



International Boundary Study

No. 38 – December 15, 1978

China – Vietnam Boundary

(Country Codes: CH-VN)

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

No. 38 - 29 October 1964

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CHINA–VIETNAM BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The China–Vietnam boundary extends 796.4 miles eastward from the Laos tripoint to the northern distributary of the Pei-lun on the Gulf of Tonkin¹. For 505.9 miles (63.5 percent of the total), the boundary follows water divides, both major and minor, within the Yünnan Plateau and the highlands of East Tonkin. Rivers and streams form the frontier for an additional 218.4 miles (27.5 percent). The remaining 9 percent of the border has been delimited by straight line segments (23.3 miles) or by other features (48.8 miles).

The entire boundary has been demarcated and no territorial disputes are known to exist.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

A. Physical

The Chinese–Vietnamese frontier passes through a physiographic region of great complexity in both structure and relief. Mountain ranges composed primarily of igneous rocks tower over lower plateaus and valleys formed of eroded limestone and sandstone. For the most part, the mountain ranges are arcuate in formation with an average axis extending from northwest toward the southeast. Major elevations in excess of 6,000 feet occur in the extreme west but are perceptibly lower to the east. A narrow coastal plain fringes the Gulf of Tonkin.

The river system, which is highly developed in the frontier region, tends to reflect the arcuate alignment of the mountains. Most rivers, except where crossing the ranges, flow from the northwest to the southeast. Recent uplifts have led to stream rejuvenation and the headwaters of many rivers flow through narrow gorges parallel or perpendicular to the main structural alignment. Owing to the adequate rainfall, drainage is permanent except in certain porous limestone areas.

Climatically, the region is dominated by the seasonal monsoons typical of Southeast Asia. The temperature regime is essentially subtropical; the hottest month is June (c. 85°F) and the coolest is January (c. 64°F). Secondary maxima and minima of temperatures do not ordinarily develop. Average daily ranges in temperature approximate the average annual range. The rainy season commences in April and lasts into November. Maximum precipitation, however, occurs in July and August, when approximately ten inches fall in each month. In addition, May, June, and September each receive five or more inches of rain. No month is totally without precipitation although December and January are the driest months. Most winter precipitation falls as rain and results from cyclonic activity. In total, lowland stations average over sixty inches per annum while upland and coastal locations receive between eighty and 120 inches.

¹ Measured on the 1:100,000 Carte de l'Indochine published by Service Geographique d'Indochine

The frontier region has three distinct vegetation patterns—the upland forest, the lowland cleared or cultivated, and coastal mangrove. For the most part, the forest pattern dominates the major portion of the boundary.

The frontier forest cover is composed of either rain forest or the drier monsoon forest. The typical forest is evergreen, although prolonged drought and/or porous soils may result in local deciduous development, multilayered and easily penetrated. Normally, the rain forest seldom has areas of pure stands of trees, rather, multiple species abound. As a result of rather widespread practice of "slash and burn" cultivation, primary or true rain forest may be restricted to isolated or remote areas. A secondary or modified rain forest, which resembles the original vegetation but lacks the valuable and slow growing hardwoods, now dominates much of the area.

In a narrow band parallel to the coast and in certain large valleys, the original vegetation has been removed and paddy rice agriculture substituted. In these areas, scarcely any trace of the native vegetation can be found.

The mangrove forest occupies the thin coastal strip and a limited area of swamp and marsh further inland. It is very difficult to penetrate and has no economic utility.

B. Cultural

Although the highlands between Tonkin and south China are the most densely populated mountainous areas of Indochina, the density is relatively low by Asian standards. The greatest concentration of population occurs in the valley of the Red River around Lao Kay where densities locally reach over fifty per square kilometer. Immediately to the west, in contrast, the average is less than one person per square kilometer. Elsewhere, the average density of inhabitants ranges between eleven and fifty persons per square kilometer.

As with the other boundaries within Indochina, the Sino-Vietnamese frontier region is almost entirely inhabited by ethnic minorities. Only in the extreme east do Han Chinese constitute a significant proportion of the inhabitants. Vietnamese are found in the same narrow coastal band as well as around Lao Kay on the Red River. Elsewhere, minority people intermingle.

