United States Department of State
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Limits in the Seas

No. 116

Straight Baseline Claims: Albania and Egypt

This paper is one of a series issued by the Office of Ocean Affairs, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs in the Department of State. The aim of the series is to set forth the basis of national arrangements for the measurement of marine areas by coastal states. It is intended for background use only. This paper does not necessarily represent an official acceptance by the United States Government of the limits claimed.

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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 116

STRAIGHT BASELINE CLAIMS:

ALBANIA AND EGYPT

May 6 , 1994

Office of Ocean Affairs
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs

INTRODUCTION

This study analyzes claims made by two states to establish straight baselines from which to measure their respective 12-mile territorial seas - Albania and Egypt.[1] The basis for the analysis of each claim is Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOS Convention) which is reproduced at Annex 1. Paragraph 1 of this Article is the paramount paragraph that establishes the geographical conditions under which States may claim straight baselines:

"1. In localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity, the method of straight baselines joining appropriate points may be employed in drawing the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured."

An earlier *Limits in the Seas* study proposes objective standards by which to judge straight baseline claims. This study will use those standards to analyze the claims of Albania and Egypt.[2]

ALBANIA

The Claim

By a letter dated May 1, 1990, the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations transmitted the following text modifying Albania's maritime claim[3]:

Decree No. 7366 to Modify Decree 4650,
dated 9 March 1990, on the
State Border of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania

Article 1

The first paragraph, Article 4, of Decree No. 4650, dated 9 March 1970, should be modified as follows:

"The territorial waters of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania are extended along the entire coastline over a width of 12 nautical miles (22,224 m), beginning with the basic straight line running from Rodon Cape (Muzhli), Palla Cape, Lagji Cape (Turra Castle), Seman Cape, the Josa river estuary, the north-eastern shore of Sazan Island, Gjuheza and

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1 All miles in this study refer to nautical miles. One nautical mile equals 1,852 meters.

2 See *Limits in the Seas* No. 106, "Developing Standard Guidelines for Evaluating Straight Baselines," August 31, 1987. For an excellent analysis of baseline principles, see W. Michael Reisman and Gayl S. Westerman, *Straight Baselines in International Maritime Boundary Delimitation,* St. Martin's Press, New York, 1992.

3 United Nations *Law of the Sea Bulletin* No. 16, p. 2, December 1990.

Grama Gulf Cape, then between the Albanian shore and the Greek islands up to the middle of the Corfu Channel. The width of the territorial waters from the Buna river estuary to Rodon Cape is extended up to the Albanian-Yugoslav border line."

Article 2

This decree enters into force 15 days following its publication in the Official Newspaper.

Tirana, 24 March 1990
Decree No. 7366

ANALYSIS

Albania has amended this Decree on several occasions. In a March 1, 1960, monthly supplement to the Adriatic Pilot, Albania's territorial sea was reported to be 10 miles from defined straight baselines. A ten-mile territorial sea was first claimed in Decree 1535 in 1952. An earlier *Limits in the Seas* reproduced this 1960 announcement with a brief description and map.[4] The Decrees of 1970 and 1976 did not alter the straight baseline claim, but the breadth of the territorial sea. Albania's territorial sea claim has gone from 10 miles made in 1952 to 12 miles in 1970, to 15 miles in 1976[5], and back to 12 miles in 1990. Thus, the primary change to Albania's maritime claims resulting from the 1990 Decree is not to its straight baseline system, but to rolling back to 12 miles a previously claimed territorial sea limit of 15 miles asserted in 1976 (map 1).

The 1970 Decree 4650 (reproduced at Annex 2 of this study) titled, "On the Boundaries of the People's Republic of Albania" comprised 14 articles. The above 1990 Decree modifies the first paragraph of Article 4. The second paragraph of this Article, which is assumed to be still in force, states:

> "The waters of the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea lying within the straight line passing through the capes mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, as well as the waters on this side of the boundary line of the border lakes and rivers, are internal waters of the People's Republic of Albania."

Another important part of Albania's claim, from a navigational perspective, is found in Article 7 where Albania asserts that "foreign warships will enter or pass through the territorial waters of…Albania only with the special authorization of the Council of Ministers…."

In 1989 the United States protested the 15 mile territorial sea, the straight baseline claim, and the claim that foreign warships required prior permission to exercise innocent

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4 See *Limits in the Seas No. 7,* "Straight Baselines: Albania," February 16, 1970.

5 Reproduced in United Nations *National Legislation and Treaties Relating to the Law of the Sea,* p. 3, 1980.

passage through the territorial sea (see Annex 3 for the text of the U.S. protest note). Only the excessive territorial sea limit was rectified by the 1990 Decree.

3

Map 1

ALBANIA: Claimed Straight Baselines and Territorial Sea
Decree No. 7366
March 24, 1990
0 25 kilometers
0 25 miles
Montenegro
Lake Scutari
Drin
Shkodër
Buna
Mat
Kepi i Rodonit
Bishti i Pallës
Durrës
Tirane
Adriatic Sea
Kala e Turrës
Shkumbin
Lake Ohrid
Albania
Kepi i Semanit
Lake Prespa
12 nm
Seman
Vjosë
Korçë
Sazan Island
Vlorë
Kepi i Gjuhëzës
Otranto
Strait of Otranto
Italy
Greece
Corfu
Straight baseline
Limit of 12 nautical mile territorial sea claim
Hypothetical equidistant line
International boundary
2162 12-92 STATE (INR/GE)
21°E
20°E
42°N
41°N
40°N

The Decree defines the baselines geographically by citing seven different features on the Albanian coastline, but giving no geographic coordinates (see map 1). The baseline lengths range from about 5 miles to approximately 16 miles (see Table 1):

Table 1

Coastline Points	Distance between Points (miles-approx.)
Cape Rondo to Cape Palla	11
Cape Palla to Cape Lagji	16
Cape Lagji to Cape Seman	14
Cape Seman to Vjose River	15
Vjose River to Sazan Island	10
Sazan Island to Cape Gjuheza	5

There is only one island, Sazan Island, used as a basepoint, so the "fringing islands" criterion, cited in Article 7 of the LOS Convention, cannot be used to justify the straight baselines. Moreover, the coastline is relatively smooth and, therefore the "deeply indented" coastline requirement is not met. Vlores Bay can be defined as a juridical bay by drawing a closing line which would be situated landward of Sazan Island. Other than this closing line, the baseline for the remaining Albanian coast should be the "normal" baseline, which is the low-water line as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by Albania.

EGYPT

The Claim

By Decree No. 27 (1990) of January 9, 1990, Egypt claimed straight baseline systems for its Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea (including the Gulf of Aqaba) coastlines (map 2). The text of this Decree follows[6]:

Decree of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
No. 27 (1990)

Concerning the baselines of the maritime areas
of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 9 January 1990

Article 1

The maritime areas coming under the sovereignty and rule of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

[6] The text of this Decree reproduced from United Nations *Law of the Sea Bulletin* No. 16, December 1990, at 5-11.

including its territorial sea, shall be measured from the straight baselines connecting all the points defined by the co-ordinates referred to in Article 2.

Map 2

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

2702 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

Article 2

The co-ordinates referred to in Article 1, in accordance with the geodetic datum (Mercator projection), are:

1. In the Mediterranean Sea, in accordance with annex 1, which constitutes an inseparable part of this Decree;

2. In the Red Sea, in accordance with annex 2, which constitutes an inseparable part of this Decree.

Article 3

The lists of co-ordinates referred to in Article 2 of this Decree shall be published in accordance with the rules customarily followed in this regard and shall be notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 4

This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette.

