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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 9

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY:

ITALY - YUGOSLAVIA

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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Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

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On January 8, 1968, the Governments of Italy and Yugoslavia signed an Agreement establishing a continental shelf boundary in the Adriatic Sea. Ratifications were exchanged and the Agreement came into force on January 21, 1970. Yugoslavia is a party to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf. Italy is not a party to the Convention, but has enacted legislation concerning jurisdiction over the continental shelf (Act No. 613 of July 21, 1967, Law for Exploration and Production of Liquid and Gaseous Hydrocarbons in the Territorial Sea and Continental Shelf).

The Italian - Yugoslav Agreement provides for the following:

The Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia desiring to stabilize the line of demarcation between their respective parts of the continental shelf, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The line of demarcation of the continental shelf between the contracting parties is constituted by arcs of the great circle between the points defined in values of latitude and longitude set forth later in the present article.

These coordinates are graphically set forth on the Italian nautical map No. I.I. 170, scale of 1:750,000 (edition February 1964) found in the volume of Avviso ai Naviganti 1966 No. 20, and on Yugoslav nautical map H.I. of the JRM, scale 1:750,000 No. 101 (edition of February 1963) and No. 102 (edition December 1952) revised in June 1966.

The points in the line of demarcation are traced on maps identical to those above cited and are attached to the present agreement.

The contracting parties agree that for the moment the demarcation will not be made beyond point 43.

The coordinates are as follows: (See Italian text for coordinates of 43 points.)

Point	Italian Coordinates On Map No. 170	Yugoslav Coordinates On Map No. 101
01	45° 27'.2 N 13° 12'.7 E	45° 27'.2 N 13° 12'.9 E
02	45° 25'.9 13° 11'.4	45° 25'.5 13° 11'.1
03	45° 20'.1 13° 06'.1	45° 20'.1 13° 06'.0

Point	Italian Coordinates On Map No. 170	Yugoslav Coordinates On Map No. 101
04	45° 16'.8 13° 03'.8	45° 16'.8 13° 03'.8
05	45° 12'.3 13° 01'.2	45° 12'.3 13° 01'.1
06	45° 11'.1 N 13° 00'.5 E	45° 11'.0 N 13° 00'.1 E
07	44° 58'.5 13° 04'.7	44° 58'.4 13° 04'.3
08	44° 46'.1 13° 06'.4	44° 46'.3 13° 06'.1
09	44° 44'.3 13° 06'.8	44° 44'.1 13° 06'.6
10	44° 30'.0 13° 08'.1	44° 30'.3 13° 07'.7
11	44° 28'.6 13° 11'.0	44° 28'.5 13° 10'.7
12	44° 27'.9 13° 11'.7	44° 28'.1 13° 11'.7
13	44° 17'.8 13° 28'.3	44° 17'.7 13° 27'.8
14	44° 12'.5 13° 37'.9	44° 12'.7 13° 38'.1
15	44° 10'.8 13° 40'.0	44° 10'.7 13° 40'.3
16	44° 00'.5 14° 00'.9	44° 00'.7 14° 01'.2
17	43° 57'.5 14° 05'.0	43° 57'.7 14° 04'.9
18	43° 54'.0 14° 10'.3	43° 54'.3 14° 10'.2
19	43° 43'.0 14° 21'.4	43° 43'.0 14° 21'.4
20	43° 40'.3 14° 23'.5	43° 40'.2 14° 23'.8
21	43° 38'.4 14° 24'.5	43° 38'.6 14° 24'.9
22	43° 26'.4 14° 26'.4	43° 35'.9 14° 26'.4
23	43° 31'.6 14° 30'.4	43° 32'.2 14° 30'.1

Point	Italian Coordinates On Map No. 170	Yugoslav Coordinates On Map No. 101
24	43° 29'.7 14° 32'.0	43° 30'.1 14° 31'.9
25	43° 25'.2 N 14° 34'.9 E	43° 25'.4 N 14° 35'.6 E
26	43° 13'.0 14° 46'.0	43° 12'.7 14° 46'.3
27	43° 10'.6 14° 47'.9	43° 10'.3 14° 48'.1
28	43° 03'.8 14° 54'.5	43° 03'.7 14° 55'.1
29	43° 00'.8 14° 57'.9	43° 00'.9 14° 58'.0
30	42° 59'.2 15° 00'.7	42° 59'.3 15° 00'.8
31	42° 47'.9 15° 09'.5	42° 47'.7 15° 09'.7
32	42° 36'.8 15° 21'.8	42° 36'.7 15° 22'.0
33	42° 29'.5 15° 44'.8	42° 29'.6 15° 45'.0

34 Located 12 miles from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa on the bearing of 103° from the lighthouse itself (true bearing) The line of delimitation from point 34 to 35 follows a circle with a radius of 12 miles from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa.