In the west, the Akha and Ha-ni (Tibeto-Burman) peoples occupy the tripoint region of the China–Laos–Vietnam boundary. They stretch eastward for approximately fifty miles before being replaced by Miao (Meo) and Yao (Man) groups. These, in turn, give way along the Red River to an isolated concentration of Vietnamese. The Miao-Yao return east of the river for an additional 150 miles. While further Miao intrusions occur, to the east the upland Tai dominate the settlement pattern as far as the coastal plain. The general dispersion of peoples, however, is very complex with vertical as well as lateral intermingling.

C. Economic

Paddy rice economy has developed in the upper Red River and in the coastal plain. Other scattered centers have been established in certain well watered riverine lowlands. Elsewhere, the "slash and burn" type of shifting agriculture prevails. It is based upon rice, sweet potatoes, corn, and, to a certain degree, opium. For the most part, the village economy is primitive and self-sufficient.

Two narrow gauge railroads cross the international boundary. In the west, the vital Hanoi-Lao Kay-Kunming route provides the only rail connection from the ocean coast to Yünnan and interior southwestern China. The second route links north Vietnam with China's eastern (and much denser) rail net at P'ing-hsiang. Roads from east to west supplement the international rail routes along the coast, from Lang Son to P'ing-hsiang, Cao Bang to Ching-hsi, Cao Bang north-westward, Ha Giang to Yünnan, and from Lao Kay along the rail route. In addition, the Red River is navigable to Man-hao in Yünnan.

D. Historical

Recorded history of the frontier region dates from the second century B.C. founding of the kingdom of Nan Yueh. By the beginning of the first century B.C., the Han empire incorporated the kingdom into China making Tonkin (later Annam) its southernmost province. A strong infusion of Chinese economic, cultural, and social organization followed, laying the foundations for the modern Annamese nation.

After ten centuries of control, Tonkin broke the Chinese bonds in 939 and established the kingdom of Dai-co-viet. Protected by the highlands north of the Tonkin delta, the new state managed to retain its independence from China for over three centuries. Approximately, the present day boundary appears to have existed between the two states. With few exceptions, relations between the two states were peaceful as Annamese attention was directed southward against the Champa. In 1407, the Champa state, under pressure from Annam, appealed to China for aid. Annam succumbed to the combined armies and was occupied by Chinese forces for two decades. A restored Annamese kingdom soon divided into two warring factions centered on Hanoi (Tonkin) and Hue (Cochin China or Annam). Although the internal struggle waxed and waned over the centuries, essentially the same pattern existed until the French entered the scene.

French control was first exercised over parts of Indochina in the late nineteenth century. By 1820, however, it had virtually disappeared, to be reestablished in the 1850s. When the Mekong proved to be an impractical route for trade with China, French interest turned to Tonkin. Diplomatic efforts were made to obtain navigation rights on the Red River, but continued piracy led to the extension of French protection in 1882 and 1883. The next year China agreed to withdraw all troops from Tonkin and French control was assured.

The mutual boundary between Tonkin and China was delimited by treaties in 1887 and 1895. Demarcation commissions marked the boundary soon afterward.

E. Political

No active dispute over the boundary between China and Communist-administered north Vietnam exists at the present time. The boundary has long been recognized and accepted and there has been no official correspondence concerning border problems or proposed boundary changes since the establishment of the so-called "Democratic Republic of Vietnam". Unless the present close political relationship between the two countries deteriorates, it is highly unlikely that a serious border problem will arise. If a dispute over the precise delineation of a segment of the boundary should occur, it is improbable that it would affect populated center or cultivated valleys because the boundary, for the most part, follows crests of ridges and hills in generally rugged and remote areas.

The present regimes of communist China and north Vietnam have had no difficulties regarding ethnic minorities, although some friction between China and France over the alleged harassment of Chinese minorities in Vietnam prevailed during the period following World War II. Most of the Chinese in north Vietnam now live in the larger cities, not in the border area. Along with some Chinese and Vietnamese, various tribal groups who generally are represented in both mainland China and north Vietnam inhabit the border area. Although both governments have organized these groups into various types of administrative units, these changes do not seem to have affected the traditional freedom of movement across the border. Therefore, border problems developing from the status of these ethnic minorities appear unlikely at this time.

The treaties governing the boundary have been negotiated or accepted by the Republic of China.