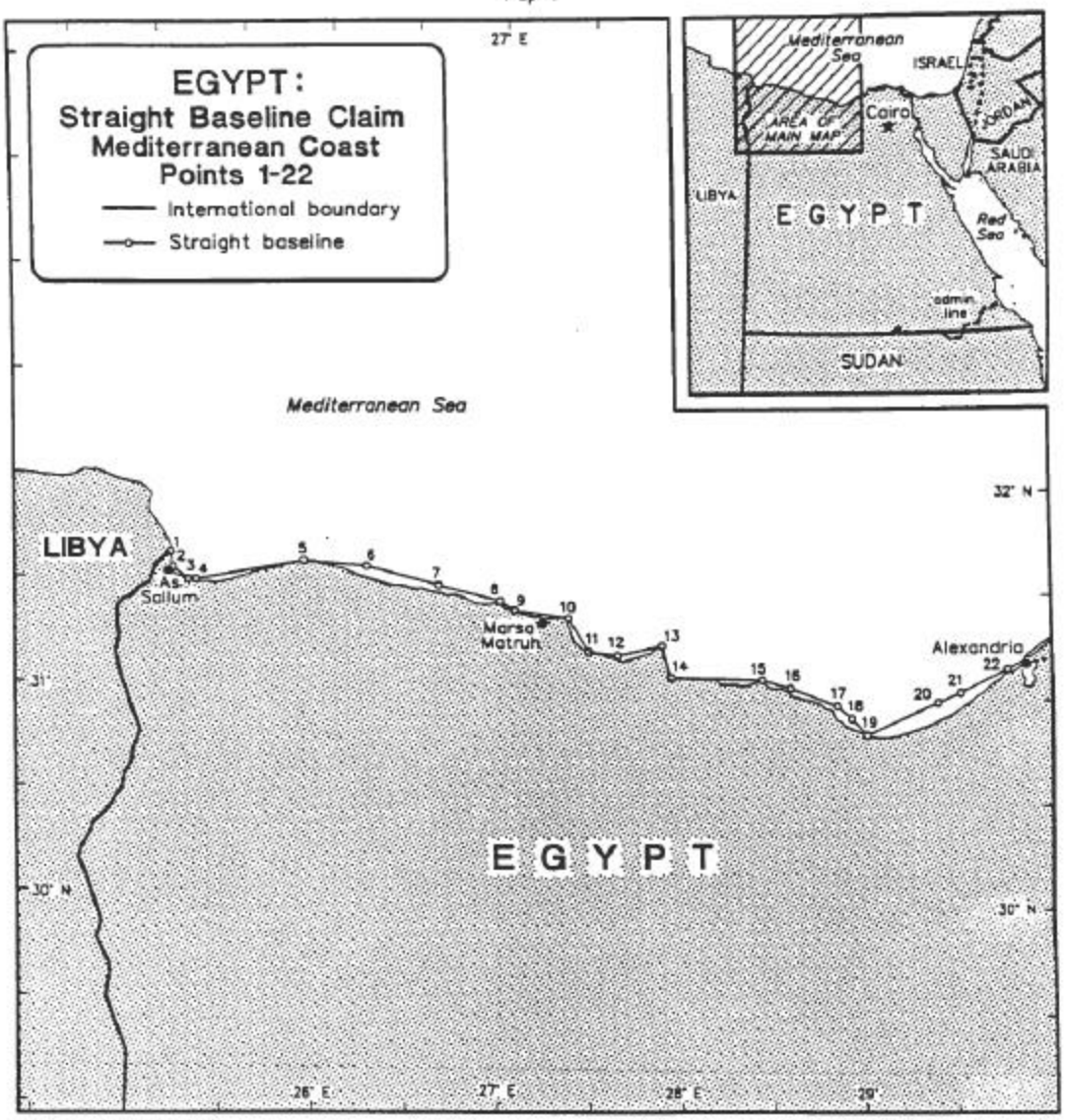
Annexes 1 and 2 cited in Article 2 of this Decree are reproduced in Annex 4 of this study.

ANALYSIS

The Mediterranean:

Egypt has created 52 contiguous straight baseline segments along its Mediterranean coast (see maps 3 and 4). The length of the baselines range from 0.9 miles (segment 23-24) to 29.8 miles (segment 29-30) with the average length being 10.2 miles (see Table 2). Thirty four of the baselines are less than 12 miles in length, 14 are between 12 and 24 miles long, and 4 segments are longer than 24 miles.

Map 3



2703 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

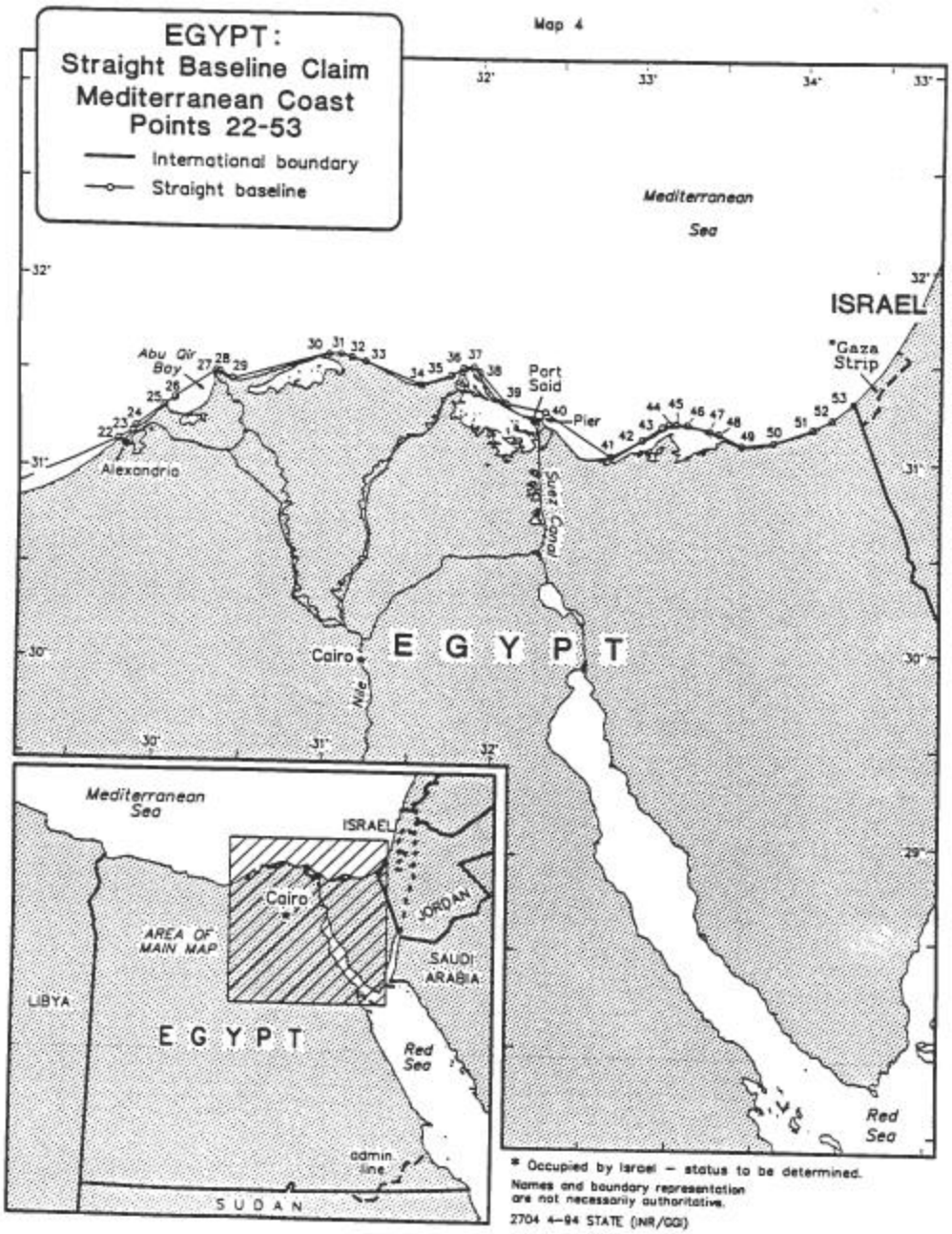

EGYPT:
Straight Baseline Claim
Mediterranean Coast
Points 22-53
International boundary
Straight baseline
Map 4
Mediterranean Sea
ISRAEL
*Gaza Strip
Abu Qir Bay
Alexandria
Port Said
Pier
Suez Canal
Cairo
Nile
E G Y P T
Mediterranean Sea
ISRAEL
Cairo
JORDAN
AREA OF MAIN MAP
SAUDI ARABIA
LIBYA
E G Y P T
Red Sea
admin. line
SUDAN
Red Sea
* Occupied by Israel — status to be determined.
Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.
2704 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

TABLE 2

Length of Straight Baseline Segments

Segment	miles	Segment	miles	Segment	miles	Segment	miles
1-2	6.3	14-15	26.4	27-28	1.2	40-41	18.5
2-3	4.7	15-16	8.5	28-29	5.5	41-42	19.0
3-4	4.7	16-17	13.4	29-30	29.8	42-43	8.4
4-5	29.6	17-18	5.6	30-31	4.5	43-44	2.0
5-6	18.0	18-19	25.3	31-32	7.9	44-45	2.2
6-7	21.2	19-20	9.3	32-33	1.5	45-46	4.0
7-8	18.1	20-21	6.5	33-34	18.3	46-47	6.4
8-9	4.8	21-22	15.7	34-35	8.4	47-48	3.0
9-10	14.9	22-23	4.9	35-36	6.3	48-49	8.0
10-11	11.5	23-24	0.9	36-37	1.9	49-50	9.8
11-12	8.2	24-25	11.1	37-38	3.3	50-51	13.4
12-13	12.0	25-26	3.9	38-39	12.4	51-52	6.6
13-14	9.1	26-27	15.4	39-40	12.1	52-53	8.8

The Egyptian Mediterranean coastline, in the vicinity of claimed base points 1 (which is essentially at the Egyptian-Libyan land boundary terminus) to 25, is neither deeply indented and cut into nor is it fringed with islands. Segments 25-26 and 26-27 enclose a body of water labelled Abu Qir Bay. However, this water body does not meet the requirements, as specified in Article 10 of the LOS Convention, of a juridical bay. The well-marked indentation of a juridical bay must have an area "as large as, or larger than, that of the semi-circle whose diameter is a line drawn across the mouth of that indentation." In this situation, the two lines that close off the bay total 19.3 miles. The area inside the line must include at least 146 square nautical miles of water to qualify as a juridical bay. Only 105 square nautical miles of water are landward of the closing lines. Thus, the baseline in this area should be the low-water line.

