



International Boundary Study

No. 155 – March 5, 1976

Cambodia – Vietnam Boundary

(Country Codes: CB-VN)

**The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research**

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

No. 155 - March 5, 1976

CAMBODIA – VIETNAM BOUNDARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Boundary Brief.....	2
II. Geographic Background.....	2
Physiography	2
Ethnography.....	3
History.....	4
III. Analysis of Boundary Alignment	6
Land Boundary	6
Maritime Frontier	9
IV. Treaties and Other Acts	10
V. Summary	15
Appendixes.....	16

CAMBODIA – VIETNAM BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Cambodia - Vietnam boundary extends for approximately 763 miles between the Gulf of Thailand and the tripoint with Laos. The boundary stems from treaties negotiated between France and Cambodia in the 19th century and from decrees issued by the Governor General of Indochina during the French administrative period. Several segments along the land boundary have been open to dispute, and sovereignty over certain islands in the Gulf of Thailand has been claimed by both states.

II. GEOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Physiography

The Cambodia - Vietnam boundary region comprises two distinct physiographic provinces: the delta lowlands in the southwest and the highlands in the north. The former includes the extensive deltas of the Saigon, Don Nai, and Mekong rivers as well as the lowland peninsula of Ca Mau. It constitutes a vast, low-lying plain composed of cohesive river silts and alluvium as well as bands of loose sand. The delta begins in the west near the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh and includes virtually the entire area of former Cochin China. Isolated hills are situated along the boundary, e.g., between Ha Tien and the Mekong, but in the main the mean elevation in the boundary area is less than five meters (16.5 feet). The lowest portion, to the north of the Mekong, known as the Plaine des Joncs, forms an extensive area of permanent swamp and marsh. Moreover, most of the boundary area south and west of Tay Ninh is subject to extensive annual flooding. (From Tay Ninh to Ha Tien, no point on the boundary is more than 20 feet above sea level; the Mekong peaks near 40 feet during high water.)

Elevations north of Tay Ninh increase slowly, but the essential lowland nature of the region continues to the Dak Huyt valley, which marks the beginning of the highlands. The Annam - Cambodia - Cochin China tripoint, located at the source of the Dak Huyt, has an elevation of 943 meters (3,094 feet).

These interior highlands are closely associated geologically with the Chaîne Annamitique, the range of mountains that forms the central spine of the eastern Indochinese peninsula south of the Red River. The Chaîne Annamitique is a series of eroded plateaus dominated by isolated peaks. The plateaus are tilted, with the steeper slopes facing eastward and the more gentle ones toward the interior. Their basic rock structure is an ancient crystalline massif interspersed with lava flows. The two major plateaus along the Cambodia - Vietnam boundary, Kontum in the north and Mnong in the south, are separated by the extensive and lake-studded depression of the upper Srepok river system.

Climatically, the boundary area falls within the dominion of the tropical monsoons.

Temperature data for the immediate boundary area are sparse, but the "regime of Saigon" is considered typical. The hottest month (April) has an average temperature of 85° F., with a secondary peak (average 82° F.) occurring in August. The coolest month is December (average 79° F.). Precipitation is heavy, with marked seasonal distribution reflecting the passing of the monsoons. The highlands receive approximately 80 inches to 120 inches a year, with the lower amount falling in the Srepok depression. The delta generally has slightly less rainfall, with the lowest amount, 40 inches to 60 inches, falling in the immediate area of the Mekong valley.

Natural vegetation reflects the tropical, rainy climate, but human settlement in the delta has all but obliterated the original cover. The lowland is primarily in rice cultivation, although marsh and other swamp-type vegetation exists northeast of Ha Tien and in the Plaine des Joncs. In contrast, the highlands are covered with a dense to moderately open monsoon forest. An extensive area of grasslands occupies the upper Srepok depression.

Ethnography

The distribution of peoples mirrors to a large degree the terrain. Vietnamese and Khmer (Cambodian) peasants inhabit the boundary lowlands, where rice cultivation is possible. Population density is comparatively high, although not excessive by Asian standards. The international boundary is not a sharp ethnographic dividing line. Vietnamese live in Cambodia along the northern part of the "Parrot's Beak" as well as in the immediate vicinity of the Mekong. In the Mekong area an "island" of Cham exists astride the boundary. Elsewhere in the lowlands, Khmer are found on the Vietnamese side of the frontier; major concentrations exist northeast of Ha Tien and north of Tay Ninh.