35 Located 12 miles from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa on the bearing (alignment) from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa to the lighthouse of Vieste.

The line of delimitation from point 35 to 36 follows a circle with a radius of 12 miles from the islet of Caiola

36. Located 12 miles from the Islet of Caiola on the bearing (alignment) from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa to point 37.

Point	Italian Coordinates On Map No. 170	Yugoslav Coordinates On Map No. 101
37	42° 16'.0 16° 37'.1	42° 15'.9 N 16° 37'.3
38	42° 07'.0 16° 56'.8	42° 07'.0 16° 56'.7
39	41° 59'.5 N 17° 13'.0 E	41° 59'.4 N 17° 13'.1 E
40	41° 54'.8 17° 18'.7	41° 54'.6 17° 19'.0 N.B These coordinates are found on Map 102.

Point	Italian Coordinates On Map No. 170	Yugoslav Coordinates On Map No. 101
41	41° 50'.2 17° 37'.0	41° 49'.9 17° 37'.4
42	41° 38'.5 18° 00'.0	41° 38'.1 18° 00'.0
43	41° 30'.0 18° 13'.0	41° 30'.0 18° 12'.9

Article 2

In case it is ascertained that natural resources of the sea bottom or under the sea bottom extend on both sides of the demarcation line of the continental shelf with the consequence that the resources of the shelf belonging to one of the contracting parties can be in whole or in part exploited from the part of the shelf belonging to the other contracting party, the competent authorities of the contracting parties will themselves be in contact with one another with the intention of reaching an understanding of the manner in which the foresaid resources shall be exploited previous to consultations by the holders of any eventual concessions.

Article 3

In case of controversy concerning the position of any installation or equipment with reference to the line of demarcation set forth in Article 1 of present agreement, the competent authorities of the contracting parties shall determine by mutual agreement in which part of the continental shelf such installations or equipment may be actually situated.

Article 4

The present agreement does not influence the juridical state of the waters or air space over the continental shelf.

Article 5

The present agreement shall be ratified in conformation with the constitutional norms of the contracting parties and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification which shall take place in Belgrade at the earliest possible date. The accord is made in two original copies in Italian and Serbo-Croatian, both texts being of equal validity.

Done in Rome January 8, 1968.

ANALYSIS

The terminal and turning points of this continental shelf boundary (CSB) have been plotted on United States Naval Oceanographic Bottom Contour Chart No. BC 3919N. The Italian coordinate values from the Agreement were utilized in plotting the CSB.

There are two rather distinct geophysical regimes of the Adriatic Sea. The northern half, except for a small area of depths of from 100 to 147 fathoms, is less than 100 fathoms in depth and therefore considered to be all continental shelf. The depth of the southern half in contrast is predominantly over 100 fathoms.

Generally, the equidistance principle was employed in dividing the shelf area between the two countries, except from points 26 to 38. The deviation from the equidistance principle provided the Italians with a more equitable share of the continental shelf. The Italians were granted areal concessions to offset the dislocations in the CSB caused by the Yugoslav islands of Jabuka, Pelagruz and Kajola, which are located well out in the Adriatic Sea. To compensate the Italians for the locational influence exerted by the Yugoslav island of Jabuka, the two countries agreed to the eastward displacement of the CSB (points 26-31) from a line that would have existed had the equidistance principle been strictly employed. A second example involves the areal impact of the Yugoslav islands of Pelagruz and Kajola, which was controlled by restricting the Yugoslav claim to the shelf to the 12-mile area around the islands. A third eastward displacement of the CSB, which offsets the locational impact of Kajola similar to the Jabuka example above, was agreed upon concerning points 37 and 38. This areal control about the Yugoslav islands, relative to points 26-31 and 37-38, thus increased the Italian claim to the shelf to a line which is the median line between continental Italy and the major Yugoslav islands.