Continuing eastward the baseline segments connecting points 27 through 53 are situated along a coastline that is neither deeply indented nor fringed with islands. The low-water line and the pier (pt. 40) located at Port Said are the valid basepoints along this part of the coast. From the end of the pier the baseline should proceed back to the low-water and not to pt. 41. The effect of the straight baseline segments connecting points 42 through 53 on the territorial sea limit is minimal.

The Red Sea (including the Gulf of Aqaba):

Along its Sinai Peninsula coastline, facing the Gulf of Aqaba, Egypt has established 31 continuous straight baseline segments (see map 5). The length of the baseline segments range from 0.9 miles (segments 15-16 and 18-19) to 7.5 miles (segment 12-13, see Table 3).

TABLE 3

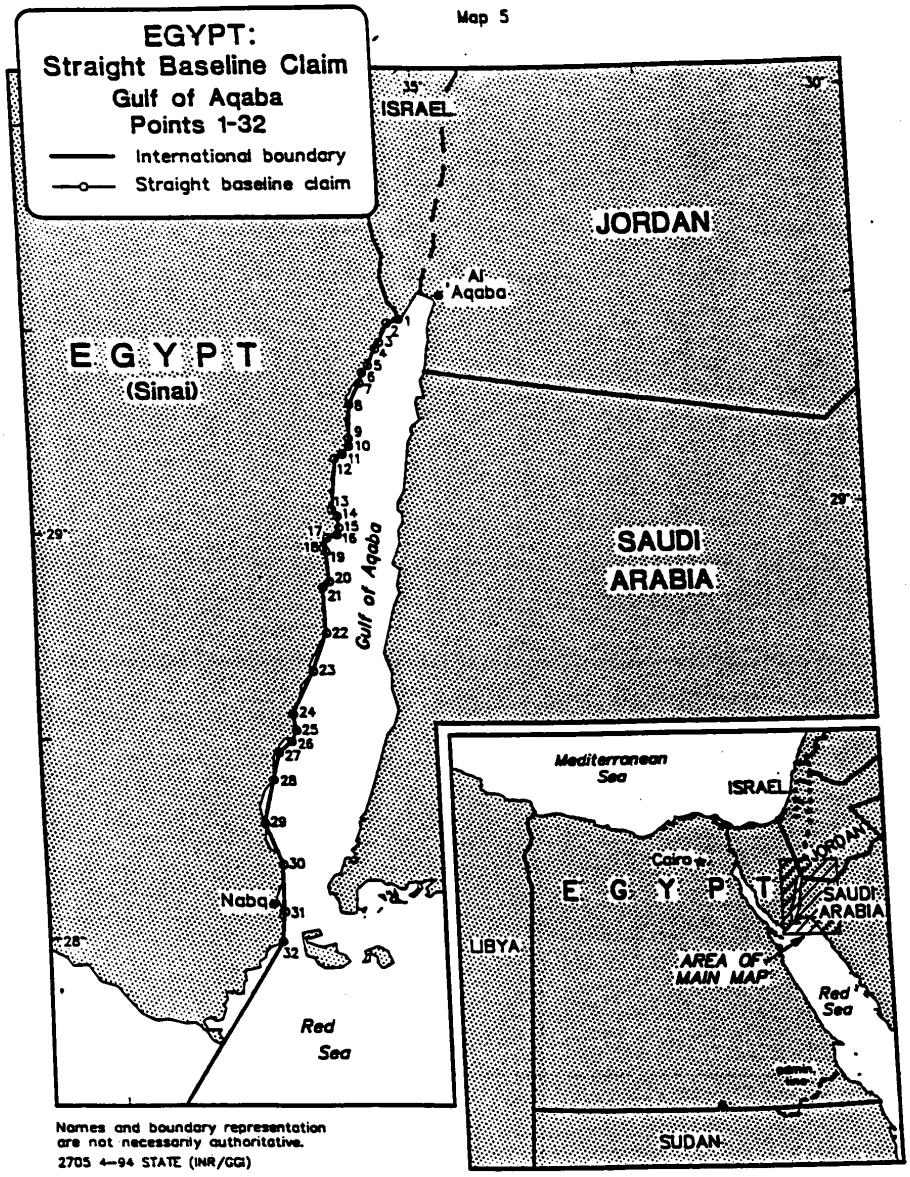
Length of Straight Baseline Segments
Gulf of Aqaba

Segment	miles	Segment	miles	Segment	miles
1-2	1.9	11-12	1.4	22-23	6.2
2-3	3.0	12-13	7.5	23-24	6.8
3-4	1.2	13-14	1.7	24-25	2.5
4-5	3.2	14-15	1.4	25-26	1.8
5-6	1.0	15-16	0.9	26-27	3.2
6-7	1.6	16-17	1.7	27-28	3.4
7-8	2.9	17-18	1.6	28-29	6.9
8-9	4.9	18-19	0.9	29-30	6.9
9-10	1.6	19-20	4.2	30-31	6.6
10-11	1.8	21-22	6.7	31-32	4.6

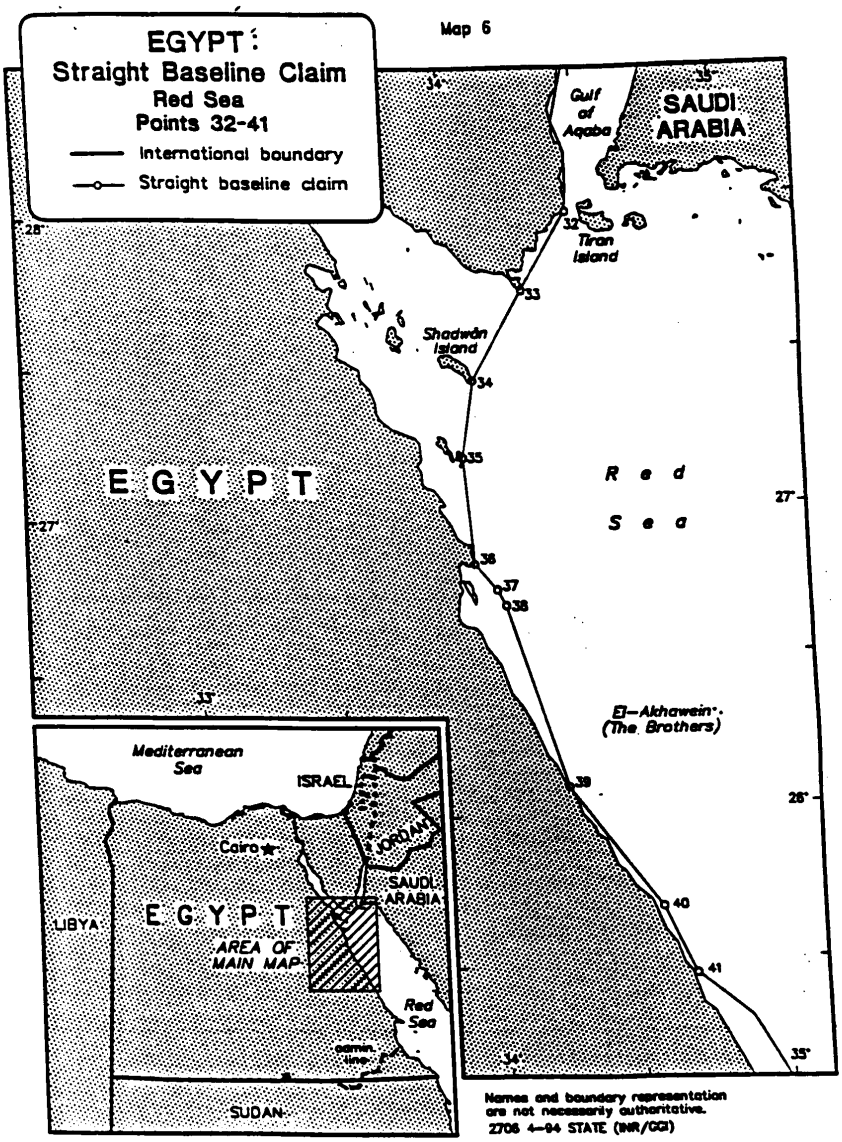
Base point 1 is situated at the land boundary terminus with Israel; point 32 is on the Sinai peninsula opposite Tiran Island. The entire coastline is relatively smooth, void of any deep indentations. There are no fringing islands in the Gulf of Aqaba. The only appropriate baseline is the low-water line.