In the highlands, minorities dominate the ethnographic pattern. From the Dak Huyt to the Srepok, Mon-Khmer, or "Upper Cambodians," form the majority of the inhabitants on both sides of the boundary. Density of population in the highlands, however, is low compared with that in the delta region. Stieng and Pnong peoples are situated in the southern highlands, while the dominant group in the Dak Dam valley is the Mnong. North of the Srepok, extending nearly to the Laos tripoint, Malayo - Polynesian peoples - Rhade, Adham, Krung, and Jarai - occupy the boundary area. Primarily these groups inhabit the Vietnamese portion of the highlands, but they extend into eastern and north-eastern Cambodia.

Both the Mon - Khmer and the Malayo - Polynesian peoples are tribal oriented. Agriculture follows the rhythm of slow migration inherent in the "slash-and-burn" economy. Efforts have been made by Cambodia and Vietnam to incorporate these peoples more closely into the national life, but unsettled conditions, which have prevailed in the highlands since World War II, have negated most of these efforts.

History

The Cambodia - Vietnam boundary developed from the interactions of three Indochinese peoples and from the French administration. In the east, the Sinified Empire of Annam spread southward from its base in Tonkin along the narrow but fertile coastal lowlands bordering the South China Sea. As the empire extended, communications between the parts became difficult, and divisive forces became active.

In the center, the Hinduized Khmer created a state that in the 12th century encompassed modern-day Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia as well as the entire delta of the Mekong. Between Cambodia and the advancing Annamese empire existed the buffer state of the Champa. To the west, the Siamese spread into the valley of the Menam Chao Phraya from their historical home in south China. Displaced by the Mongols, the Siamese slowly but effectively displaced the Khmer and created their own great civilization.

Thus the empires of Champa and the Khmer, caught between the aggressive Annamese and Siamese, were forced to resist the advances of their neighbors. The Champa state was the first to be destroyed. After 1700, Annamese peasants, no longer hindered by the Chams, moved into the Mekong lowlands, not as military occupiers but as peaceful settlers. Moving southward into Khmer territory, they cleared and claimed the vacant lands not cultivated by the Khmer until, by superior numbers, they overwhelmed the original inhabitants. The delta, as a result, became Annamese in character.

Cambodia, the vestige of the Khmer Empire, remained on the defensive, resisting the combined pressures from east and west. Invasions and periodic partitions reduced state power and destroyed the majestic capital of Angkor. From 1603 until French protection, Annam and Siam slowly encroached on the territory historically settled by the Khmer.

In 1789 a force of French intervened in one of the periodic Annamese civil wars that characterized the era, and in 1801 - 2 the French were instrumental in the establishment of the modern Nguyen dynasty. The empire was reconsolidated, and the new emperor sought and obtained investiture by the Emperor of China to strengthen his internal position. French influence declined during the period 1820 - 57 as a nationalistic movement grew in Annam. As a result, Christians, mainly Catholics, were persecuted, leading to further French intervention. Da Nang was bombarded and Saigon attacked. The King of Cambodia, in turn, joined the French in their campaigns with his traditional enemy. The peace treaty of 1862 ceded the three eastern provinces of Cochin China (Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, and My Tho) to France. This strange action separated the remaining three provinces (Ha Tien, Chau Doc, and Vinh Long) from the main body of Annamese territory. Resulting internal unrest caused the French to annex the remaining Cochin Chinese territory. In 1864 France assumed a protectorate over Cambodia, ending the threatened Thai - Annamese destruction of Khmer independence.

A period of negotiation followed between France and Cambodia on the location of the Cambodia - Cochin China boundary. A convention was signed in 1870 (Appendix 1) and

an agreement in 1873 (Appendix 2), establishing the outline of the current boundary between Ha Tien and the Tonle Tru (stream). Also in 1873, France negotiated a treaty with Annam recognizing French hegemony over all of Cochin China. During the next year France assumed protection over the remainder of Annam.