III. ANALYSIS OF BOUNDARY ALIGNMENT

From the China–Laos–Vietnam tripoint at approximately 22°34'00" North and 102°08'30" East, the boundary between China and Vietnam extends eastward and then northward along the main drainage divide. Joining the Nam Nop stream, the boundary follows its median line to the Black River before following the latter downstream for approximately two miles. The boundary leaves the Black River for the Nam La stream before rejoining the drainage divide. The three river sections of the boundary total approximately eighteen miles. For about seventy-five miles, the boundary coincides with the drainage divide north of the Black River. A limited number of demarcation pillars mark this rugged and relatively uninhabited region.

Joining the source of the Nam Le, the boundary is delimited by the median line of this stream to the Nam La, then down it for a very short distance before turning northward to join its tributary, the Nam Coum. The river sector totals approximately thirty miles. Rejoining the watershed gain, the boundary follows the ridges southeastward for twenty-five miles to the Hung Ngau Ho that leads the frontier northeastward to the Red River. Its median line then serves to the confluence of the left bank tributary, the Nam Ti Ho, northwest of Lao Kay. The median line of the Nam Ti and then the Kan brings the boundary back to the watershed about eight miles north of Lao Kay. As in the previous sector, a twenty-five mile

section of ridge line (marked by twenty-three pillars) leads the boundary back to rivers, first the T'eng-lang Ho and then the Song Chay, a tributary of the Red River. The total distance along the two rivers measures about twelve miles. At the confluence of the Tong Kai Ho, the boundary leaves the Song Chay to follow, northeastward, the watershed between these two streams. Eight pillars mark this twenty-two mile sector. Rejoining the Song Chay, the median line of it and its tributary, the Nam Kiong Ho, form the frontier for a short stretch of 6.5 miles.

The continuation of the boundary is most complex. For approximately seventy-five miles, the border stretches generally northeastward along minor watersheds. However, it crosses the Rivière Claire 1.5 miles northwest of Thanh Thuy, as well as the Song Mien, before joining the Chin Chiang at the northernmost point on the frontier. Following this tributary of the Claire for about 7.5 miles downstream, the boundary is then delimited by a series of straight lines through an area of limestone before it again coincides with the watershed. For about sixty miles, minor watersheds form the boundary although the Song Gam does cut through at boundary pillar 129. After a ten-mile portion delimited by straight lines and other nonphysical features near Sac Giang, the watersheds again delimit the frontier for about fifty-five miles. Exceptions are made as three minor streams cut the frontier.

The boundary to this point has meandered generally eastward. However, at 22°48' North and 106°52' East, it turns sharply to the south. The region through which the boundary now passes is composed of limestone (karst) topography without permanent surface drainage. As a consequence, the alignment is complex; an increased density of boundary pillars, however, clearly marks the limits of the two states. Joining the Song Ba Veng, the boundary continues its southward trend before crossing first the Lung Chiang and then the Sung-hsing Ho. While the dominant landscape form is still karst, surface drainage appears to a greater degree than to the north. The southward trend of the boundary terminates at the famous Porte de Chine, immediately to the north of Dong Dang. Here the Tonkin-Hunan-Kwangsi railroad crosses the frontier.

Turning eastward, the frontier follows minor watersheds but cuts the headwaters of several small streams to approximately 22°39' North and 106°29' East. Here, it joins the median line of several small streams. After following these for approximately ten miles, the boundary continues eastward in a series of short, straight-line segments to the source of the Pei-lun Ho. The median line of this river forms the boundary for approximately thirty-seven miles to the Gulf of Tonkin. East of Mon Cay, the northern distributary is the boundary channel to the midpoint between the islands of Tra-Co and Man-wei.

The boundary is demarcated by at least 285 pillars in approximately seven series. The smallest series, in the extreme west, appears to have one pillar while the largest, in the east-center, comprises 140 numbered pillars plus several unnumbered ones¹.

1. The alignment of the boundary is shown correctly on the Carte de l'Indochine 1:100,000 published by the French Service Géographique de l'Indochine and on the series Indochine—Carte de la Frontière du nord-ouest and Carte de la Frontière du nord-est 1:200,000 published by the same source. Chinese maps delineate the boundary in the same manner.

IV. TREATIES

The following Sino-French treaties have served to delimit the China–Vietnam (and Laos) boundary:

- A. **Treaty of Tientsin between France and China concerning the delimitation of the Franco-Chinese frontier**, signed on June 9, 1885, with ratifications exchanged on November 28, 1885. (Hertslet China Treaties 1:296)

By the terms of this treaty, France and China agree to appoint commissioners to determine the common frontier.