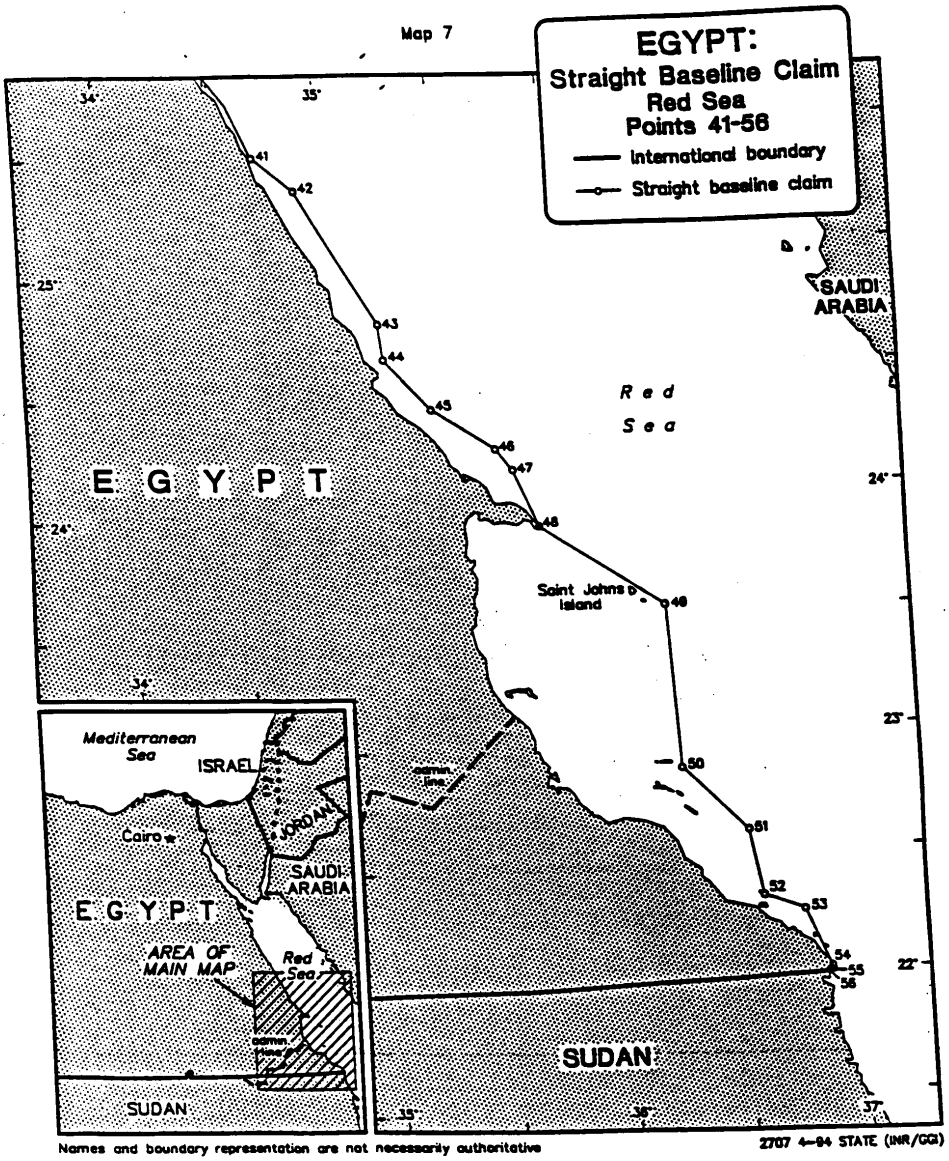
Segment 32-33, 18.2 miles in length, is drawn near the entrance to the Strait of Tiran. The segment itself is drawn in an area where the coastline has only slight curvatures, not deserving of a straight baseline segment. A small juridical bay exists near point 33.

From the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt has created 24 continuous straight baseline segments, that close off the southern entrance to the Gulf of Suez, and that extend along the Red Sea coast to the Sudan boundary area (see Table 4 and maps 6 and 7). These segments range in length from 1.7 miles (segment 55-56) to 40.5 miles (segment 49-50).



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.
2705 4—94 STATE (INR/GGI)


EGYPT:
Straight Baseline Claim
Red Sea
Points 32-41
International boundary
Straight baseline claim
Map 6
Gulf of Aqaba
SAUDI ARABIA
Tiran Island
Shadwân Island
EGYPT
Red Sea
El-Akhawein (The Brothers)
Mediterranean Sea
ISRAEL
JORDAN
Cairo
SAUDI ARABIA
LIBYA
EGYPT
AREA OF MAIN MAP
Red Sea
SUDAN
Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.
2706 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

2707 4-84 STATE (INR/GGI)

TABLE 4

Length of Straight Baseline Segments
Red Sea

Segment	miles	Segment	miles
32-33	18.2	44-45	16.0
33-34	19.9	45-46	18.2
34-35	16.0	46-47	6.7
35-36	20.3	47-48	16.0
36-37	6.8	48-49	36.5
37-38	3.4	49-50	40.5
38-39	37.3	50-51	21.7
39-40	29.0	51-52	16.6
40-41	13.7	52-53	9.7
41-42	13.3	53-54	13.2
42-43	37.6	54-55	2.3
43-44	9.0	55-56	1.7

Baseline segments 33-4, 34-35, and 35-36, from the Sinai Peninsula to the Egyptian mainland close off the southern entrance to the Gulf of Suez. This is neither a deeply indented portion of Egyptian coastline, nor would these few islands be considered to fringe the coast. In addition, making the Gulf of Suez internal waters is antithetical to the provisions of the Convention Respecting the Free Navigation of the Suez Canal, Constantinople, October 29, 1888. This Convention provides that "the Suez Maritime Canal shall always be free and open, in time of war and in time of peace, to every vessel of commerce or war, without distinction of flag." This was reaffirmed by Egypt in its Declaration on the Suez of April 24, 1957, and in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 118 of October 13, 1956, which provided that "there should be free and open transit through the Canal without discrimination, overt or covert--this covers both political and technical aspects."

The southeast coast of Egypt which faces the Red Sea is quite smooth with no deep indentations. A few islands are situated off this part of the coast, but they do not constitute fringing islands. Base point 49 is situated seaward of Saint Johns Islands, about 37 miles from the nearest mainland, at point 48. Portions of segment 49-50 exceed 40 miles from the mainland coast. In addition, five segments in this area exceed 24 miles in length. Thus, the straight baseline segments created by points 36 to 56 are improper. The territorial sea should be measured from the low-water line.

ANNEX 1

UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION
ARTICLE 7

Straight Baselines

1. In localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity, the method of straight baselines joining appropriate points may be employed in drawing the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

2. Where because of the presence of a delta and other natural conditions the coastline is highly unstable, the appropriate points may be selected along the furthest seaward extent of the low-water line, the straight baseline shall remain effective until changed by the coastal State in accordance with this Convention.

3. The drawing of straight baselines must not depart to any appreciable extent from the general direction of the coast, and the sea areas lying within the lines must be sufficiently closely linked to the land domain to be subject to the regime of internal waters.

4. Straight baselines shall not be drawn to and from low-tide elevations, unless lighthouses or similar installations which are permanently above sea level have been built on them or except in instances where the drawing of baselines to and from such elevations has received general international recognition.

5. Where the method of straight baselines is applicable under paragraph 1, account may be taken, in determining particular baselines, of economic interests peculiar to the region concerned, the reality and the importance of which are clearly evidenced by long usage.

6. The system of straight baselines may not be applied by a State in such a manner as to cut off the territorial sea of another State from the high seas or an exclusive economic zone.

ANNEX 2

DECREE ON THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA[1]

In order to insure the inviolability and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Albania, protect the interests of the state against all kinds of harmful activity, and lay down the rules governing the boundaries,

On the basis of Article 58, point 6 of the Constitution, and at the proposal of the Council of Ministers:

THE PRESIDIUM OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
DECREES

Article 1

The boundaries of the People's Republic of Albania will be marked by special artificial or natural landmarks located on the land or water surface. Lines drawn perpendicular to the line of the boundary on the land or water surface constitute, respectively, the boundary of the air space, the subsoil, and the bed and subsoil of the internal waters and the territorial waters of the People's Republic of Albania.

