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LIMITS IN THE SEAS

No. 93

**CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARIES:
INDIA-INDONESIA-THAILAND**

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 maritime areas of coastal nations.

Intended for background use only, this research document does not represent an official acceptance of the United States Government of the line or lines represented on the charts or, necessarily, of the specific principles involved, if any, in the original drafting of the lines. Principal analyst for this study: Robert W. Smith. Additional copies may be requested by mail from The Geographer, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

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Continental Shelf Boundaries:

India-Indonesia-Thailand

August 17, 1981

Office of The Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

from Thailand; it is approximately 31.5 miles farther from Thailand. The relationship of this trijunction point to the nearest point on the respective coastlines is as follows:

<u>Basepoint</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Distance to Trijunction Point (n.m.)</u>
Great Nicobar Island (northeast coast)	India	103.9
Pulau Rondo	Indonesia	104.1
Ko Huyong (southernmost island of Mu Ko Similan)	Thailand	132.5

India-Indonesia

The 1977 boundary agreement between India and Indonesia, which entered into force on August 15, 1977, consists of two segments (see Annex 2 for the complete text of the agreement). The two segments extend their 1974 maritime boundary northeastward into the Andaman Sea to a trijunction point with Thailand and southwestward into the Indian Ocean.

The Andaman Sea segment consists of 5 turning or terminal points and is 86.7 miles in length (see Table 1). The distance from the respective coasts to the boundary ranges from approximately 44 miles at point 1 to about 104 miles at the trijunction point. The Indian Ocean segment extends for approximately 158.9 miles terminating at a point approximately 183 miles from each coast. Combined with the length of the 1974 boundary, the two countries have negotiated a maritime boundary approximately 293 miles in length.

The two countries have agreed to create a maritime boundary using the equidistant methodology. As shown in Table 1 each turning/terminal point is essentially the same distance from the respective baseline. The letters given to the turning points in the Andaman Sea segment (K, N, and O) suggest that the countries may have simplified the equidistant line by discarding some turning points (i.e., L and M). It also appears that all islands and rocks have been given full and equal weight in the equidistant calculation.

TABLE 1

INDIA-INDONESIA
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Turning/Terminal Point	Distance Between Boundary Points (n.m.)	Nearest Indian Territory	Distance Land To Boundary Point (n.m.)	Nearest Indonesian Territory
T	1.1	Great Nicobar I.	103.9	Pulau Rondo
O	8.1	Kabra I.	103.1	Pulau Rondo
N	48.0	Great Nicobar I.	96.1	Pulau Rondo
K	29.5	Great Nicobar I.	57.3	Pulau Rondo (2 basepoints)
I		Great Nicobar I. (2 basepoints)	43.7	Pulau Rondo (2 basepoints)
		* * * * *		
4	45.1	Parsons Pt. (Great Nicobar I.)	48.5	Pulau Benggala
R	76.1	Parsons Pt.	79.3	Pulau Benggala
S	11.9	Parsons Pt. (2 basepoints)	148.5	Gepon I.
T	25.8	Parsons Pt. (2 basepoints)	159.8	Pulau Rusa
U		Parsons Pt. (2 basepoints)	183.5	Unnamed island west of Udjung Seadheuen (2 basepoints)
Total			<u>245.6</u>	

India-Thailand

The India-Thailand boundary begins at the trijunction point with Indonesia; as noted earlier this point T is 103.9 miles from the nearest Indian basepoint and 132.5 miles from Ko Huyong off the Thai mainland. The first segment of the boundary runs in a northeastward direction before turning in a northerly direction for the remainder of its course. The distance of the boundary is approximately 94.2 miles.

It is difficult to determine a methodology from analyzing the baseline-boundary distances (Table 2). At turning points T, 1, 2, and 3 the boundary is nearer to Indian territory. At turning points 4, 5, 6, and 7 the boundary is closer to Thailand. At turning points 4, 5, and 6 the line is nearly equidistant to the respective baselines. Suffice to say that this is a negotiated line which is agreeable to the parties involved.

Indonesia-Thailand

The Indonesia-Thailand boundary L-A-T, only 76.3 miles in length, is a northwestward extension of their 1971 maritime boundary agreement. Boundary segment A-L is 74.7 miles long while L-T (the trijunction with India) adds only 1.6 miles. Point A is close to being equidistant from the respective baselines, but as the boundary runs toward point L it becomes increasingly farther from Thailand than from Indonesia territory. At point L the boundary is approximately 27.2 miles nearer to Indonesia (see Table 3). Other than to state that this is a negotiated line, it is difficult to identify a methodology.

