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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 60

TERRITORIAL SEA BOUNDARY:

INDONESIA-SINGAPORE

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The Governments of the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore signed a territorial sea boundary agreement on May 25, 1973. Indonesia ratified the agreement on December 3, 1973; Singapore ratified the agreement on August 29, 1974. Neither country is a party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone.

The "Agreement Stipulating the Territorial Sea Boundary Lines Between Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore in the Strait of Singapore" specified that:

Article I

1. The boundary line of the territorial seas of the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore in the Strait of Singapore shall be a line, consisting of straight lines drawn between points, the co-ordinates of which are as follows:

Points	Latitude North	Longitude East
1	1°10'46"0	103°40'14".6
2	1°07'49"3	103°44'26".5
3	1°10'17"2	103°48'18".0
4	1°11'45"5	103°51'35".4
5	1°12'26"1	103°52'50".7
6	1°16'10"2	104°02'00".0

2. The co-ordinates of the points specified in paragraph 1 are geographical co-ordinates and the boundary line connecting them is indicated on the chart attached as Annexure "A" to this Treaty.

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 countries.

4. For the purpose of paragraph 3, "Competent authorities in relation to the Republic of Indonesia means the Ketua Badan Koordinasi Survey dan Pemataan Nasional (Chief of the Coordination Body for National Survey and Mapping) and in relation to the Republic of Singapore means any persons so authorized by the Government of the Republic of Singapore.

Article II

Any disputes between the two countries arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Treaty shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

Article III

This Treaty shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional requirements of the two countries.

Article IV

This Treaty shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the Instruments of Ratification.

DONE IN DUPLICATE AT Jakarta the twenty-fifth day of May one thousand nine hundred and seventy three in the Indonesia and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

Analysis

The analysis of the Indonesia-Singapore territorial sea boundary has been based upon a plotting of the coordinates on DMAHC Chart N.O. 71242, 17th ed., August 1963, revised October 21, 1970.

Indonesia claims a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea dating from 1957. Singapore's 3-nautical-mile territorial sea claim dates from 1957. Singapore's 3-nautical-mile territorial sea claim dates from 1878, when the British proclaimed a 3-nautical-mile limit for itself and its possessions.

The territorial sea boundary extends for a distance of 24.55 nautical miles. The average distance between the turning points is 4.91 nautical miles; the minimum is 1.35 nautical miles; the maximum is 9.85 nautical miles. The water depths along the territorial sea boundary range from 12 to 25 fathoms, with an average depth of 17.83 fathoms.

Physical Characteristics of the Indonesia-Singapore Territorial Sea Boundary

TSB	Distance Between Basepoints (n.m.)	Depth (fathoms)	Indonesian Territory	Distance Land to TSB Pt. (n.m.)		Singaporean Territory
1		17	Pulau Nipa	(1.70)	(2.80)	Pulau Sudong
	4.80					
2		13	Pulau Takong-besar	(1.35)	(1.75)	Pulau Satumu
	4.75					
3		12	Buffalo Rock	(1.10)	(1.80)	Pulau Sebarok
	3.80					
4		20	Bt. Berhanti	(1.30)		Pulau Sakijang Bendera
	1.35					

TSB	Distance Between Basepoints (n.m.)	Depth (fathoms)	Indonesian Territory	Distance Land to TSB Pt. (n.m.)	Singaporean Territory
5		25	Bt. Berhanti	(1.30)	Unnamed islet east of Pulau Sakijang Petepah
	9.85				
6		20	Tg. Sengkuang	(4.65)	Tg. Bedok

Three of the six territorial sea boundary turning points are equidistant from Indonesian and Singaporean territory. The turning points are an average of 1.90 nautical miles from Indonesian territorial and 2.27 nautical miles from Singaporean territory.

The turning points of the territorial sea boundary, which are equidistant from Indonesia and Singapore, are equidistant between the low-tide elevations of both countries. The median line between Indonesia and Singapore, as depicted on the attached chart, was constructed between the Indonesian system of straight baselines and the low-tide elevations of Singapore. As a consequence, points which are stated as equidistant for islands will not necessarily be situated on the equidistant line.

The western terminus of the territorial sea boundary is located in Main Strait. The boundary turning point, which is not equidistant from Indonesian and Singaporean territory, is 1.70 nautical miles from Pulau Nipa (Singapore) and 2.80 nautical miles from Pulau Sudong (Indonesia). Both points are islands.

The second turning point is 4.80 nautical miles southeast of Point 1. Point 2 is 1.35 nautical miles from Pulau Takong-besar (Indonesia) and 1.75 nautical miles from Pulau Satumu (Singapore). In this extent of the territorial sea boundary, the boundary lies south of an Indonesia-Singapore median line. Moreover, the boundary also crosses over into Indonesian internal waters, i.e., Point 2 is located on the landward side of the Indonesian straight baselines (on the cited U.S. chart).