Article 2

Along the line of the land boundary of the People's Republic of Albania there is a border belt (brez) and a border zone. The extent of the border belt and zone, and the regulations governing the territory of the border belt and zone will be fixed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Article 3

Crossing of the border of the People's Republic of Albania by land, through open ports or airports, will be effected via points of border control passage designated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Article 4

The territorial waters of the People's Republic of Albania extend along its entire coast to an extent of 12 nautical miles (22,224 meters) from a straight line drawn from the mouth of the Buna River, via cape Muzh (Rodom), Cape Palla e Durresit ("The Sword of Durres"), Cape Lagi (Kalaja e Turres), Cape Seman, and the coast of Sazan Island to the middle of the narrows of the Corfu Channel.

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[1] Gazeta Zyrtare, Albanian, No. 3, May 8, 1970, at 34-36.

The waters of the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea lying within the straight line passing through the capes mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, as well as the waters on this side of the boundary line of the border lakes and rivers, are internal waters of the People's Republic of Albania.

Article 5

The People's Republic of Albania exercises its sovereignty over territorial waters and internal waters on the basis of the laws in force, the international agreements to which it is a party, and the rules of international law recognized by the Albanian state.

The sovereignty of the People's Republic of Albania also extends to the air space above the territorial waters and to the bed and subsoil of those waters.

Article 6

Foreign vessels other than warships enjoy the right of peaceful passage through the territorial waters of the People's Republic of Albania in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Council of Ministers and on the basis of the international agreements and conventions in which the People's Republic of Albania participates.

Article 7

Foreign warships will enter or pass through the territorial waters of the People's Republic of Albania only with the special authorization of the Council of Ministers, with the exception of cases of force majeure, but always in accordance with the regulations in effect in the People's Republic of Albania.

Foreign submarines may in no case navigate or anchor in the territorial wasters or the internal waters or the People's Republic of Albania when submerged.

Article 8

To protect the country's security, the Council of Ministers may designate zones, ports, or airports as temporarily or permanently forbidden.

Article 9

The People's Republic of Albania exercises its sovereign rights over the continental shelf for the purposes of searching for and exploiting its natural resources.

Article 10

Foreign civil airplanes will enter or fly through the air space of the People's Republic of

Albania within the air corridors announced in international publications.

ANNEX 2
(cont'd)

Article 11

Military airplanes will, with the exception of cases of force majeure, enter or fly through the air space of the People's Republic of Albania with special authorization by the Council of Ministers, within the corridors announced in international publications.

Article 12

Entrance without permission into border zones or other forbidden zones, and any other violation of the regulations governing the movement and sojourn of citizens in those zones, when the act is committed for the first time, constitutes a contravention, and will be punished by a fine of 50 to 1,000 leks.

Article 13

Decree No. 1535 dated 4 September 1952, "On the Determination and Protection of the Boundaries of the People's Republic of Albania," and Decree No. 3321 dated 1 September 1961, "On the Territorial Waters and Internal Waters of the People's Republic of Albania" are hereby repealed.

Article 14

This decree will go into effect on 15 April 1970.

Tirana, 9 March 1970

Decree No. 4650

FOR THE PRESIDIUM OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

SECRETARY:
Bilbil Klosi

CHAIRMAN:
Haxhi Lleshi

ANNEX 3

United States Protest of Albanian Modification to Decree 4650

(Complimentary opening)…the United States of America refers to the Albanian Decree No. 5,384 of February 23, 1976, modifying Decree No. 4,650 of March 9, 1970, which seeks to establish a fifteen nautical mile territorial sea, modifies the excessive straight baseline system, and purports to mandate that foreign warships may enter or pass through Albania's territorial sea only with special authorization.

A territorial sea claim of fifteen nautical miles is not supported by established principles of international law and the practice of states. As is well known, customary international law, as reflected in Article 3 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, recognizes a territorial sea breadth up to a limit not exceeding twelve nautical miles, measured from baselines determined in accordance with the Convention. That practice is followed by a vast majority of the coastal states.

The United States wishes to point out that, for the most part, the Albanian coastline, being neither deeply indented and cut into, nor having a fringe of islands in its immediate vicinity, does not meet the geographic criteria required under international law for the establishment of straight baselines. Further, the baseline segments from the Cape of Rodom (Muzhit) to the mouth of the Vjose River, and from the Cape of Gjuhe to the Cape of Sarande, enclose waters which are neither juridical bays nor historic waters.

The recognized legal right of innocent passage through the territorial sea may be exercised by all ships, regardless of type or cargo, and may not in any case be subjected to a requirement of prior permission of, or notice to, the coastal state, as is established in customary international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Government of the United States therefore continues to object to the claims described and made by Albania's Decree No. 4,650, as amended by Decree No. 5,384, which are not valid in international law and reserves its rights and those of its nationals in this regard.

Delivered by the U.S. Embassy in Paris to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to pass on to the Albanian government, June 22, 1989.

ANNEX 4

EGYPT'S STRAIGHT BASELINE CLAIM

"Annex I"
I. The Mediterranean Sea

Sequence	Latitude (North)	Longitude (East)
1	31° 40' 30"	25° 08' 56"
2	31° 34' 24"	25° 10' 48"
3	31° 30' 56"	25° 14' 30"
4	31° 30' 12"	25° 19' 55"
5	31° 38' 00"	25° 53' 24"
6	31° 36' 18"	26° 14' 24"
7	31° 31' 18"	26° 38' 30"
8	31° 27' 12"	26° 59' 06"
9	31° 24' 30"	27° 03' 48"
10	31° 22' 12"	27° 21' 00"
11	31° 12' 36"	27° 28' 30"
12	31° 12' 00"	27° 38' 00"
13	31° 14' 48"	27° 51' 36"
14	31° 06' 12"	27° 55' 00"
15	31° 05' 30"	28° 25' 48"
16	31° 03' 18"	28° 35' 24"
17	30° 58' 30"	28° 49' 56"
18	30° 54' 54"	28° 54' 52"
19	30° 50' 36"	29° 23' 48"
20	30° 59' 54"	29° 23' 48"
21	31° 01' 48"	29° 31' 00"
22	31° 08' 54"	29° 47' 18"
23	31° 12' 00"	29° 51' 42"
24	31° 12' 36"	29° 52' 30"
25	31° 19' 12"	30° 02' 54"
26	31° 21' 42"	30° 06' 24"
27	31° 30' 18"	30° 21' 18"
28	31° 30' 00"	30° 22' 42"
29	31° 27' 18"	30° 28' 18"
30	31° 36' 00"	31° 01' 42"
31	31° 36' 00"	31° 07' 00"
32	31° 35' 12"	31° 16' 12"
33	31° 33' 42"	31° 16' 12"
34	31° 26' 42"	31° 36' 00"
35	31° 29' 30"	31° 45' 18"
36	31° 32' 06"	31° 52' 00"
37	31° 32' 06"	31° 54' 12"
38	31° 30' 18"	31° 57' 24"
39	31° 20' 42"	32° 06' 42"
40	31° 18' 12"	32° 20' 30"
41	31° 03' 54"	32° 34' 12"
42	31° 08' 56"	32° 55' 36"
43	31° 13' 12"	33° 04' 00"
44	31° 13' 48"	33° 06' 12"
45	31° 14' 12"	33° 08' 42"
46	31° 13' 36"	33° 13' 18"
47	31° 12' 00"	33° 20' 30"
48	31° 11' 06"	33° 23' 54"
49	31° 07' 06"	33° 32' 00"
50	31° 07' 42"	33° 43' 24"
51	31° 11' 54"	33° 58' 18"
52	31° 14' 36"	34° 05' 18"
53	31° 19' 24"	34° 13' 06"

ANNEX 4
(cont'd)

