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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 67

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY:
IRAN-OMAN

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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January 1, 1976

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Imperial Sultanate of Oman regarding the delimitation of the boundary. The instruments were signed on May 28, 1975 in Geneva Convention.

The Agreement on the Continental Shelf Between Iran and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Imperial Sultanate of Oman and precise

	<u>Long. E.</u>	<u>Lat. N.</u>
Point (13)	56 45 15	26 39 40
Point (14)	56 47 45	26 35 15
Point (15)	56 47 30	26 25 15
Point (16)	56 48 05	26 22 00
Point (17)	56 47 50	26 16 30
Point (18)	56 48 00	26 11 35
Point (19)	56 50 15	26 03 05
Point (20)	56 49 50	25 58 05
Point (21)	56 51 30	25 45 20

Point (22) is the most southern point located at the intersection of the geodetic demarcation line drawn from point (21) (specified above) at an azimuth angle of 190° 00 00' and of the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Sharjah.

Article 2

If any single geological petroleum structure or petroleum field, or any single geological structure or field of any other mineral extends across the boundary line set out in Article 1 of this Agreement and the part of such structure or field which is situated on one side of that boundary line could be exploited wholly or in part by directional drilling from the other side of the boundary line then:

(a) No well shall be drilled on either side of the boundary line as set out in Article 1 so that any producing section thereof is less than 125 meters from the said boundary line except by mutual agreement between the two contracting Parties.

(b) If the circumstances considered in this Article shall arise both Parties hereto shall use their best endeavours to reach agreement as to the manner in which the operations on both sides of the boundary line could be co-ordinated or unitized.

Article 3

The Boundary line referred to in Article 1 herein has been illustrated on the British Admiralty Chart No. 2888, 1962 edition with small corrections through 1974, and with the ellipsoid used in said chart, which is annexed to this Agreement.

The said Chart has been made in duplicate and signed by the representatives of both Parties each of whom has retained one copy thereof.

Article 4

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the status of the superjacent waters or airspace above any part of the Continental shelf.

Article 5

(a) This Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Muscat.

(b) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

In witness thereof the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Tehran the 25th day of July 1974 corresponding to the 3rd day of Mordad 1353 corresponding to the 5th day of Rajah 1394 in Persian, Arabic, and English languages, all texts being equally authoritative.

For the Imperial Government
of Iran

For the Government of the
Sultanate of Oman

ANALYSIS

The delimitation of the continental shelf boundary between Iran and Oman is plotted on the attached U.S. Naval Oceanographic Chart 62390.

The boundary extends for a distance of 124.85 nautical miles and has 22 terminal or turning points. The distance between points ranges from 1.80 nautical miles (between points 7 and 8) to 16.30 nautical miles (between points 3 and 4). The shelf boundary extends from the eastern section of the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz to the Gulf of Oman. The water depth in this region is approximately 35-55 fathoms.

The two terminal points have not been precisely delimited. Point 1 of the boundary line is described in the treaty as being:

"the most western point which is the intersection of the geodetic line drawn between point (0) having the coordinates of 55°42'15"E, 26°14'45"N and point (2) having the coordinates of 55°47'45"E, 26°16'35"N with the lateral offshore boundary line between Oman and Ras Al Khaimah."

When the Oman-Ras Al Khaimah lateral offshore boundary is agreed upon, point (0) probably will be west of the Iran-Oman shelf boundary.

The other terminal point (point 22) is described in the treaty as being:

"on an azimuth of 190° from point 21 to the intersection of the Oman-Sharjah lateral offshore boundary."

It should be noted that the Oman-Sharjah lateral offshore boundary has not been defined.

The section of the shelf boundary between points 9 and 10 coincides with the 12-nautical-mile territorial sea arcs measured from Larak Island.

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Chart. Taking in
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PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IRAN-OMAN

CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

<u>Turning or Terminal Points</u>	<u>Distance Between Points (n.m.)</u>	<u>Closest Iran Territory</u>	<u>Distance, Land to Boundary Point (n.m.)</u>		<u>Closest Oman Territory</u>
1	<i>Indefinite: Intersection of the line connecting points 0 and 2 with the Oman - Ras Al Khaimah lateral offshore boundary.</i>				
2		Hengam	20.35	20.21	Mainland
3	4.62	Hengam	17.78	17.86	Mainland
4	16.30	Hengam	14.42	14.43	Ghanam
5	2.92	Hengam	14.56	14.38	Ghanam
6	2.40	Mainland	14.51	14.33	Ghanam
7	4.48	Mainland near Suza	14.31	14.11	Perforated Rock
8	1.80	Larak	13.72	13.40	Perforated Rock
9	3.17	Larak	11.94	11.89	Great Quoin
10	15.36	Larak	11.97	11.98	Great Quoin
11	7.44	Larak	16.60	16.50	Gap Island
12	3.78	Low Tide Elevation	16.29	15.94	Gap Island
13	2.22	Low Tide Elevation	16.02	15.44	Gap Island
	4.94	near Kuhestak			
14		Mainland	15.22	15.20	Gap Island
	9.97				
15		Low Tide Elevation	13.84	13.86	Musandam
	3.28				
16		Low Tide Elevation	13.88	13.97	Musandam
	5.49				

<u>Turning or Terminal Points</u>	<u>Distance Between Points (n.m.)</u>	<u>Closest Iran Territory</u>	<u>Distance, Land to Boundary Point (n.m.)</u>		<u>Closest Oman Territory</u>
17	4.90	Low Tide Elevation	15.08	14.75	Fayyarin
18	8.71	Low Tide Elevation	16.70	13.92	Fayyarin
19	5.00	Mainland	19.03	21.73	Fayyarin
20	12.80	Mainland	20.28	23.80	Lima Island
21		Mainland	24.03	19.63	Lima Island
22	<i>Indefinite: On an azimuth of 190° from point 21 to the intersection of the Oman - Sharjah lateral offshore boundary.</i>				