Siam, however, continued to expand into the political vacuum in the middle Mekong created by the impotence of Cambodia and Annam, annexing much of lower Laos and the territory of Stung Treng (nominally under Lao jurisdiction.) Siamese influence and military power also moved southeastward into the central highlands about the upper Srepok. After a brief clash of arms, the French and Siamese negotiated a treaty (1893) that ceded to France all Siamese territory east of the Mekong, including the province of Stung Treng. The French provisionally placed the province under the jurisdiction of their resident for Laos, effectively separating the territories of Annam and Cambodia. In 1899 a subdistrict of Darlac was created (Appendix 4) in Stung Treng to include the territory east of the Srepok and north of the la Drang - Nam Lieou water divide. Laos, however, remained the seat of administration.

As French influence spread into the highlands, it came primarily from Annam, leading in 1904 to the attachment of Darlac (Appendix 5) to Annam. During the same year, the major part of Stung Treng reverted to Cambodia (Appendix 6), leaving the territory on the right bank of the Nam Thamm (Dak Dam) under the direction of the Resident of Annam. No boundary was delimited to the north of the Srepok. This decree did, however, lay the basis for the line of separation between Annam and Cochin China on one side and Cambodia on the other. Minor modifications were made by later decrees (Appendixes 7 to 13), but they did not affect major portions of territory.

Since independence, no treaty or agreement has been negotiated by Cambodia and Vietnam on the location of their mutual boundary. In fact the boundary has served as a source of irritation and tension between the two countries. The major problem, however, has involved the islands in the Gulf of Thailand. In 1939, the French Governor - General divided them administratively (Appendix 12) while reserving the question of sovereignty. This so-called Brevie Line, under the former Governments of Cambodia and the Republic of Vietnam, was frozen into a de facto "boundary" although there remained conflicting claims to certain islands on both sides of the line.

In the case of the land boundary, the former Republic of Vietnam recognized the line established during the French period of administration, with minor reservations involving limited amounts of territory. The former Government of Cambodia, in contrast, took two different positions. The boundary annotated by the former Government of Cambodia on maps of the pre-Geneva (1954) 1:100,000 Carte de l' Indochine published by the French Service Geographique de l' Indochine (SGI), as furnished to the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh during 1964, varies only slightly from that claimed by the Vietnamese (see Section III). However, at various times the former Government of Cambodia has also raised the boundary issue of extensive "lost" Cambodian territories. In the south, the Ha Tien region, the enclave between the Bassac and the Mekong, and the area north of Tay

Ninh, all of which have sizable Cambodian minorities, have been mentioned.

III. ANALYSIS OF BOUNDARY ALIGNMENT

Land Boundary

From the Gulf of Thailand to the Mekong, the Cambodia - Vietnam boundary is defined primarily as straight lines related to cultural features in the landscape. This fact stems, most probably, from the general lack of distinguishing physical features in the almost flat delta region. Near Ha Tien on the southwest coast, the boundary circumscribes the village limits of Nui Saky and Nui Da Dang on the north and east before reaching the inner harbor of Ha Tien. Eastward to the Mekong, the boundary parallels the road and telegraph line to Giang Thanh and then the Canal de Vinh Te. West of Xom Dam Chit village, the north bank of the canal marks the limits of the two states.

To the east, the boundary parallels the canal at a distance of one kilometer to the north or west. Approximately 0.9 miles northwest of Chau Phu (Chau Doc), the boundary swings northward in a series of straight lines toward the Bassac, the western arm of the Mekong. From the confluence of the Song Chau Doc and the Rach Binh Ghi, the boundary parallels the latter's left bank northeastward to the village of Khanh Binh. The stream and the boundary coincide from Khanh Binh to the Bassac. The river then carries the boundary downstream to Bac Nam. Extending eastward from the river in a series of straight lines, the boundary crosses the Bassac - Mekong interfluvium and then the Mekong before joining the Rach So Thuong (Cambodia: with the Song So Ha [Prek Kraom] for approximately 16.5 miles before joining its tributary, the Rach Cai Co [Prek Dampong Nay], for an additional 21 miles).