"Annex 2"
II. The Red Sea

Sequence	Latitude (North)	Longitude (East)	Sequence	Latitude (North)	Longitude (East)
1	29° 29' 36"	34° 54' 18"	31	28° 03' 24"	34° 26' 56"
2	29° 29' 00"	34° 52' 12"	32	27° 58' 48"	34° 26' 12"
3	29° 26' 12"	34° 50' 48"	33	27° 43' 12"	34° 15' 36"
4	29° 25' 26"	34° 49' 48"	34	27° 27' 12"	34° 02' 18"
5	29° 22' 36"	34° 48' 12"	35	27° 11' 24"	33° 59' 24"
6	29° 22' 00"	34° 47' 18"	36	26° 51' 06"	34° 00' 18"
7	29° 20' 30"	34° 46' 36"	37	26° 45' 42"	34° 04' 54"
8	29° 18' 18"	34° 44' 24"	38	26° 42' 42"	34° 06' 36"
9	29° 13' 24"	34° 44' 30"	39	26° 06' 36"	34° 17' 24"
10	29° 11' 48"	34° 44' 00"	40	25° 42' 30"	34° 35' 24"
11	29° 10' 24"	34° 42' 48"	41	25° 29' 42"	34° 41' 00"
12	29° 09' 36"	34° 41' 30"	42	25° 20' 48"	34° 51' 54"
13	29° 02' 12"	34° 40' 12"	43	24° 47' 18"	35° 11' 00"
14	29° 00' 42"	34° 41' 03"	44	24° 38' 18"	35° 11' 36"
15	28° 59' 18"	34° 41' 10"	45	24° 26' 00"	35° 22' 48"
16	28° 58' 30"	34° 40' 48"	46	24° 15' 18"	35° 39' 00"
17	28° 58' 10"	34° 38' 56"	47	24° 09' 42"	35° 43' 00"
18	28° 56' 42"	34° 38' 12"	48	23° 54' 12"	35° 47' 36"
19	28° 55' 54"	34° 38' 42"	49	23° 33' 48"	36° 20' 36"
20	28° 51' 42"	34° 38' 48"	50	22° 53' 12"	36° 20' 06"
21	28° 50' 48"	34° 37' 42"	51	22° 36' 30"	36° 35' 12"
22	28° 44' 03"	34° 37' 36"	52	22° 20' 18"	36° 39' 24"
23	28° 38' 24"	34° 34' 48"	53	22° 16' 12"	36° 48' 54"
24	28° 32' 28"	34° 31' 03"	54	22° 03' 48"	36° 53' 54"
25	28° 30' 00"	34° 31' 24"	55	22° 01' 30"	36° 53' 48"
26	28° 28' 24"	34° 30' 30"	56	22° 00' 00"	36° 52' 54"
27	28° 26' 20"	34° 27' 48"			
28	28° 22' 54"	34° 27' 18"			
29	28° 16' 24"	34° 24' 36"			
30	28° 10' 00"	34° 27' 30"			

ANNEX 5

United States Protest Note 851 of Egypt Presidential Decree No. 27

June 13, 1991

(Complimentary opening) and has the honor to refer to Presidential Decree No. 27 of 9 January 1990 entitled "Decree Concerning the Baselines of the Maritime Areas of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 9 January 1990." In this Decree, co-ordinates of latitude and longitude are listed which establish straight baselines from which the territorial sea of the Arab Republic of Egypt is to be measured. The United States believes that these baselines are not drawn in accordance with the customary rules of international law reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOS Convention), which Egypt has ratified, for the following reasons.

In accordance with Article 5 of the LOS Convention the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low-water line along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the coastal state. Article 7 of the LOS Convention provides that, as an exception to the normal baseline, in localities in which the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or where there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity, the method of straight baselines joining appropriate basepoints may be employed in drawing the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The United States observes that while the aforementioned Decree establishes straight baselines along almost the entire coastline of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Mediterranean, Gulf of Aqaba and Red Sea, the Egyptian coastline in all seas is generally smooth and gently undulating, and is neither deeply indented and cut into nor fringed with islands along its coast. Hence, in localities where neither criteria is met, the method of straight baselines may not be used; rather, in those areas the low water line, as depicted on official charts, must be used.

With regard to the coordinates referencing locations in the Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea, the United States wishes to make the following observations. The United States notes that the coastline in the vicinity of coordinates 1-32 located in the Gulf of Aqaba is neither masked by a fringe of islands nor is it deeply indented or cut into. The coastline in the vicinity of coordinates 32 and 33 also does not meet these criteria, nor does it constitute a juridical bay within the meaning of Article 10 of the LOS Convention. The United States observes that, whereas it would be possible to construct shorter baselines off the coast between coordinates 32 and 33 which could properly enclose juridical bays, such baselines were not drawn.

Baseline segments 33-36, from Ras Mumhammed to the mainland northeast of Port Safaga also satisfy neither criteria. Baseline segments 36-56 in the Red Sea fail to meet the criteria of areas in which the coastline in the vicinity is deeply indented and cut into, or

in which there exists a fringe of islands along the coast. The coastline in this vicinity is in fact practically void of islands and is relatively free from indentations. Accordingly, the normal baseline--the low water line--must be used in this vicinity.

With regard to straight baselines segments located in the Mediterranean Sea, the United States wishes to make the following observations. The Mediterranean coastline in the vicinity of baseline segments 1-25 is clearly neither deeply indented and cut into, nor is it fringed with islands along the coast. However, segments 25-28 enclose Abu Kir Bay, a juridical bay. The Mediterranean coastline in the vicinity of segments 28-39 is also neither deeply indented and cut into nor fringed with islands in its immediate vicinity. Baseline segments 39-41 are invalid for the same reason.

Whereas the waters behind the barrier spit between baseline segments 41 and 49 could properly be constituted as internal waters, such can be accomplished by the barrier spit itself, joining by short baseline segments the barrier segments in those few areas in which it is not continuous. Baseline segments 49-55 are invalid since the coastline in that vicinity is also neither deeply indented and cut into, nor fringed with islands.

For the above reasons, the United States cannot accept the validity in international law of the straight baselines mentioned above as constituting the baseline from which the territorial sea of the Arab Republic of Egypt is to be measured, and reserves its rights and those of its nationals in this regard.

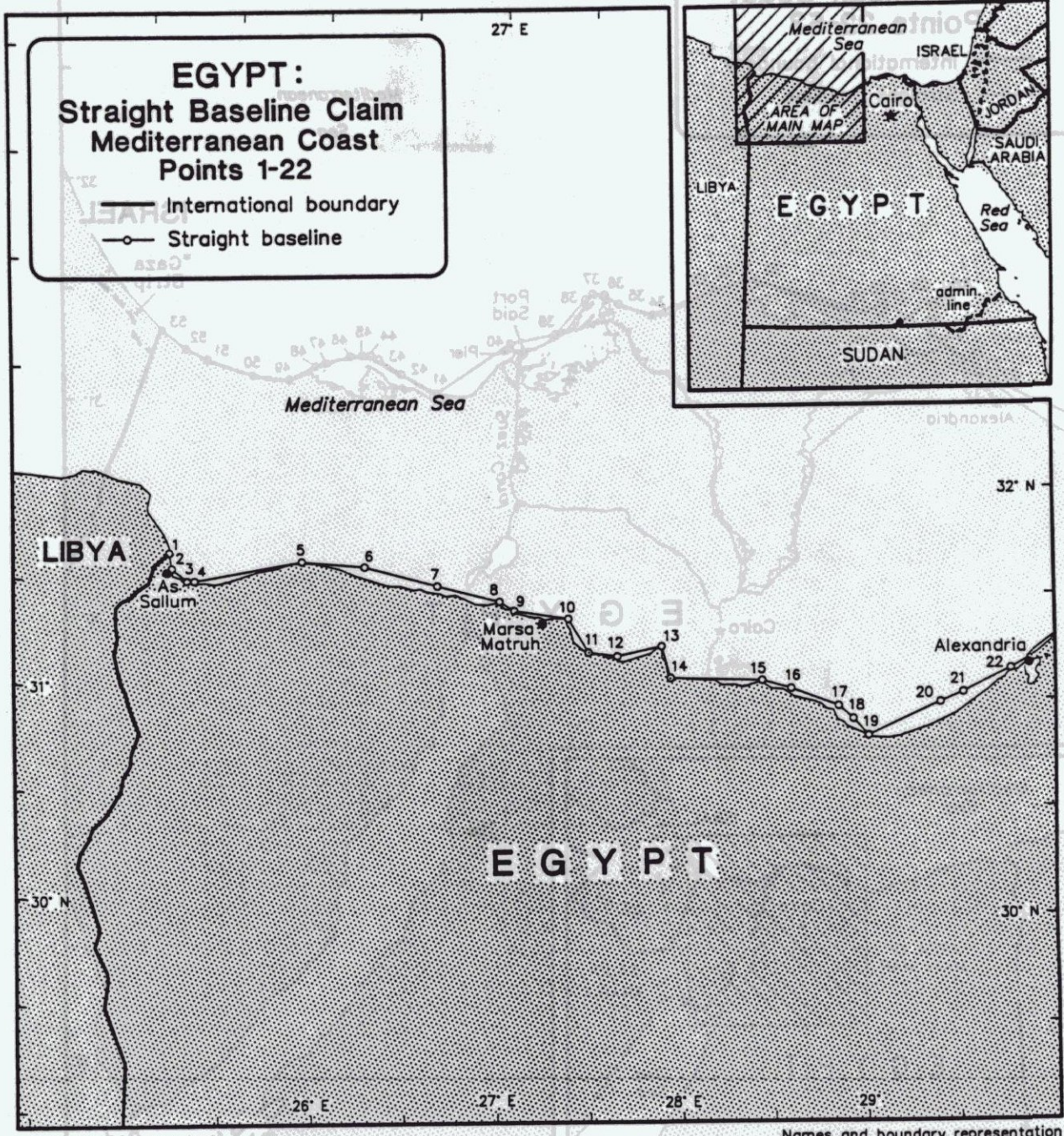
The United States looks forward to the views of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in response to the points raised above. (Complimentary close.)