- B. **Convention relative to the frontier between China and Tonkin** (China and France) signed on June 26, 1887, after an Exchange of Notes dated June 23, 1887, (ibid. 1:314 and BFSP 85:747)

Article III delimits, in detail, the boundary between China and Tonkin from the Gulf westward to the Black River on the basis of the delimitation commissions work (See A. above). The act did not complete the Vietnam boundary nor affect Laos.

- C. **Convention bearing on the delimitation of the frontier between France and China...** signed on June 20, 1895, (Hertslet op. cit., 1:332).

The boundary east of the Black River was modified and the line west of the river was completed for both Vietnam and Laos.

- D. **Nanking Convention between France and China** signed May 16, 1930, with ratifications exchanged July 20, 1935.

The convention concerned relations between Indochina and the south China provinces of Yünnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung. The alignment of the boundary was not altered.

V. SUMMARY

The 796.4 mile boundary between Vietnam and China has been delimited by international acts and demarcated by official boundary commissions established by China and France. About 285 pillars mark the 578 miles of the land frontier (i.e., approximately one pillar every two miles, with fewer in the lightly inhabited western portion and more in the settled eastern part).

APPENDIXES

I. Documentation

1. Preliminary Convention of Peace between France and China. Signed at Tientsin, May 11, 1884. Hertslet China Treaties Vol. 1, pp. 185-187 (French).
 2. Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Commerce between France and China. Signed at Tientsin June 9, 1885 [ratifications exchanged at Peking, November 28, 1885]. Hertslet China Treaties Vol. 1, pp. 187-191 (French).
 3. Convention between China and France respecting the Delimitation of the Frontier between China and Tonkin. Signed at Peking, June 26, 1887. Hertslet China Treaties Vol. 1, pp. 314-316 (French) and British Foreign and State Papers (BFSP) Vol. 85 (1892-93), pp. 748-750 (French).
 4. Convention between France and China complementary to the Convention for the Delimitation of the Frontier between Tonkin and China of the 26th June, 1887. Signed at Peking, June 20, 1895 [ratifications exchanged at Peking, August 7, 1896]. Hertslet China Treaties Vol. 1, pp. 321-323 (French).
 5. Convention concerning the Relations between China and France with Regard to French Indo-China and Adjacent Chinese Provinces, and Annexes, signed at Nanking, May 16, 1930, with exchanges of Notes relating thereto, Nanking, September 2, and 9, 1933, and May 4, 1935, and Protocol establishing Lists A and B, and Declaration, signed at Nanking, May 4, 1935. League of Nations Treaty Series Vol. 162, Treaty No. 3738, pp. 147-156.
- II. Convention between China and France respecting the Delimitation of the Frontier between China and Tonkin. Signed at Peking, June 26, 1887.

Delimitation of the Boundary between China and Tonkin

Whereas the Commissioners appointed by the President of the French Republic and His Majesty the Emperor of China, pursuant to Article 3 of the Treaty of June 9, 1885, for the purpose of recognizing the boundary between China and Tonkin have now completed their work;

Mr. Ernest Constans, Deputy, former Minister of the Interior and Worship, Commissioner of the Government, and special envoy of the French Republic, and

His Highness Prince King, prince of the second rank, President of the Tsoung-li Yamen^[1], assisted by His Excellency Souen-Yu Quen, member of the Tsoung-li Yamen, and First Vice President of the Ministry of Public Works;

1. Chinese and Vietnamese geographic names are the same as given in the French text of the Convention.

Acting in the name of their respective Governments,

Have decided to record herein the following provisions for the official delimitation of the aforesaid boundary:

1. The reports, maps, and annexes prepared and signed by the French and Chinese representatives have been approved.

2. The points on which the two commissions had been unable to reach agreement and the amendments referred to Article 3(2) of the treaty of June 9, 1885 have been decided as follows:

At Kouang-Tong the disputed points located east and northwest of Monkai, beyond the boundary determined by the delimitation commission, are awarded to China. The islands east of the Paris meridian 105°43' east longitude, that is, of the north-south line that passes through the eastern point of the island of Tch'a Kou or Ouan-chan (Tra-co) and forms the boundary, are also awarded to China. The Gotho and other islands located west of this meridian belong to Annam.

Chinese guilty of or charged with crimes or offenses who seek refuge in the islands shall, in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Treaty of April 25, 1886, be sought, arrested, and extradited by the French authorities.

