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Cameroon – Central African Republic Boundary

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CAMEROON – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BOUNDARY

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CAMEROON – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Cameroon–Central African Republic boundary extends northward from the Congo (Brazzaville) tripoint in the Sangha river to the tripoint with Chad in the Mbere river. It is approximately 495 miles in length. The boundary is demarcated by numerous rivers and some pillars along straight-line segments.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Germany proclaimed a protectorate over Cameroon (Kamerun) in July 1884. On December 24th of the following year, a Franco–German protocol established a line between their respective territorial claims inland from the Bight of Biafra along the Campo river to the 10th meridian, and thence from this point, the parallel of latitude to the 15th meridian.

On February 4, 1894, a second Franco–German protocol delimited a boundary between Cameroon and French Congo from where the line of 1885 ended on the 15th meridian northward to Lake Chad. A convention of March 15, 1894, confirmed the preceding protocol of February 4th. The Convention delimited a line in the general sector of the present Cameroon–Central African Republic boundary as follows:

...thence extending northward, it shall follow the Sangha River for a distance of 30 kilometers; from the point thus fixed on the right bank of the Sangha, it shall continue in a straight line ending, on the Bania parallel [Bania located at 4°00'10" N., 16°02'00" E.], 62 minutes west of Bania; from that point, it shall continue in a straight line ending, on the Gaza parallel [Gaza or Gasa located at 4°45'00" N., 15°43'00" E.], 43 minutes west of Gaza.

Thence the boundary shall continue in a straight line toward Koude [6°02'00" N., 14°59'00" E.], leaving Koude to the east, with a surrounding area described on the west of an arc with a radius of 5 kilometers, beginning, on the south, at the point where it is cut by the line running to Koude and ending, on the north, at its intersection with the Koude meridian; thence, the boundary shall follow the parallel from that point until it reaches meridian 12°40' Paris (15° Greenwich).

From there, the line shall follow the meridian 12°40' Paris (15° Greenwich) as far as parallel 8°30'; ...

In 1903 French Congo consisted of the colonies of Gabon and Middle Congo (Moyen Congo), the territory of Ubangi–Shari, and the military territory of Chad. Two years later Ubangi–Shari and Chad were merged into a single territory. The colony of Ubangi–Shari–Chad was formed in 1906 with Chad under a regional commander at Fort-Lamy

subordinate to Ubangi–Shari. The Commissioner General of French Congo was raised to the status of a governor generalship in 1908; and by a decree of January 15, 1910, the name of French Equatorial Africa was given to a federation of the three colonies, each of which had its own lieutenant governor. In 1914 Chad was detached from the colony of Ubangi–Shari and made a separate territory; full colonial status was conferred on Chad in 1920.

Meanwhile on April 18, 1908, a new Franco–German convention abrogated the convention of March 15, 1894, and redelimited the Cameroon–French Congo boundary between Spanish Guinea (now Equatorial Guinea) and Lake Chad. The 1908 line is the present Cameroon–Central African Republic boundary between the Sangha and Mbere rivers.

Immediately prior to World War I, a Franco–German convention of November 11, 1911, redelimited the entire boundary between Cameroon and French Equatorial Africa except for the sector north of the confluence of the Logone and Chari at Fort-Lamy. Cameroon was extended southward along the coast almost to Libreville making Spanish Guinea (Rio Muni) an enclave in German territory. A corridor of land was ceded by France along both banks of the Sangha giving Germany access to the Congo river, while farther north a second corridor along both banks of the Lobaye extended German territory to the Ubangi river a short distance south of Bangui. Thus, French Congo was split into three discontinuous entities.

The Franco–German convention of 1911 also ceded German territory to France south of Fort-Lamy. The territory included the land between the Logone and Chari from an approximate line between Ham on the Logone to Bousso on the Chari and northward to the confluence of the two rivers.