Delivered by the United States Embassy in Cairo, June 13, 1991

ALBANIA: Claimed Straight Baselines and Territorial Sea
Decree No. 7366
March 24, 1990
0 25 kilometers
0 25 miles
Montenegro
Lake Scutari
Drin
Shkodër
Buna
Mat
Kepi i Rodonit
Bishti i Pallës
Durrës
Tiranë
Adriatic Sea
Kala e Turrës
Shkumbin
Lake Ohrid
Albania
Kepi i Semanit
Lake Prespa
12 nm
Seman
Vjosë
Korçë
Sazan Island
Vlorë
Kepi i Gjuhëzës
Otranto
Strait of Otranto
Italy
Greece
Corfu
Straight baseline
Limit of 12 nautical mile territorial sea claim
Hypothetical equidistant line
International boundary
2162 12-92 STATE (INR/GE)
21°E
42°N
41°N
40°N
20°E

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

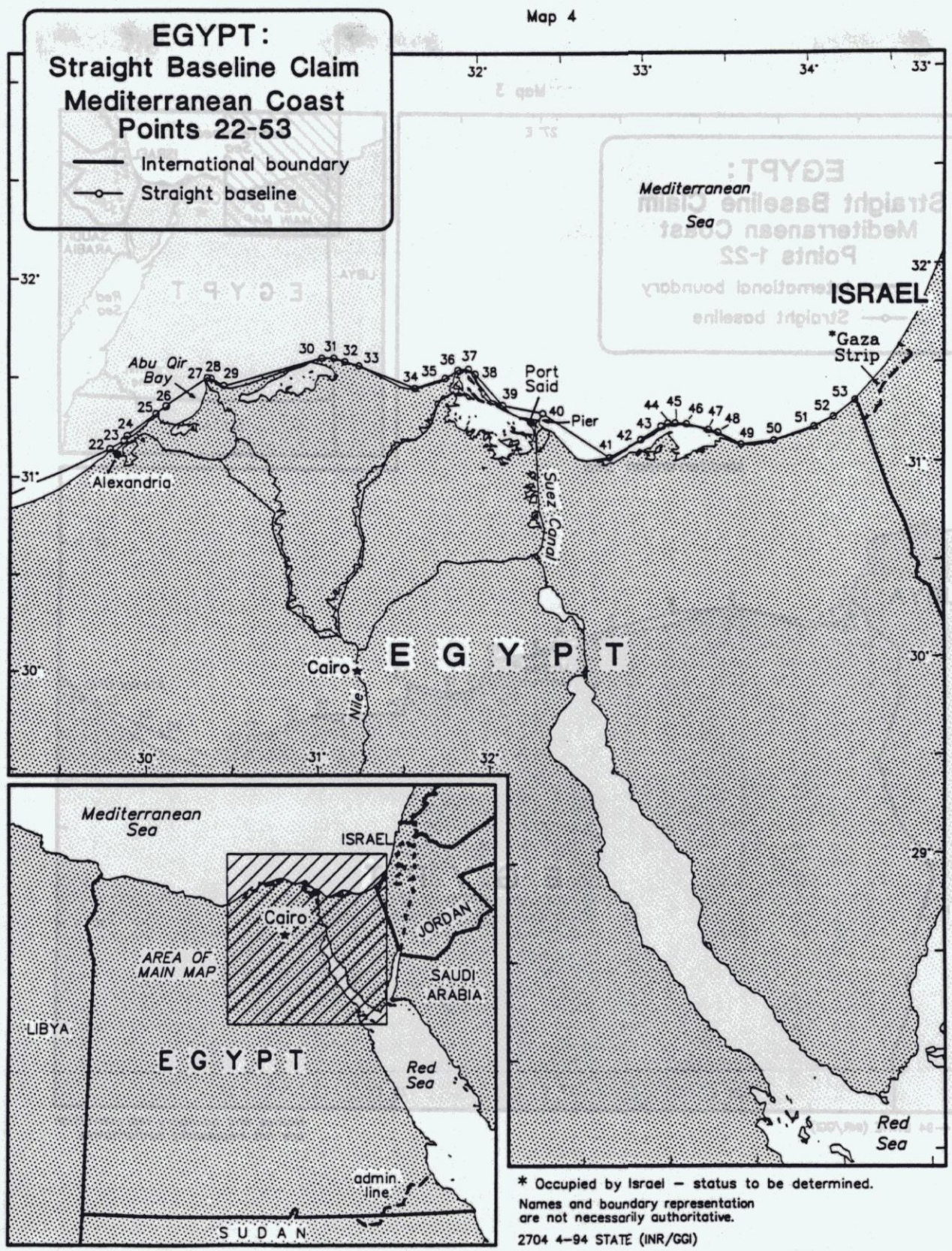
2702 4–94 STATE (INR/GGI)



2703 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

Map 4

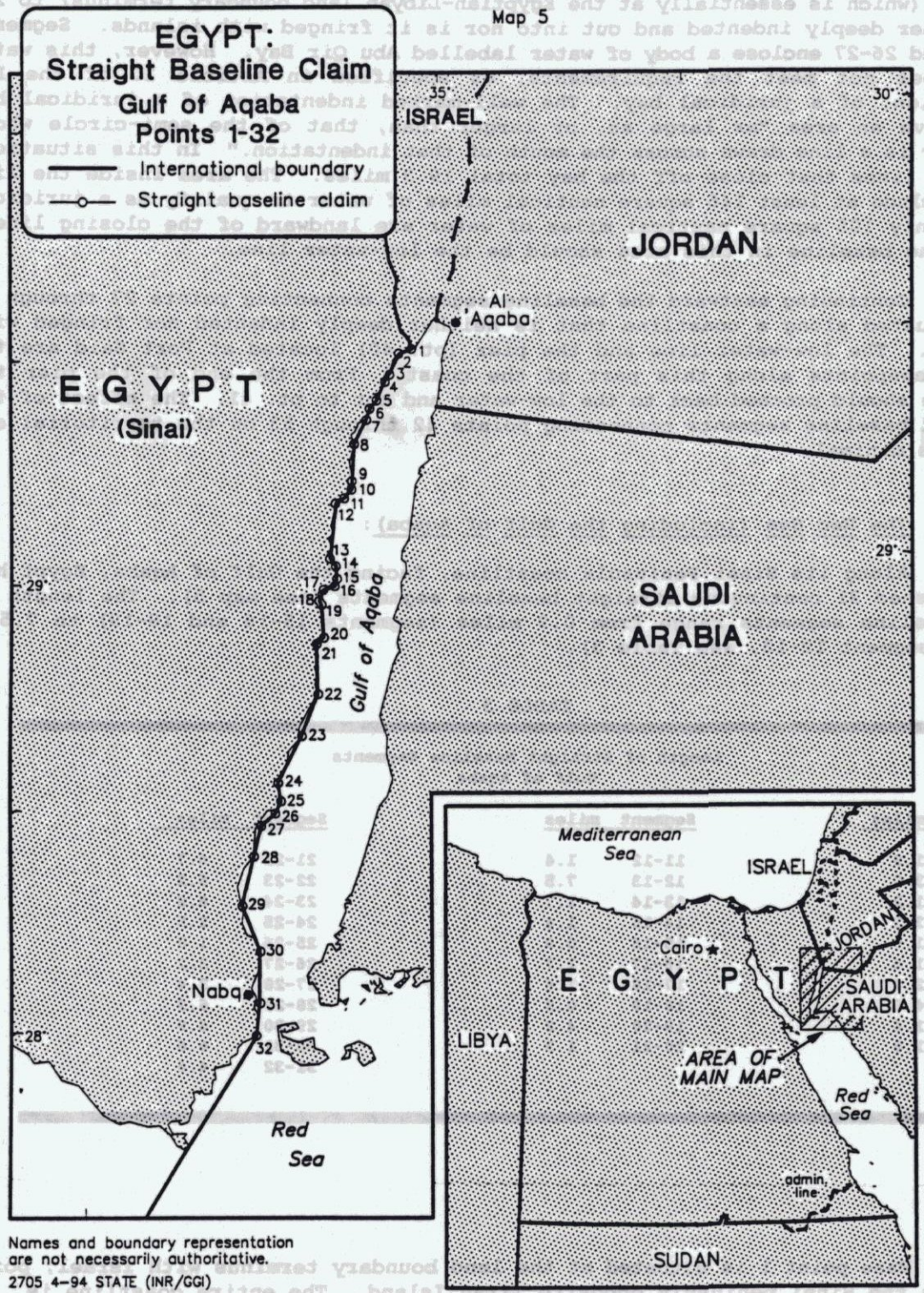


* Occupied by Israel – status to be determined.