TABLE 2

INDIA-THAILAND
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

<u>Turning/Terminal Point</u>	<u>Distance Between Boundary Points (n.m.)</u>	<u>Nearest Indian Territory</u>	<u>Distance Land To Boundary Point (n.m.)</u>	<u>Nearest Thai Territory</u>
T	1.4	Great Nicobar I.	103.9	Ko Huyong
1	13.0	Great Nicobar I.	104.9	Ko Huyong
2	12.6	Great Nicobar I.	113.6	Ko Huyong
3		Great Nicobar I.	117.9	Ko Huyong Ko Payang
4	3.9	Isle of Man	120.3	Ko Huyong Ko Payang
5	31.3	Tillanchong I. (2 basepoints)	120.2	Ko Miang
6	3.9	Tillanchong I. (2 basepoints)	120.5	Ko Miang Ko Similan
7	28.1	Tillanchong I. (1) Tillanchong I. (2)	126.8 126.9	Ko Similan
Total	<u>94.2</u>			

TABLE 3

INDONESIA-THAILAND
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Turning/Terminal Point	Distance Between Boundary Points (n.m.)	Nearest Indonesian Territory	Distance Land To Boundary Point (n.m.)	Nearest Thai Territory
T	1.6	Pulau Rondo	104.1 132.5	Ko Huyong(1)
L	74.7	Pulau Rondo(1) Pulau Rondo(2)	104.2 131.5 104.4	Ko Huyong(1)
A		Sumatra Pulau We	104.1 103.1 104.5 103.2	Ko Huyong(1) Ko Huyong(2)
Total	76.3			

Annex No. 1

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND CONCERNING THE DETERMINATION OF THE TRIJUNCTION POINT AND THE DELIMITATION OF THE RELATED BOUNDARIES OF THE THREE COUNTRIES IN THE ANDAMAN SEA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA,

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

DESIRING To determine the trijunction point and to delimit the related boundaries of the three countries in the Andaman Sea,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

For the purposes of this Article:

1. The trijunction point of India, Indonesia and Thailand in the Andaman Sea shall be a point whose co-ordinates are Latitude 07°47'00" North Longitude 95°31'48" East.
2. The boundary of the continental shelves of India and Indonesia shall be formed by a straight line drawn from the trijunction point in the south-westerly direction to point number 0 mentioned in Article 1 of the Agreements between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of India on the Extension of the 1974 Continental Shelf Boundary Between the Two Countries in the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean, signed at New Delhi on 14th of January 1977, the co-ordinates of which are Latitude 07°46'06" North Longitude 95°31'12" East.
3. The seabed boundary of India and Thailand shall be formed by a straight line drawn from the trijunction point in the north-easterly direction to point number 1 mentioned in Article 1 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of

Thailand on the Delimitation of Seabed Boundary between the two countries in the Andaman Sea signed in New Delhi on 22nd June 1978, the co-ordinates of which are Latitude 07°48'00" North Longitude 95°32'48" East.

4. The seabed boundary of Indonesia and Thailand shall be formed by a straight line drawn from the trijunction point in the south-easterly direction to point number L mentioned in Article I of the Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand Relating to the Delimitation of the Sea-Bed Boundary between the Two Countries in the Andaman Sea, signed at Jakarta on the 11th of December, 1975, the co-ordinates of which are Latitude 07°46'.1 North Longitude 95°33'.1 East.
5. The co-ordinates of the points specified above are geographical co-ordinates derived from the British Admiralty Chart No. 830, published on 3rd January 1975 and the straight lines connecting them are indicated on the Chart attached as Annexure "A" to this Agreement.
6. The actual location of the above mentioned points at sea shall be determined by a method to be mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the three respective Governments concerned.
7. For the purposes of paragraph 6, "competent authorities" in relation to the Republic of India means the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India, and includes any person authorized by him; in relation to the Republic of Indonesia shall be the Chief of the Co-ordinating Body for National Survey and Mapping, Republic of Indonesia, and includes any person authorized by him; and in relation to the Kingdom of Thailand shall be Director of the Hydrographic Department, Thailand and included any person authorized by him.

ARTICLE II

The Government of India, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand recognise and acknowledge the sovereign rights of the respective Governments over the seabed, including the subsoil thereof within the limits established by this Agreement.