To the southeast and then to the north, the boundary forms the famed "Parrot's Beak." Delimited primarily by straight lines that appear to represent township or village limits, the boundary also utilizes short stretches of streams known as the Kampong Rou and Rach Ca Ro. Southwest and west of Tay Ninh, the line becomes more sinuous, being closely aligned, in many instances, with boundary paths or roads. Northwest of Tay Ninh, the boundary coincides with the Rach Cai Cay (Prek Kampong Spean), the Rach Cai Bac (Stoeng Kampong Koei), and the Rach Ben Go (Tonle Roti) for 47.5 miles. From the source of this river system, the Cambodia - Vietnam boundary extends north and then east in a complex course following, for a considerable distance, several boundary trails to the confluence of the Tonle Trou with the Rach Cham. This point marks the terminal point of the portion of the 1973 boundary demarcation, which is still in use; it is the site of the original pillar No. 3.

The Rach Cham forms the boundary northward to a pillar (Point A of the decree of July 31, 1914) and thence the boundary is a straight line north-northeastward to a second pillar (Point B) on the Prek Kriou (Prek Chiu-Prek Chrieu). Following this stream eastward to its source, the boundary is a straight line (Point C to D) to the Dak Jerman (Stoeng Chrey

Meang), and then follows along this stream to its source. In a similar fashion the boundary then is a straight line to the Dak Huyt (Prek Dak Dang) and then follows along it to its source. The former French Post of the Three Frontiers situated near this point marked the Annam, Cochin China, and Cambodia tripoint.

The relative precision marking the boundary to the southwest (Cambodia - Cochin China) contrasts sharply with the highland portion of the frontier (Annam - Cambodia) north of the tripoint. The boundary, leaving the Dak Huyt, then joins the Dak Dam at its source and follows it as far north as its confluence with the Srepok, a distance of approximately 53 miles. For an additional 59 miles north to the Se San, the boundary is formed by a series of straight lines. No basis has been found in treaties or in French decrees for the precise alignment in this region, but it appears on the first large-scale topographic maps of the region published in 1926 and 1928. Though minor variations do exist, both the former Governments of Cambodia and Vietnam have indicated general acceptance of the line on official maps and correspondence. The boundary should be considered indefinite in the immediate area where it crosses the Ia Drang (Ya Drang).

The Se San (approximately 11.7 miles) and its tributaries (approximately 9.3 miles) carry the boundary northward and westward to the water divide west of the Nam Sathay system. This mountainous ridge line is the border northward to the tripoint with Laos. The segment measures slightly over 70 miles in length.

With certain exceptions, the alignment of the Cambodia - Vietnam boundary is shown on the SGI 1:100,000 map series in accordance with the line generally accepted by the former Governments of Cambodia and the Republic of Vietnam. The boundary has been reproduced on United States Defense Mapping Agency Topographic Center (DMATC) maps with minor deviations in the alignment as indicated by treaties, decrees, or maps and by changes resulting from the precise location of landforms.

The SGI 1:100,000 map series neither shows boundary pillars nor indicates if the boundary alignment is indefinite in certain segments. Therefore, all available official maps dated prior to the Geneva agreement were examined. It was found that the 1:100,000 province maps published by the cadastral services of both Cambodia and Cochin China showed both the location and the numbers of the demarcation pillars for most of the Cambodia - Cochin China sector of the boundary. The maps were compared with the SGI 1:100,000 series and found to substantiate the latter in all instances but one. This case, the crossing of the narrow neck of land between the Bassac and the Mekong, showed an alignment on the cadastral maps that differed from that of the topographic series. The line was similar to but not identical with the boundary on the Cambodian series of SGI maps. As a result, the existence of a dispute was acknowledged on official U.S. maps. In all other instances, however, the Cambodian and Cochin Chinese cadastral maps substantiated the SGI-map boundary, and this was carried onto the DMATC series. However, appropriate notations of disputes and indefinite sectors were added.

On the SGI 1:100,000 maps annotated by the former Government of Cambodia and presented to the United States Embassy in 1964, manuscript changes had been made to

the printed location of the border on several of the sheets. Many of the differences appear to be technical problems, but the sectors have had to be treated as indefinite or in dispute on official U.S. maps.

The first of the problem areas involves the location of the boundary in the Prek Binh Gi near its junction with the Bassac (Map 3). The SGI 1:100,000 sheets show the boundary parallel to, and to the west of, the stream while the Cambodian annotated version places it in the stream. The decree of July 26, 1942, substantiated the Cambodian version. Official U.S. maps have been changed to reflect the 1942 decree.