The CSB extends for a distance of 353 nautical miles and is comprised of 43 turning or terminal points which are separated by an average distance of 8.2 nautical miles. The minimum depth at any of the points is 14 fathoms in the Gulf of Venice. The maximum depth of 650 fathoms is in the southern reaches of the Adriatic. The average depth of the points is 110.4 fathoms. The CSB passes through areas of less than 100 fathoms in depth except for two segments. Form point 29 to just short of point 31, the CSB, for a distance of 14 nautical miles, passes through an area of over 100 fathoms in depth. Also, from points 37 to 43, a distance of 75.5 nautical miles, the depths are over 100 fathoms.

Point 1 in the Gulf of Trieste was selected as the starting point for the CSB as the boundary through the former Free Territory of Trieste has not been definitively established between Italy and Yugoslavia.

The CSB terminates at point 43 which is the beginning of the area where Albanian claims to the shelf are asserted.

The table below presents the physical characteristics of the CSB. In many instances the land features are identified simply as the mainland or an island because the scale of the map is such that many of the mainland and island features are not identifiable.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Terminal or Turning Points	Distance between Points nautical miles	Depth fathom	Italian Territory	Distance from Terminal or Turing Points nautical miles	Yugoslav Territory
1		14	Pta. del Tagliamento	12	Rt. Savudrija
	1.5				
2		14	Pta. del Tagliamento	13	Rt. Savudrija
	7				
3		16	Mainland	18	Mainland
	4				
4			Mainland	20	Mainland
	5				
5		18	Mainland	23	Mainland
	1.5				
6		18	Mainland	23.5	Island
	13.5				
7		20	Pta della Maestra	23	Island
	12.5				
8		23	Island	26.5	Island
	2				
9		23	Mainland	27.5	Island
	14.5				
10		24	Mainland	34.5	Brionski O.
	2.5				
11		24	Mainland	34.5	Hrid Porer
	1				
12		24	Mainland	34	Hrid Porer
	15.5				
13		33	Mainland	33	O. Susak
	8.5				
14		36	Mainland	33	O. Susak
	3				
15		32	Mainland	33	O. Susak
	18				
16		36	Mainland	31	Island
	4.5				
17		37	Mainland	31.5	O. Premuda

Terminal or Turning Points	Distance between Points nautical miles	Depth fathom	Italian Territory	Distance from Terminal or Turing Points nautical miles	Yugoslav Territory
	5				
18		38	Mainland	32	Rt. Veli Rat
	13.5				
19		37	Mainland	33	Island
	3				
20		39	Mainland	33.5	Island
	2.5				
21		40	Mainland	34	O. Dugi Otok
	2.5				
22		42	Mainland	35	O. Dugi Otok
	5				
23		40	Mainland	35.5	O. Dugi Otok
	2				
24		41	Mainland	36	O. Sestrice
	4.5				
25		48	Mainland	37	Island
	14.5				
26		53	Mainland (40.5)	X	(31) O.Jabuka
	3				
27		56	Mainland (41.5)	X	(29) O.Jabuka
	8.5				
28		64	Mainland (44.5)	X	(24) O.Jabuka
	3.5				
29		100	Mainland (46.5)	X	(22) O.Jabuka
	3.5				
30		100	Mainland (45)	X	(21) O.Jabuka
	12.5				
31		75	Mainland (41.5)	X	(22.5) O.Jabuka
	14				
32		71	Ia. Pianosa	29	O.Andrija
	18				
33		61	Ia. Pianosa (16)	X	(23.5) O.Pelagruz
	11				
34		61	Ia. Pianosa (16.5)	X	(12) O. Pelagruz
	18 (Straight line)				
35		66	Mainland (17)	X	(12) O. Pelagruz
	16 (Straight line)				
36		97	Mainland (29)	X	(12) O. Kajola
	2.5				
37		100	Mainland (30)	X	(14.5) O. Kajola
38		210	Mainland (37)	X	(31) O. Kajola
	9				
39		500	Island	46	O. Kajola
	6				

Terminal or Turning Points	Distance between Points nautical miles	Depth fathom	Italian Territory	Distance from Terminal or Turing Points nautical miles	Yugoslav Territory
40		515	Island	50	O. Ogiran
	9				
41		615	Mainland	51	O. Sveti Andrija
	21				
42		650	Mainland	51.5	Ostri Rt.
	13				
43		620	Mainland	50.0	Rt. Mendra

