



International Boundary Study

No. 95 – March 2, 1970

Guinea – Senegal Boundary

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**The Geographer
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Bureau of Intelligence and Research**

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GUINEA - SENEGAL BOUNDARY

I. BRIEF

The Guinea–Senegal boundary trends in an east–west direction and is about 205 miles in length. Eastward from the tripoint with Portuguese Guinea, it follows mainly straight-line segments and rivers to the Mali tripoint on the Balin Ko. Generally delimited, the boundary is marked by only a few survey pillars.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to 1845 all French possessions in West Africa were subordinate to the Governor of Senegal in Saint-Louis. In 1845 Les Rivières du Sud (included the coastal territory later a part of French Guinea) and all French holdings as far south as Gabon were made independent of Senegal and placed under a naval commander on the Ile de Goree. On February 26, 1859, a French decree again put the Ile de Goree and Les Rivières du Sud under the Governor of Senegal. In the meantime, the colony of Senegal was being expanded eastward and southward until by 1865, it was almost comparable in size to its present limits.

In 1882 a decree placed Les Rivières du Sud under a lieutenant governor who was subordinate to the Governor of Senegal. In 1886 the Lieutenant Governor of Les Rivières du Sud was made responsible for the Ivory Coast and Dahomey. Additional authority was given the lieutenant governor in 1889 to deal directly with Paris on certain administrative matters, and in 1891 Les Rivières du Sud was given complete independence from Senegal and a governor was appointed to the colony. Two years later the name of the colony was changed to French Guinea, and Ivory Coast and Dahomey were given their own governments. On June 16, 1895, a decree constituted the Government of French West Africa, which included French Guinea, under the Governor of Senegal as ex officio Governor-General. The office of Governor General was separated from the Governorship of Senegal in 1902, and the capital of French West Africa was moved from Saint-Louis to Dakar.

In 1915 an arrete by the Governor General of French West Africa promulgated a French decree establishing a boundary between French Guinea and Senegal. Early in 1934 an arrete promulgated a decree of the previous December changing the French Guinea–Senegal boundary in the sector between the head of the Tanague river and the junction of the Bitari and Koila Kabe.

Following World War II both French Guinea and Senegal became overseas territories and members of the French Union. On October 2, 1958, the Republic of Guinea emerged as the first state of former French West Africa to become independent. Senegal became a republic and an autonomous member of the French Community in November 1958. The Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Sudan formed the Federation of Mali on April 4,

1959. Both Senegal and Mali as part of the Federation of Mali became independent from French administration on June 20, 1960. Senegal seceded from the federation and inaugurated an independent republic on August 20, 1960.

III. ALIGNMENT

The Guinea–Senegal boundary is in effect divided into three sectors: (1) the tripoint with Portuguese Guinea eastward to the head of the Tanague, (2) between the Tanague and the junction of the Bitari and Koila Kabe, and (3) from the junction of the Bitari and Koila Kabe to the Mali tripoint on the Balin Ko.

The sector of the boundary eastward from the Portuguese Guinea tripoint to the head of the Tanague is determined by a French decree of February 27, 1915.

Starting from the northeastern tip of the boundary with Portuguese Guinea,¹ it shall follow the parallel as far as the Koulountou stream² then follow the Koulountou upstream to its junction with the Mythie [Mitji] stream. The boundary shall then follow the Mythie to its head. From that point, it shall run in a straight line at an angle of 50°, with respect to the magnetic north, to its intersection north of Negare Peak, with a straight line at an angle of 123°, with respect to the magnetic north, and running through the junction of the Tiokoy [Tiokoye] and Tenegue Ko streams.³ The boundary shall follow the latter line to the aforementioned junction; from there it shall follow the Tenegue Ko to its head, located 1,500 meters southeast of the village of Nanganga.

The second sector, between the head of the Tanague and the junction of the Bitari and Koila Kabe, is delimited by a French decree of December 13, 1933.

¹ French and Portuguese maps indicate the Portuguese Guinea tripoint at approximately 12°40' 30" N. and 13°42' 30" W. and marked by boundary pillar number 58. Boundary pillars placed by a Franco–Portuguese demarcation commission are numbered 1 through 184 in a counter-clockwise direction around Portuguese Guinea.

² French 1:200,000 scale maps referenced in the Appendix were published subsequent to the decree establishing the boundary. Therefore, where minor boundary deviations exist between text and maps, it is recommended that the maps be followed to best indicate the de facto administrative situation between the two states. The Youkounkoun sheet indicates the boundary east of the Portuguese Guinea tripoint follows the parallel only to about 13°30' and then trends south-eastward to reach the Koulountou at approximately 12°39' 30" N. and 13°21' W.

³ On the Kedougou sheet between the Mitji and the junction of the Tiokoye and Tanague, the boundary extends only generally along lines at angles of 50° and 123°. North of the Mitji, it forms an arc northward and then southward around Negare peak utilizing parts of the Tiangui, Kote, and Termosse rivers. Eastward from the Termosse, the boundary continues by a straight line to the Diarha, by a straight line to an eastern tributary of the Diarha, and then along the tributary upstream to a north–south trending ridge. Passing southward along the ridge to an arc of low hills, it trends northward then southward to the junction of the Tiokoye and Tanague.

Starting from that point [head of the Tanague], the boundary line shall run in a straight line to the head of the Neoudouwol [Neoudouol] stream, then follow it downstream to its junction with the Gambia, then upstream along the Gambia to its junction with the Soudouwol [Soudouol] stream. From the junction with the Soudouwol stream, the boundary line shall follow the Soudouwol upstream to the Datikoure (also called Koboyewol and Kounsiwol) [Kobohi] creek, and then follow the latter to its head (marker No. 1). From there, it shall run south in a straight line for approximately 1,500 kilometers to marker No. 2, erected near the village of Ouallan. From there, the boundary shall follow straight lines linking marker No. 2 to the peak of Mount Nianguimoni, that peak to the northernmost mass of rock on Mount Bassan, that point to the peak of Mount Galend, and that peak to the permanent head of the Douguikafagne stream (marker No. 3).

The boundary shall then follow the Douguikafagne to its junction with the Bitariko [Bitari], then run along the Bitariko to its junction with the Tembafou or Koulikabe [Koila Kabe] stream.

From the junction of the Bitari and Koila Kabe to the Balin-Ko, the sector is determined again by the French decree of February 27, 1915.

“From the point where it [the boundary] meets the Tembafou, the boundary shall run down that stream for approximately 4 kilometers, until it reaches the crest line of the Konkoniouma mountain chain—which it shall follow as far as the Faleme,⁴ thus leaving on the Senegal side the villages of Koumbafara and Hamdallabi and the farming settlements of Dioulabaya, and on the Guinea side, the villages of Diakambe and Toukoundia.”

⁴ Actually the Mali tripoint is located on the Balin-Ko, a northward-flowing tributary of the Faleme.

APPENDIX

I. DOCUMENTS

1. Arrete promulgating in French West Africa the decree of February 27, 1915, establishing the boundary between French Guinea and Senegal. Journal Officiel de l'Afrique Occidentale Francaise, 1915, p. 272.
2. Arrete promulgating in French West Africa the decree of December 13, 1933, changing the boundary line between Senegal and French Guinea. Ibid, January 27, 1934.

II. MAPS

Carte de L'Afrique de L'Ouest (map of West Africa): scale 1:200,000; published 1957-61 by Service Geographique (Dakar); sheets ND-28-V (Youkounkoun), ND-28-VI (Kedougou), and ND-29-I (Kenieba).

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