On the Yunnan boundary the line of demarcation run as follows:

From Keou-teou-tchai (Cao-dao-trai) on the left bank of the Siao-tou-tcheou-ho (Tien-do-chu-ha), point M on the map of the second section, the line of demarcation runs for 50 lis (20 kilometers) directly west-east, leaving to China the localities Tsui-kiang-choo or Tsui-y-cho (Tu-nghia-xa), Tsui-me-cho (Tu-mi-xa), Kiang-fei-cho or Y-fei-cho (Nghia-fi-xa), which are north of that line, and to Annam the locality Yeou-p'ong-cho (Hu-bang-xa), which is south of that line, up to the points marked P and Q on the attached map where the line crosses the two branches of the second right-hand tributary of the Hei-ho (Hac-ha) or the Tou-tcheou-ho (Do-chu-ha). From point Q the line proceeds southeast for about 15 lis (6 kilometers) to point R, leaving to China the territory of Nan-tan (Nam-don) north of point R. From point R the line runs northeast to point S, following the direction taken on the map by the line R-S, the course of the Nan-teng-ho (Nam-dang-ha) and the territories of Man-mei (Man-mi), Meng-tong-chang-ts'oun (Muang-dong-troung-thon), Mong-toung-chan (Muong-dong-son), Meng-toung-tchoung-ts'oun (Muong-dong-troung-thon), and Meng-toung-chia-ts'ou (muong-dong-ha-thon) remaining as part of Annam.

From point S (Meng-toung-chia-ts'oun or Mung-dong-ha-thon) the boundary follows the middle of the Ts'ing-chouei-ho (Than thuy ha) to its confluence with the Clear River at T.

From point T the boundary follows the middle of the Clear River to point X at Tch'ouan'teou (Thuyen dan).

From point X it runs north to point Y and passes through Paiche-yai (Bach-thach-giai) and Lao-ai-K'an (Lao-hai-kan), leaving the eastern half of those two localities to Annam and the western half to China.

From point Y, the boundary runs north along the right bank of the small left-hand tributary of the Clear River, converging with the river between Pien-pao-kia (Dien-bao-kha) and Pei-pao (Bac-bao) and continuing thence to Kao-ma-pai (Cao-ma-bach), point Z, where it connects with the line of the third section.

From Long-po-tchai (fifth section) the common boundary between Yunnan and Annam follows the course of the Long-po-ho to its confluence with the Ts'ing-chouei-ho, marked A on the map. From point A it moves in the general northeast-southwest direction to the point marked B on the map, where the Mien-chouei-ouan flows into the Sai-kiang-ho, leaving the course of the Ts'ing-chouei-ho on the Chinese side of the boundary.

From point B the boundary runs east-west to point C where it meets the Teng-tiao-tchiang below Ta-chou-tchio. Everything south of this line belongs to Annam and everything north of this line belongs to China.

From point C the boundary moves south following the middle of the Teng-tiao-tchiang River to its confluence at point D with the Tsin-tse-ho.

The line then follows the Tsin-tse-ho for approximately 30 lis and continues in an east-west direction to point D [sic] where it meets the small stream that empties into the Black River (Hei-tciang or Hac-giang) east of the Meng-pang trough. The middle of this stream serves as the boundary from point E to point F.

From point F the middle of the Black River serves as the west boundary.

The local Chinese authorities and the agent appointed by the Resident General of the French Republic at Annam and Tonkin will be instructed to mark the boundaries in accordance with the maps drawn and signed by the Commission of Delimitation and with the boundary line described above.

Attached hereto are three maps in two copies signed and sealed by both parties. On the maps the new boundary is drawn in red and indicated on the maps of Yunnan with the letters of the French alphabet and the Chinese cyclic characters.

Done at Peking in two copies on June 26, 1887.

Constans

(Seal of the Legation of France at Peking)

(Signature and seal of the Chinese plenipotentiary)

III. Convention between France and China complementary to the Convention for the Delimitation of the Frontier between Tonkin and China of June 26, 1887. Signed at Peking, June 20, 1895.