SUMMARY

The important feature of this Agreement is the method of jurisdictional delimitation of the shelf employed in view of the presence of small islands located many miles from the mainland near the middle of the sea. If the basic formula for delimiting the CSB set forth in the Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf had been strictly followed, Italy would have been placed in a disadvantageous position vis-a-vis Yugoslavia in delimiting the continental shelf boundary. The Yugoslav islands of Jabuka, Kajola and Pelagruz would have dislocated the CSB had the equidistance principle been literally utilized. This potential inequity was offset by the two concessions made by the Yugoslavs to the Italians, the latter responding with a lesser concession to the Yugoslavs. The northernmost Yugoslav concession totaled 1,680 square kilometers, the southernmost 1,400 square kilometers. The islands used in determining the new boundary were those larger islands located closer to the Yugoslav coast. Around the islands of Kajola and Pelagruz, the Yugoslavs conceded to Italy the area that was outside the 12 nautical mile territorial sea of the respective islands. The Italian concession of 416 square kilometers negates the influence of the island of Pianosa and the mainland was used in determining the continental shelf boundary. The areal exchange was of the ratio of about 7.4 to 1 with the Yugoslavs contributing the larger amount.

This Agreement is an example of what has been achieved through negotiation when strict application of the equidistant principle results in a disproportionate division of the shelf between two countries as a consequence of the random location of small islands.

LEGEND

- o Terminal or turning point
- — Continental shelf boundary

COORDINATE VALUES

Point	Coordinates	
01	45°27'.2 N	13°12'.7 E
02	45°25'.9 N	13°11'.4 E
03	45°20'.1 N	13°06'.1 E
04	45°16'.8 N	13°03'.8 E
05	45°12'.3 N	13°01'.2 E
06	45°11'.1 N	13°00'.5 E
07	44°58'.5 N	13°04'.7 E
08	44°46'.1 N	13°06'.4 E
09	44°44'.3 N	13°06'.8 E
10	44°30'.0 N	13°08'.1 E
11	44°28'.6 N	13°11'.0 E
12	44°27'.9 N	13°11'.7 E
13	44°17'.8 N	13°28'.3 E
14	44°12'.5 N	13°37'.9 E
15	44°10'.8 N	13°40'.0 E
16	44°00'.5 N	14°00'.9 E
17	43°57'.5 N	14°05'.0 E
18	43°54'.0 N	14°10'.3 E
19	43°43'.0 N	14°21'.4 E
20	43°40'.3 N	14°23'.5 E
21	43°38'.4 N	14°24'.5 E
22	43°36'.0 N	14°26'.4 E
23	43°31'.6 N	14°30'.4 E
24	43°29'.7 N	14°32'.0 E
25	43°25'.2 N	14°34'.9 E
26	43°13'.0 N	14°46'.0 E
27	43°10'.6 N	14°47'.9 E
28	43°03'.8 N	14°54'.5 E
29	43°00'.8 N	14°57'.9 E
30	42°59'.2 N	15°00'.7 E
31	42°47'.9 N	15°09'.5 E
32	42°36'.8 N	15°21'.8 E
33	42°29'.5 N	15°44'.8 E

34. Located 12 miles from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa on the bearing of 103° to the lighthouse itself (true bearing).

The line of delimitation from point 34 to 35 follows a circle with a radius of 12 miles from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa.

35. Located 12 miles from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa on the bearing (alignment) from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa to the lighthouse of Vieste.
The line of delimitation from point 35 to 36 follows a circle with a radius of 12 miles from the islet of Caiola.

36. Located 12 miles from the Islet of Caiola on the bearing (alignment) from the lighthouse of the Island of Pelagosa to point 37.

37	42°16'.0 N	16°37'.1 E
38	42°07'.0 N	16°56'.8 E
39	41°59'.5 N	17°13'.0 E
40	41°54'.8 N	17°18'.7 E
41	41°50'.2 N	17°37'.0 E
42	41°38'.5 N	18°00'.0 E
43	41°30'.0 N	18°13'.0 E

Italian-Yugoslav Continental Shelf Boundary

Source of Data: Office of the Geographer, Department of State

From H.O. BC 3919N, 2nd Edition, Dec. 22, 1958, Revised 11/22/65

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