The second indefinite area is situated in the narrow neck of land between the Bassac and the Mekong proper (Map 3). The disputed area is triangular-shaped and measures approximately 5 kilometers in length and approximately 500 meters in width. Differing interpretations of the decree of December 6, 1935, appear to be the basis of the dispute. Since the specific features in the decree cannot be identified on available maps, the sector is shown in dispute on U.S. maps.

The third problem area is situated northeast of Loc Ninh between the Dak Jerman and the Dak Huyt, a heavily forested and uninhabited region (Map 2). The SGI 1:100,000 sheet bears a line from the source of the Dak Jerman running northeastward to the Dak Huyt, which then becomes the boundary. On the Cambodian annotated version, the boundary crosses to the east of the Dak Huyt and then extends for about 2.5 miles northward before joining the river. In addition, the drainage pattern on the DMATC 1:50,000 series differs from that shown on the SGI 1:100,000 sheets. The July 31, 1944, decree delimits the boundary in this sector as "following its [Dak Jerman] course to its source, to the confluence of Dar-Kle and of the Dar-Hoyt [Dak Huyt]; it follows the latter to its source." Unfortunately the Dar-Kle has not been identified on any maps, and it is impossible to state, with authority, what is the precise alignment east of the source of the Dak Jerman. Since a crossing of the Dak Huyt is not described, however, the Cambodian annotated version did not appear to be justified. This sector between the rivers, nevertheless, had had to be considered indefinite or in dispute.

The fourth dispute involves the largest amount of territory, the only one containing established villages (Map 1). The 1914 decree, as cited above, provides for the boundary to follow the Dak Huyt "to its source." Approximately 10 miles from "its source," the Dak Huyt is formed by two tributaries: the Dak Huyt to the south and the Dak Dang to the north. All printed maps of the pre-1954 period show the latter, the Dak Dang, as the boundary. On the Cambodia annotated maps furnished to the United States Embassy, however, the printed boundary on this stream has been scratched out and a manuscript line added along the Dak Huyt. The decree appears to substantiate the annotated version, but all printed maps sources refute it. The territory must be considered in dispute.

The fifth indefinite sector concerns the straight line boundary between the Srepok and the Se San. The SGI 1:100,000 series contains an error: the boundary as shown on sheets 164 E and 164 W does not meet, being offset by about 2.5 miles, in a north - south direction. The Cambodian annotated version has joined the two "ends" of the boundary

with a north - south line across the valley of the la Drang. Since no delimitation of this sector has been found, the boundary has had to be considered indefinite in the la Drang valley.

In the same general area north of the Srepok, a minor problem exists. The Cambodian annotated version of the boundary segment, added in manuscript, is west of the Vietnamese version, i.e., a narrow strip of no-man's-land exists between the boundaries. It is assumed that this error is technical, but the border sector has had to be described as indefinite.

The final indefinite area involves the juncture of SGI sheets 156 W and 148 W near the Laos tripoint. The Vietnamese version of the boundary was based upon a new location of the water divide that was developed from air photography flown in 1953. The Cambodian annotated version utilized the "new" south sheet (156 W) but an older north sheet. To make the boundaries meet, Cambodia deleted the printed boundary for the last mile on the south sheet and added, again to the west of the Vietnam version, a manuscript line to join the printed version on the older sheet. Again, this sector has had to be considered indefinite. However, the problem appears to be of an obvious technical nature; both states had indicated an intention to utilize the water divide.

It should be noted that no treaty or decree has been found delimiting the boundary north of the Se San. All evidence is cartographic in nature.

Maritime Frontier

The first indication of the existence of a territorial dispute involving the islands in the Gulf of Thailand came to U.S. attention in 1958 (Map No. 4). At this time, Vietnam sent an official note to Cambodia "reasserting" Vietnamese claims to the islands of Baie (Koh Ta Kiev), Milieu (Koh Thmey), Eau (Koh Ses), Pic (Koh Tonsay), and the northern Pirates (Koh Po). The claim was based upon alleged Vietnamese colonization, administration, and sovereignty. Cambodia rejected the Vietnamese position as contrary to fact.