In the settlement following World War I, French territory ceded to Germany by the convention of November 4, 1911, was restored in full sovereignty to French Equatorial Africa. However, the German territory ceded to France by the same convention was retained as part of French Equatorial Africa and not returned to Cameroon. The League of Nations on July 22, 1922, conferred Cameroonian mandates on France and the United Kingdom. The French mandate included most of the former German possession, and the British mandate consisted of narrow strips of territory adjacent to Nigeria. The United Kingdom mandate was administered as two entities known as the Northern Cameroons and the Southern Cameroons.

Following World War II, Ubangi–Shari became an overseas territory in the French Union. In 1958 Ubangi–Shari elected to join the French Community as an autonomous member and adopted the name of the Central African Republic. After agreements of transfer of power and cooperation were signed in Paris on July 12, 1960, the Central African Republic proclaimed its independence on August 13, 1960.

French and British administrations of their respective Cameroon mandates were continued through trusteeship agreements approved by the United Nations on December 14, 1946.

The following year France established the autonomous State of Cameroun. After termination of the U.N. trusteeship, the State of Cameroun became independent on January 1, 1960, and it proclaimed the Republic of Cameroun on the following March 4th. The Southern Cameroons voted in a plebiscite on February 11, 1961, for union with the Republic of Cameroun; the union was accomplished on October 1, 1961, and the name given to the newly unified state was the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

III. ALIGNMENT

The alignment of the Cameroon–Central African Republic is determined by the Franco–German protocol and annex of April 9, 1908, as confirmed in a convention of April 18, 1908. In some places pillars demarcate straight-line segments. Unless otherwise stated for rivers, the boundary follows the thalweg or the median line if the former cannot be determined. Northward from the Congo (Brazzaville) tripoint, located north of the mouth of the Ngoko on the thalweg of the Sangha at about 2°13'20" N. and 16°11'30" E., the boundary is delimited by the April 18, 1908 convention as follows:

(b) The boundary shall follow the Sangha (Ssango) River from the mouth of the Ngoko to that of the Nyoue (Njue) River. However, all the islands in the Sangha River south of a fixed point 5 kilometers north of the position shown for the village of Balbal on the map annexed to the Protocol shall be French; all the islands north of that point as far as the mouth of the Nyoue River shall be German.

(c) From there the boundary shall follow the Nyoue River to a point approximately 5 kilometers south of the location given for Ngombaco on the map annexed to the Protocol and then a straight line beginning at that point and ending at a point 15 kilometers south of Mauvey (Mauwei).

(d) The boundary shall continue northward as follows, it being understood that the successive points of the boundary that are mentioned in this Convention shall be connected with each other by straight lines unless otherwise indicated.

From the point specified in paragraph (c) 15 kilometers south of Mauvey it shall run to the northernmost ford of the Bone (Mbone) [Batouri] stream on the Yokodouma (Jukaduma)–Molai (Molei) road approximately 7 kilometers southwest of Molai. From that point, it shall extend to the Batouri (Baturi) River ford on the Baboua (Babua)–Yanga (Benda)–Boulambo (Bulambu) road; then it shall follow the Batouri River to the Kadei River.

It shall follow the Kadei River to its confluence with the Boumbe II (Bumbe II) River, then the Boumbe II River to the ford on the Vanda (Wanda)–Deson (Janga) road.

From that ford, it shall run to the ford of the Mana on the Nguia (Ngia)–Bagari road, 16 kilometers northeast of Nguia and then to the Guirma (Gliba) River ford on the

Bingue (Binge)–Aladji road, approximately 10 kilometers south of Aladji; then it shall follow the Guirma [Ngrima] River to its confluence with the Kadei River and the Kadei River to its source.

(e) Thence, it shall run to the source of the Bere [Boume] River, follow that river to its confluence with the Lom River, run along the Lom to its confluence with the Bali River, and follow that river to the ford on the Kounde (Kunde)–Mbone (Bone) road approximately 18 kilometers northeast of Kounde.