ARTICLE III

If any single geological petroleum or natural gas structure or field, or other mineral deposit of whatever character, extends across the boundary lines referred to in Article I, the three Governments shall communicate to one another all information in this regard and shall seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which the structure, field or deposit will be most effectively exploited and the benefits arising from such exploitation will be equitably shared.

ARTICLE IV

Any dispute between the three Governments relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

ARTICLE V

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional requirements of each country. It shall enter into force on the date of exchange of the Instruments of Ratification which will take place at Bangkok as soon as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE IN TRIPLICATE at New Delhi on 22nd June 1978, in the Hindi, Indonesian, Thai and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDIA

Sd/-
Atal
Bihari Vajpayee
Minister of External
Affairs.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA

Sd/-
Prof. Dr. Mochtar
Kusumaatmadja
Minister for Foreign
Affairs.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND

Sd/-
Dr. Upadit
Pachariyangkun
Minister of
Foreign Affairs.

Annex No. 2

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA ON THE EXTENSION OF THE 1974 CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE ANDAMAN SEA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,

RECALLING the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia relating to the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Boundary between the two countries signed on the 8th August, 1974 which, upon the exchange of instruments of ratification in New Delhi on 17th December, 1974, entered into force with effect from that date,

DESIRING to extend this boundary between the two countries in the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean in areas not covered by the aforementioned Agreement,

AND RESOLVING, as good neighbours and in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, to settle permanently the limits of the areas referred to in the preceding paragraph within which the respective Government shall exercise sovereign rights,

HAVE AGREED as follows:-

ARTICLE 1

In the area of the Andaman Sea:

The boundary of the seabed between India and Indonesia in the Andaman Sea is the straight lines connecting points l and K, points K and N, and points N and O.

The co-ordinates of these points are specified below:

Point l:	06°38'.5N	94°38'.0E
Point K:	07°02'24"N	94°55'37"E
Point N:	07°40'06"N	95°25'45"E
Point O:	07°46'06"N	95°31'12"E

ARTICLE 2

In the area of the Indian Ocean:

The boundary of the seabed between India and Indonesia in the Indian Ocean is the straight lines connecting points 4 and R, points R and S, points S and T, and Points T and U.

The co-ordinates of these points are specified below:

Point 4:	06°00'.0N	94°10'.3E
Point R:	05°25'20"N	93°41'12"E
Point S:	04°27'34"N	92°51'17"E
Point T:	04°18'31"N	92°43'31"E
Point U:	04°01'40"N	92°23'55"E

ARTICLE 3

The co-ordinates of the points specified in Articles 1 to 2 are geographical co-ordinates and the straight lines joining them are indicated on the chart attached as Annexure "B" to this Agreement.

2. The actual location of these points at sea and of the lines joining them shall be determined by a method to be mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the two Governments.

3. For the purpose of paragraph 2 of this Article, the "competent authorities" in relation to the Republic of India shall be the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India and includes any person authorised by him, and in relation to the Republic of Indonesia shall be the Ketua Badan Koordinasi Survey dan Pemetaan Nasional (Chief of the Co-ordinating Body for National Survey and Mapping) and includes any person authorised by him.

ARTICLE 4

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia recognize and acknowledge the sovereign rights of the respective Governments in and over the seabed areas, including the subsoil thereof, within the limits established by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5

If any single geological petroleum or natural gas structure or field, or other mineral deposit of whatever character, extends across the boundary lines referred to in Articles 1 and 2, the two Governments shall communicate to each other all information in this regard and shall seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which the structure, field or deposit will be most effectively exploited and the benefits arising from such exploitation will be equitably shared.

ARTICLE 6

Any dispute between the two Governments relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

ARTICLE 7

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional requirements of each country. It shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the Instruments of Ratification which will take place at Jakarta as soon as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE IN DUPLICATE at New Delhi on the 14th January, 1977, in the Hindi, Indonesian and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

(M.A. Vellodi)

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

(Lieut. Gensoegih Arto)

Annex No. 3

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND ON THE DELIMITATION OF SEABED BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE ANDAMAN SEA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND,

DESIRING to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries, and

DESIRING to establish seabed boundary between the two countries in the Andaman Sea, and to settle permanently the limits of the areas within which the respective Governments shall exercise sovereign rights,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE 1

1. The seabed boundary between India and Thailand in the Andaman Sea comprises the straight lines connecting Points 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 3 and 4, 4 and 5, 5 and 6, and 6 and 7.
2. The co-ordinates of these points are specified below:

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
Point 1	07°48'00"N;	95°32'48"E.
Point 2	07°57'30"N;	95°41'48"E.
Point 3	08°09'54"N;	95°39'16"E.
Point 4	08°13'47"N;	95°39'11"E.
Point 5	08°45'11"N;	95°37'42"E.
Point 6	08°48'04"N;	95°37'40"E.
Point 7	09°17'18"N;	95°36'31"E.