The distance from Point 2 to Point 3 is 4.75 nautical miles. Turning Point 3 is not an equidistant point, but rather it is located 1.10 nautical miles from Buffalo Rock (Indonesia) and 1.80 nautical miles from Pulau Sebarok (Singapore). Point 3 is also located on the Indonesia side of an Indonesia-Singapore median line.

Point 4 lies 3.80 nautical miles northeast of Point 3. Point 4 is an equidistant point and lies 1.30 nautical miles from Bt. Berhanti (Indonesia) and Pulau Sakijang Bendera (Singapore). The Indonesia-Singapore median line passes north of Point 4; therefore Point 4 lies on the Indonesian side of the median line.

Point 5 of the territorial sea boundary is an equidistant point located 1.35 nautical miles northeast of Point 4. Point 5 is situated 1.30 nautical miles from Bt. Berhanti (Indonesia)

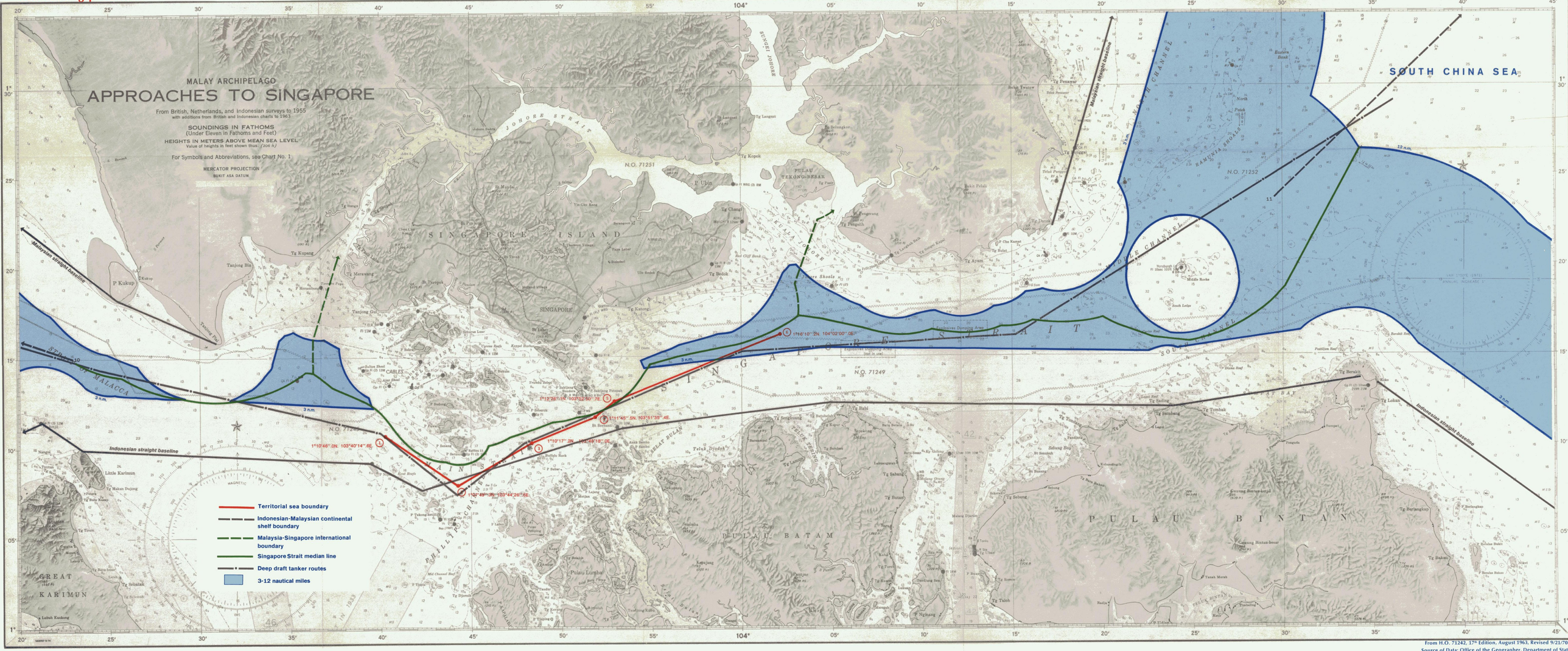
and an unnamed islet east of Pulau Sakijang Petepah (Singapore). Point 5 is the only turning point which lies on the Singapore side of the Indonesia-Singapore median line.

The eastern terminus of the territorial sea boundary, Point 6, is located on the Indonesian side of the Indonesia-Singapore median line and is 4.65 nautical miles equidistant from Tg. Sengkuang (Indonesia) and Tg. Bedok (Singapore)

Summary

The Indonesia-Singapore territorial sea boundary utilizes both the equidistant principle (3 turning points) and negotiated positions (3 turning points). Five of the six turning points lie on the Indonesia side of an Indonesia-Singapore median line. Of particular interest is the location of Point 2. This turning point is located inside the Indonesian straight baseline system and is therefore in Indonesian internal waters. Islands were utilized as basepoints for the construction of the territorial sea boundary.

Indonesia-Singapore Territorial Sea Boundary



From H.O. 71242, 17th Edition, August 1963, Revised 9/21/70
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