Then it shall continue to a point 3 kilometers north of the source of the Mambere River, as indicated on the map annexed to the Protocol, thence to the Bondo River ford on the Zaoro Coumbo (Kumbo)–Bertoua (Bertua)–Zaore No (Nu) road, to the Bondo River ford on the Zaoro Coumbo–Karanga road, at the point where the watershed between the Lom River and the Congo River intersects the Gam (Belo–Ngam)–Karanga road approximately 6 kilometers south-east of Gam, thence to the mountain that is approximately 9 kilometers north of the point where the Mini [Minin] River cuts across the Karanga–Nabemo road, to the Mide River ford on the road from Bougouda to Yakounde (Jakunde), and to the Ngou (Ngu) River on the road from Zaoro Mbone II (Bone) to Baname; then it shall follow the Ngou River to its confluence with the Mbere River. It shall follow the course of that river to its junction with the Mibna or Western Longone (Wina) [Logone Occidental or Vina] river.

The Chad tripoint is located on the thalweg or median line of the Mbere at about 7°31'40" N. and 15°29'40" E., and is a short distance southward of the junction of the Mbere and Logone Occidental.

APPENDIX

I. Documents

1. Protocol relating to the German and French Possessions on the West African Coast. Signed at Berlin, December 24, 1885 [Ratifications exchanged at Berlin, July 28, 1886]. Edward Hertslet, *The Map of Africa by Treaty*, 3 vols. 3rd Edition (London: Harrison and Sons, 1909). Vol. 2, p. 653.
2. Protocol between the French and German Delegates for the Settlement of the Questions pending between the two countries in the Region comprised between the colonies of the Cameroons and French Congo; and to fix the Line of Demarcation of their Respective spheres of Influence in the Region of Lake Tchad. Berlin, February 4, 1894. *Ibid*, Vol. 2, pp. 657–660 (French).
3. Convention between the French Republic and Germany for the Delimitation of the Colony of the French Congo and the Colony of Kamerun and the French and German Spheres of Influence in the Lake Chad Region. Signed at Berlin on March 15, 1894 [Ratifications exchanged at Paris on August 10, 1894]. *British and Foreign State Papers (BFSP)*, Vol. 86 (1893–4) pp. 974–978 (French).
4. Convention between French and Germany confirming the Protocol and its Annex of April 9, 1908, defining the Boundary between the Colonies of the French Congo and the Cameroons. Signed at Berlin, April 18, 1908 [Ratifications exchanged at Berlin, July 28, 1908]. *BFSP*, Vol. 101 (1907–8), pp. 1003–11 (French).
5. Convention between France and Germany relating to their Possessions in Equatorial Africa. Signed at Berlin, November 4, 1911 [Ratifications exchanged at Paris, March 12, 1912]. *BFSP*, Vol. 104 (1911), pp. 956–964 (French).

I. Maps

1. Institut Geographique National-Paris: scale 1:50,000; 1955-63; sheets (N to S) NB-33-IV-1a (Berberati 1a), NB-33-IV-1c (Berberati 1c), NB-33-111-2d (Batouri 2d), NB-33-IX-2a (Betare-Oya 2a), NB-33-IX-2c (Betare-Oya 2c), NB-33-IX-4a (Betare-Oya 4a), NB-33-IX-4c (Betare-Oya 4c), NB-33-IX-3d (Betare-Oya 3d), NB-33-XV-1b (Meiganga 1b (Pont du Lom)), NB-33-XV-sa (Meiganga 2a (Kounde)), NB-33-XV-2d (Dankali), NB-33-XV-4b (Meiganga 4b (Sources du Lom)), NB-33-XXII-1a (Baibokoum 1a), NB-33-XXII-1c (Baibokoum 1c), NB-33-XXII-1d (Baibokoum 1d), NB-33-XXII-3b (Baibokoum 3b), and NB-33-XXII-4a (Baibokoum).

2. Institut Geographique National-Paris, Service Geographique – Brazzaville, Centre de Yaounde: scale 1:200,000; 1960-8; sheets (S to N) NA-33-XVII (Bayanga), NA-33-XXIII (Nola), NA-33-XXII (Yokadouma), NA-33-XVI (Moloundou), NB-33-IV (Berberati), NB-33-III (Batouri), NB-33-IX (Betare Oya), NB-33-XV (Meiganga), NB-33-XVI (Bocaranga), and NB-33-XXII (Baibokum).

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