Whereas the Commissioners appointed by the two governments to determine the final portion of the boundary between China and Tonkin (from the Red River to the Mekong) have completed their work,

Mr. Auguste Gerard, Minister Plenipotentiary, Special Envoy of the French Republic in China, Officer of the Legion of Honor, Grand Cross of the Order of the Independence of Montenegro, Grand Officer of the Royal Order of Charles III of Spain, Grand Officer of the Royal Order of the Crown of Italy, etc., and

His Highness Prince K'ing, Prince of the first rank, President of the Tsong-li Yamen, etc., together with His Excellency Siu Yong-Yi, member of the Tsong-li Yamen and the Great Council of the Empire, Vice Minister of the Interior, etc.,

Acting in the name of their respective governments and invested for that purpose with full powers which they have communicated to each other and found to be in good and due form, have decided to record herein the following provisions for the amendment and completion of the Convention signed at Peking on June 26, 1887. The reports and maps issued and signed by the French and Chinese Commissioners have been approved.

Article 1

The boundary line drawn between Yunnan and Annam (map of the second section) from point R to point S is changed as follows:

The boundary line begins at point R, runs northeast to Man-mai^[1] and then east to Nan-na on the Ts'ing-chouei-ho, leaving Man-mei to Annam, and the territories of Mong-t'ong-chang-ts'ouen, Mong-t'ong'chan, Mong-t'ong'tchong'ts'ouen, and Mong-t'ong-hia-ts'ouen to China.

Article II

The fifth section between Long-po-tchai and the Black River is changed as follows:

From Long-po-tchai (fifth section), the boundary between Yunnan and Annam follows the course of the Long-po-ho to its confluence with the Hong-yai-ho at the point marked A on the map. From point A it follows a general north-northwest direction along the crest of the watershed to the source of the P'ing-ho.

1. Chinese and Vietnamese geographic names are the same as given in the French text of the Convention.

From there the line follows first the course of the P'ing-ho, then the Mou-k'I-ho to its confluence with the Ta-pao-ho, the Ta-pao-ho to its confluence with the Nan-Kong-ho, and the Nan-Kong-ho to its confluence with the Non-na-ho.

From there the boundary follows the course of the Pa-Pao-ho to its confluence with the Kouang-Sse-ho, then the course of the Kouang-Sse-ho, and thereafter the crest of the watershed to the confluence of the Nam-la-pi and the Nam-la-ho. From there it follows the Nam-la-ho to its confluence with the Black River and then the middle of the Black River to the Nam-nap or Nan-ma-ho.

Article III

The common boundary of Yunnan and Annam between the Black River, at its confluence with the Nam-nap, and the Mekong is as follows:

From the confluence of the Black River and the Nam-nap the boundary follows the course of the Nam-nap to its source, then runs southwest and west along the crest of the watershed^[1] to the sources of the Nam-Kang and Nam-wou.

From the sources of the Nam-wou the boundary follows the crest of the watershed between the Nam-wou Basin and the Nam-la Basin, leaving to China, on the west, Ban-noi, I-pang, I-wou, and the six Tea Mountains, and leaving to Annam, on the east, Mong-wou and Wou-te and the confederation of the Hua-panh-ha-tang-hoc. The boundary then runs southeast to the sources of the Nan-nou-ho; from there it runs west-northwest along the crest of the watershed, the valleys of the Nam-ouo-ho, and the left tributaries of the Nam-la to the confluence of the Mekong and the Nam-la northwest of the Muong-poung. The territory of Muong-mang and Muong-jouen is left to China. The territory of the eight salty sources (Pa-fa-tchai) is the property of Annam.

Article IV

The commissioners or authorities appointed by the two governments will be instructed to mark the boundaries in accordance with the maps issued and signed by the Commission of Delimitation and with the boundary line described above.

Article V

All provisions concerning the delimitation of the boundary between France and China not amended by this instrument remain in full force.

1. The China-Vietnam boundary extends to the tripoint with Laos on the mountain known as Khoangaxan. Westward from the tripoint on Khoanglaxan, this convention delimits the present China-Lao boundary to the sources of the Nam Khang and Nam Du and then continues to the Burmese tripoint on the Mekong.

This complementary Convention, together with the Convention of Delimitation of June 26, 1887, will be ratified by His Majesty the Emperor of China and, following ratification by the President of the French Republic, the ratifications will be exchanged in Peking at the earliest possible date.

Done at Peking in four copies on June 20, 1895, the 28th day of the 5th moon of the 21st Kouang-siu year.

(signed) A. Gerard

(signed) K'ing

This International Boundary Study is one of a series of specific boundary papers prepared by the Geographer, Office of Research in Economics and Science, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, in accordance with provisions of Bureau of the Budget Circular No. A-16.

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