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

2704 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

Map 5



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

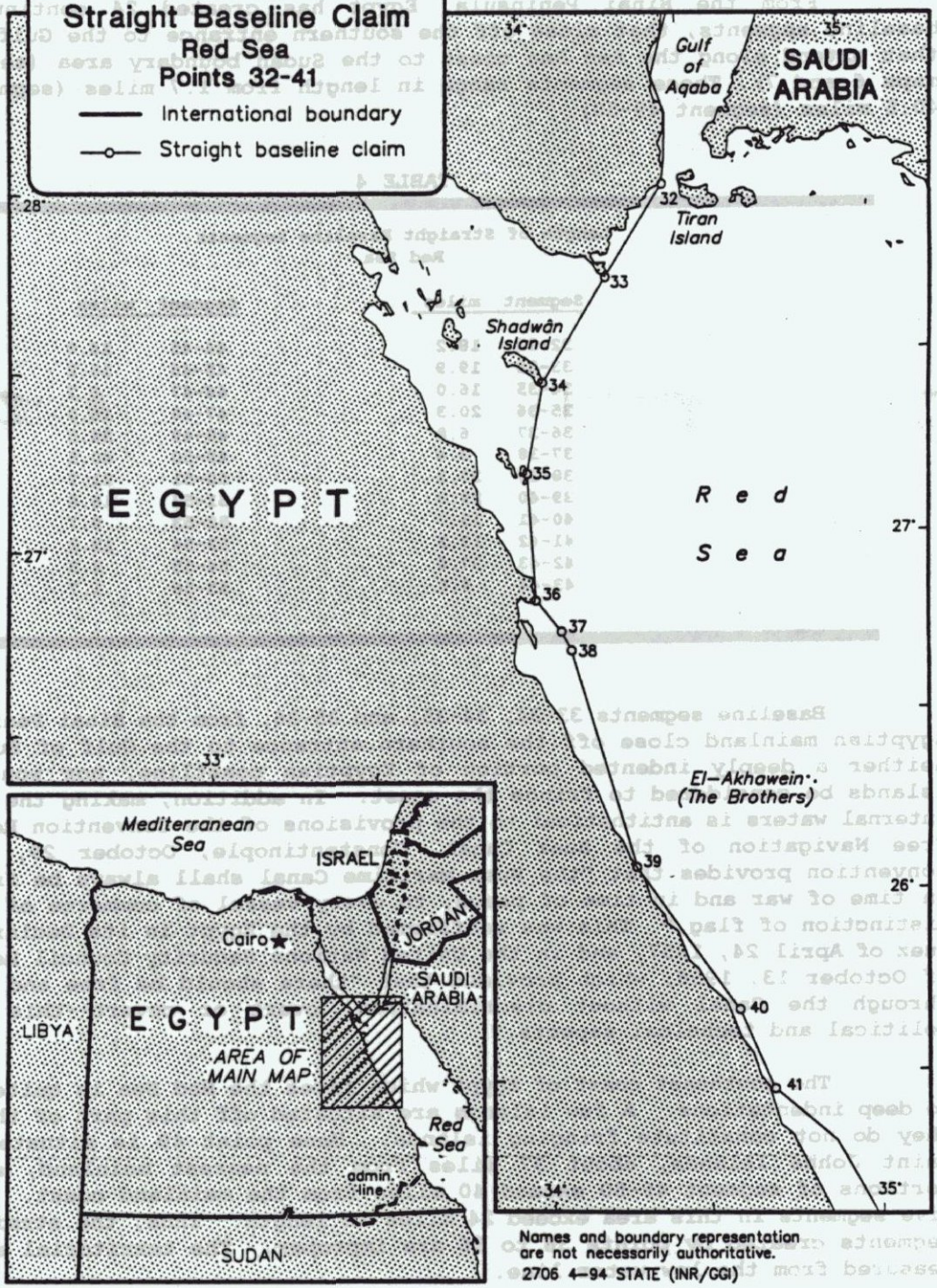
2705 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

Map 6

EGYPT: Straight Baseline Claim
Red Sea
Points 32-41

International boundary

Straight baseline claim



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

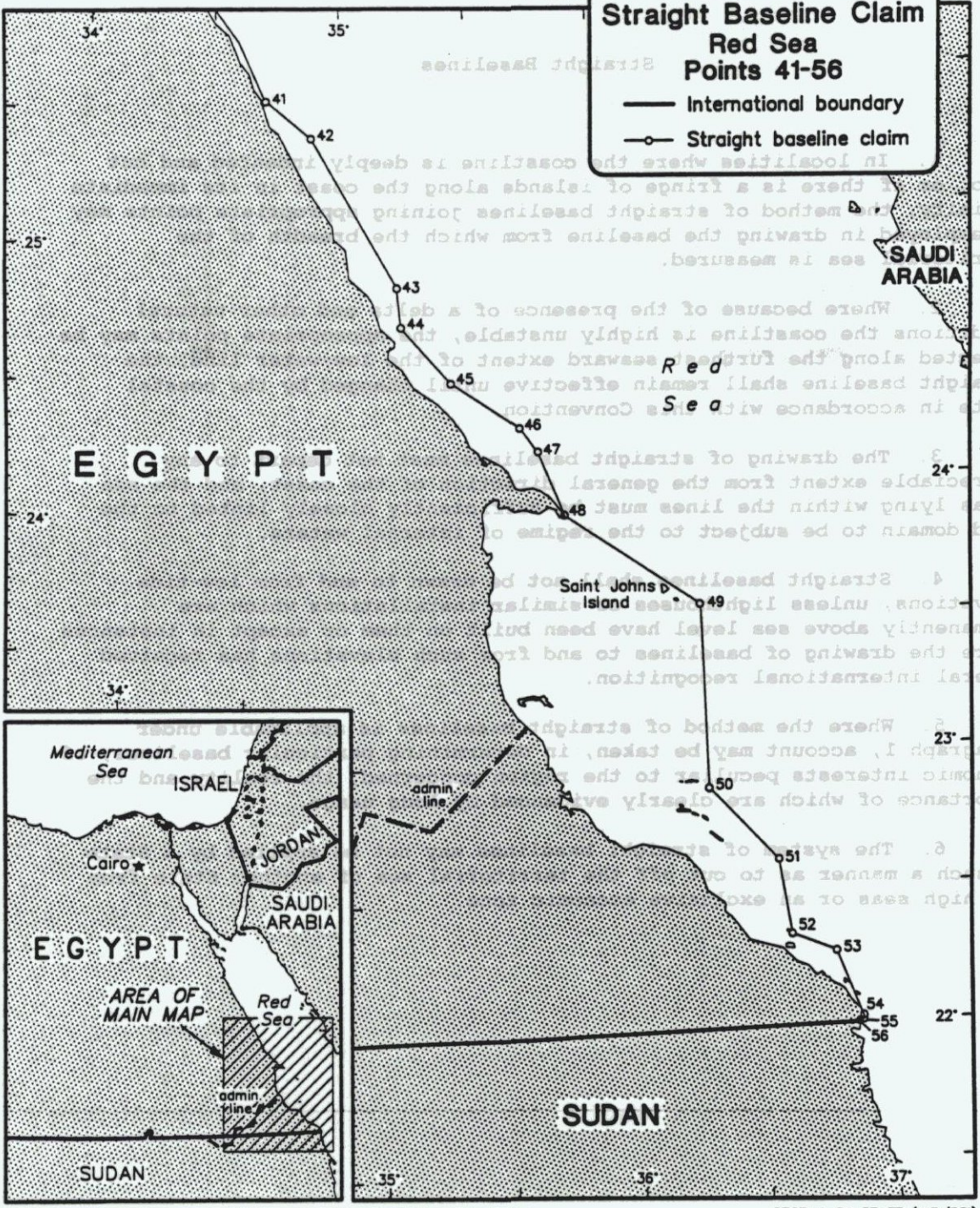
2706 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)

Map 7

EGYPT:
Straight Baseline Claim
Red Sea
Points 41-56

International boundary

Straight baseline claim



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

2707 4-94 STATE (INR/GGI)