3. The extension of the boundary in either direction up to the trijunction points between India, Thailand and Indonesia on the one hand and India, Thailand and Burma on the other will be done subsequently.

ARTICLE 2

1. The co-ordinates of the points specified in Article 1 are geographical co-ordinates and the straight lines joining them are indicated on the chart attached as Annexure "A" to this Agreement.

2. The actual location of these points at sea and of the lines joining them shall be determined by a method to be mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the two Governments.

3. For the purpose of paragraph 2 of this Article, the term "competent authorities" in relation to the Republic of India shall mean the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India and include any person authorised by him, and in relation to the Kingdom of Thailand shall mean Chaokrom Uthokkasat (Director of Hydrographic Department) and include any person authorised by him.

ARTICLE 3

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand recognise and acknowledge the sovereign rights of the respective Governments over the seabed, including the subsoil thereof, within the limits established by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4

If any single geological petroleum or natural gas structure or field, or other mineral deposit of whatever character, extends across the boundary referred to in Article 1, the two Governments shall communicate to each other all information in this regard and shall seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which the structure, field or deposits will be most effectively exploited and the benefits arising from such exploitation equitably shared.

ARTICLE 5

Any dispute between the two Governments relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

ARTICLE 6

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional requirements of each country. It shall enter into force on the date of exchange of the Instruments of Ratification which will take place at Bangkok as soon as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE IN DUPLICATE AT New Delhi on 22nd June 1978 in the Hindi, Thai and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Sd/- X X XX
Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Minister of External
Affairs

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Sd/- XX XXX
Dr. Upadit Pachariyangkun
Minister of Foreign
Affairs

Annex No. 4

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF INDONESIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM
OF THAILAND RELATING TO THE DELIMITATION OF THE
SEA-BED BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
IN THE ANDAMAN SEA

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND,

DESIRING to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship
between the two countries, and

DESIRING to establish the sea-bed boundary between the
two countries in the Andaman Sea,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

1) The boundary of the sea-bed area between Indonesia and Thailand in the Andaman Sea is the straight line drawn from point A (Latitude 07°05'.8N. Longitude 96°36.'5E., being the terminating point of the boundary line between the two countries as defined in the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand relating to the Delimitation of a Continental Shelf Boundary between the Two Countries in the Northern Part of the Straits of Malacca and in the Andaman Sea, signed at Bangkok on 17 December 1971) in a north-westerly direction to a point L whose co-ordinates are Latitude 07°46.'1 N. Longitude 95°33.'1 E.

2) The co-ordinates of the points specified in paragraph 1) are geographical co-ordinates and the straight line connecting them is indicated on British Admiralty Chart No. 830 attached as an Annex to this Agreement.

3) The actual location of the above-mentioned points at sea shall, at the request of either Government, be determined by a method to be mutually agreed upon by the competent authorities of the two Governments.

4) For the purpose of paragraph 3), the term "competent authorities" in relation to the Republic of Indonesia refers to Ketua Badan Ko-ordinasi Survey dan Pemetaan Nasional (Chief of the Co-ordinating Body for National Survey and Mapping) and includes any person authorized by him; and in relation to the Kingdom of Thailand refers to Chao Krom Uthoksaf (Director of the Hydrographic Department) and includes any person authorized by him.

ARTICLE 2

If any single geological petroleum or natural gas structure extends across the boundary line referred to in Article 1 and the part of such structure which is situated on one side of the said line is exploitable, wholly or in part, from the other side of the said line, the two Governments shall seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which that structure shall be most effectively exploited.

ARTICLE 3

Any dispute between the two Governments arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

ARTICLE 4

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the legal requirements of the two countries.

ARTICLE 5

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the Instruments of Ratification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE IN DUPLICATE at JAKARTA this eleventh day of December, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five in the Indonesian, Thai and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Sadli

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF THAILAND

M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri