental shelf-boundary between the two countries,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

(1) The boundary of the Indian and the Indonesian continental shelf in the area between the Great Nicobar (India) and Sumatra (Indonesia) is the straight line connecting Points 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4. The coordinates of these Points are specified below:

Point 1: 06° 38'.5 N, 94° 38'.0 E

Point 2: 06° 30'.0 N, 94° 32'.4 E

Point 3: 06° 16'.2 N, 94° 24'.2 E

Point 4: 06° 00'.0 N, 94° 10'.3 E

(2) The coordinates of the Points specified in clause (1) are geographical coordinates and the straight lines connecting them are indicated on the chart attached as Annexure 'A' to this Agreement.

(3) The actual location of the above-mentioned Points at sea shall be determined by a method to be mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the two Governments.

(4) For the purpose of clause (3), "competent authorities" in relation to Republic of India means the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India and includes any person authorised by him, and in relation to the Republic of Indonesia means the Direkture Badan Koordinasi Survey Dan Pemetaan Nasional (Director of Coordination Body for National Survey and Mapping) and includes any person authorised by him.

ARTICLE II

Each Government hereby undertakes to ensure that all the necessary steps shall be taken at the domestic level to comply with the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE III

If any single geological petroleum or natural gas structure or field, or other mineral deposit of whatever character, extends across the boundary line referred to in Article I, the two Governments shall communicate to each other all information in this regard and shall seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which the structure, field or deposit will be most effectively exploited and the benefits arising from such exploitation will be equitably shared.

ARTICLE IV

Any dispute between the two Governments relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

ARTICLE V

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional requirements of each country. It shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the Instruments of Ratification which will take place at Delhi as soon as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE IN DUPLICATE at Jakarta on the eighth day of August, 1974, in the Hindi, Indonesian and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

S/ - Swaran Singh

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

S/ - Adam Malik

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

ANALYSIS

The delimitation of the continental shelf boundary between India and Indonesia was plotted on the attached U.S. Naval Oceanographic Chart N.O. 63035.

The boundary extends for a distance of 47.9 nautical miles and has four terminal or turning points. The distances between these points (1-2, 2-3, and 3-4) are 10.3 n.m., 16.2 n.m., and 21.4 n.m., respectively. The average depth of the water in the Great Channel near the boundary is well over 900 fathoms.

This shelf boundary can be classified as a modified equidistant line, with equidistance occurring at the four terminal or turning points and between point 3 and point 4 but not along the entire boundary. In a "true" equidistant line the entire line is equidistant from two points of each coast, with the turning points being equidistant from three points (two along one coast and one along the other coast). On the India-Indonesia continental shelf boundary:

Point 1 is equidistant from Rondo Island (Indonesia) and Boat Rock (India);

Point 2 is equidistant from Rondo Island (Indonesia) and an unnamed cape northeast of Hayward Pt. (India);

Point 3 is equidistant from Northwest Island (Indonesia) and Pygmalion (Parson) Pt. (India); and the entire segment of the boundary between points 3 and 4 are equidistant from the above two basepoints.

Point 4, approximately 50 nautical miles from Northwest Island and Pygmalion (Parson) Pt., is the point on the boundary farthest from the two coasts. If, under a new Law of the Sea Convention, coastal state jurisdiction over the natural resources is extended to 200 nautical miles, then it will be expected that this India-Indonesia maritime boundary will also be extended.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIA-INDONESIA CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Terminal or Turning points	Distance Between Points (n.m.)	India Territory	Distance, Land to Boundary Point (n.m.)	Indonesia Territory
1		Boat Rock	39.8	Rondo Island
2	10.14	unnamed cape	42.8	Rondo Island
3	16.01	Pygmalion (Parson) Pt.	44.4	Northwest Is.
4	21.33	Pygmalion (Parson) Pt.	49.5	Northwest Is.