Historical evidence strongly indicates that Cambodia had sovereignty over these islands and others in the Gulf of Thailand as late as 1856. The French attempted at that time to obtain Phu Quoc from the Khmer Kingdom and not from Annam. After the establishment of the French colony of Cochin China and the protectorate over Cambodia, however, the various islands came to be portrayed as part of Ha-tien province of Cochin China. The basis for the action could not be discovered. Nevertheless, it is obvious that a dispute over their ownership existed within the Indochinese administration.

In 1939, Governor General Jules Brevie divided the islands administratively by his now famous line. In his letter, Brevie acknowledged to the Cambodian and Cochin Chinese authorities the problem - "the question of the islands of the Gulf of Siam, the possession of which is disputed between Cambodia and Cochin China." He proceeded, however, to divide them by a line of 140 grad from the coast; Phu Quoc was circumscribed at a distance of 3 kilometers. The line pertained "only to the administration and policing of

these islands, and...the issue of the islands' territorial jurisdiction remains entirely reserved."

Cambodia originally appeared to accept the Brevie Line as an equitable allocation of the islands. Later, however, it extended a claim to the southern Pirates. This claim appeared to be based upon a confusion between the French grad and the international degree. A grad is 1/400th of a circle and is always measured counter-clockwise. A degree is 1/360th of a circle and usually is measured clockwise. An angle of 140° to the coast normally would extend southeastward into the land. If measured counterclockwise, the resulting line at an angle of 220° would include the southern Pirate islands. However, the Brevie line, based upon grad measurement, extends at an angle of 234°, and this azimuth passes between the northern (Cambodian) and southern (Cochin Chinese) Pirate islands.

Since (a) the French could not resolve the dispute, (b) the former Government of Cambodia appeared to accept the Brevie Line, and (c) the line appeared to represent the de facto limit of national administration, it was agreed that the line would be used on U.S. maps. While it cannot be considered an established international boundary, from the documentation available it appears the most valid representation of the maritime frontier for administrative purposes.

IV. TREATIES AND OTHER ACTS

A. Treaty between France and Cochin China, signed on November 28, 1787 (*Code de la Nationalite Francaise*, Tome deuxieme-Partie documentaire, page 854, published in Paris, 1946, by the Ministere de la Justice).

By the terms of the treaty France obtained the port of Hoi-nan (Tourane-Da Nang) and the islands of Pulo-Condore (Con Son). Historically, the treaty marks the beginning of French settlement and administration in the Indochinese peninsula.

B. Treaty between France and Spain, on the one hand, and the Kingdom of Annam, on the other, signed on June 5, 1862. Ratifications exchanged on April 14, 1863 (*ibid.*, p. 854).

Article 3 ceded to France three provinces of Cochin China: Bien-Hoa, Gia-Dinh, and Dinh-Tuong (My-Tho), as well as the islands of Con Son (Pulo-Condore.) By the rather strange territorial agreement, three additional Cochin Chinese provinces were separated from the main body of Annam by the French possession.

C. Treaty between France and Cambodia, signed on August 11, 1863. Ratifications exchanged on April 14, 1864 (*ibid.*, p. 855).

France assumed a protectorate over Cambodia. No specific boundary between

Cambodia and French Cochin China was delimited. Three years later, as a result of difficulties between the two parts of Cochin China, France occupied the three remaining provinces.

D. Convention between France and Cambodia relative to the delimitation of the Frontier, signed on July 9, 1870 (see Appendix 1).

In 1868 and 1869, France and Cambodia established a boundary between the two states, placing pillars on the ground at critical points. This convention reviewed the earlier work and made several revisions of the preliminary boundary. The major change occurred near Prey-Veng and in the Anna-mite lands along the Vaico valley.

The work of the 1870 convention was incorporated in the following:

E. Agreement concluded between His Majesty the King of Cambodia and the Rear Admiral, Governor, and Commander in Chief in Cochin China, *to determine definitively the boundary between the Kingdom of Cambodia and French Cochin China*, signed on July 15, 1873 (see Appendix 2).

This agreement delimited and probably demarcated a boundary from approximately 11°45' North and 106°30' East, south of the city of Loc Ninh, to the coast near Ha Tien. The alignment appears to be remarkably like the modern boundary, although a precise determination is difficult owing to differences in place names. The line from the east through the "Parrot's Beak" can be traced with a fair degree of precision to the Mekong. It is interesting to note that maps of 1863 showed most of this "Parrot's Beak" within Cochin China. The 1873 treaty maintained a long finger-like projection of French territory westward into the Cambodian province of Svay Rieng.

In the vicinity of the Mekong, the boundary appears to be similar if not identical with the modern alignment. West of the Mekong the delimitation stated that the boundary "will follow a line parallel to the canal of Vinh-Te, to the north; it will end at the village of Giang-Thanh and will be drawn from there directly to Ha Tien, with the canal of Prec-Cros to the east." The precise position of this boundary cannot be determined since the distance from the canal and the meaning of "directly to Ha Tien" have not been explicitly stated. However, map evidence of the period shows the boundary parallel to the canal close to the modern position. In contrast, the border at Ha Tien appears to have arrived at the coast farther to the north than it currently does.

F. Treaty between France and Annam..., signed on March 15, 1874 (Code...*op. cit.*, p. 856).

The French annexation of the three rebellious provinces of Cochin China was confirmed by Article 5. In addition, a protectorate was placed over the remainder of Annam. The only boundary delimitation in the treaty stated that the northern limits of Cochin China were "the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Annam (province of Binh-Thuan)."

G. [Treaty between France and Cambodia, signed on April 12, 1882]

Several sources quote this treaty as establishing an 8-kilometer deep zone of "hot pursuit" on each side of the frontier for the apprehension of bandits and local dissidents. No copy of the treaty as a primary source has been located in Washington. However, the alignment of the boundary does not appear to have been a concern of the treaty.

H. Treaty authorizing the Protectorate of France over Annam, signed on June 6, 1884 (*ibid.*, p. 857).

The treaty is the final stage in the establishment of French protection over all of Annam. All future boundary delimitations are internal decrees.

I. Treaty of Peace and Convention between France and Siam, signed at Bangkok on October 3, 1893, ratified on February 2, 1894 (Great Britain Foreign Office, *British Foreign and State Papers*, vol. 87, pp. 187 ff., London).

Siam ceded all territory on the left (east bank) of the Mekong River to France. Included was the former Cambodian-administered province of Stung Treng, which the French provisionally placed under the administration of Laos. The province was later to be divided among Laos, Cambodia, and Annam. The treaty, in effect, did not change the boundaries between Cambodia and Annam; rather, it substituted Laos for Siam as the western neighbor of Annam.

J. Decree of May 6, 1897, creating a Commission to draft a project to define the frontiers of Cochin China (see Appendix 3).

The Governor General of Indochina created a boundary commission to advise him on the delimitation of the boundaries between Cochin China and Cambodia and Cochin China and Annam. The reports of the commission formed the bases for subsequent decrees.

K. Decree of November 2, 1899, creating the Commissariat of Darlac (see Appendix 4).

The decree established a subdivision within Stung Treng in the highlands region of central Vietnam. The western limits of the commissariat do not coincide with the current boundary. Rather, the border followed the Srepok river to the confluence of the Ia Drang (Nam Ladrang) and then joined the water divide between the Ia and the Nam Lieou to the south. Laos at this time remained the administering state.

L. Decree of November 22, 1904, detaching Darlac from Laos (see Appendix 5).

The province of Darlac was attached to Annam by placing it under the administrative

jurisdiction of the resident superieur of Annam. No limits are given for the entity, and hence no boundary was established between Annam and Laos.

M. Decree of December 6, 1904, reintegrating Stung Treng into Cambodia (see Appendix 6).

A province of Stung Treng was redefined and transferred from Laos to Cambodia. The decree determined the boundary between Laos and Cambodia and defined the Annam - Cambodia boundary as the Nam Tham [Dak Dam].

N. Decree of July 31, 1914, affecting the Cochin China - Cambodia border (see Appendix 7).

The degree incorporated the recommendations of a commission established on December 6, 1910, to examine the frontier. The boundary was modified in three specific locations:

- a) around Ha Tien where the new position of the telegraph line and the limits of the villages of Saky and Nui Dadung were utilized;
- b) west of Tay Ninh where the "finger" of Cochin Chinese territory projecting into Cambodia was ceded to the latter; and
- c) a specific boundary delimited from the Song Sai northward and eastward to the common point of the three frontiers of Annam, Cambodia, and Cochin China near the source of the Dak Dam.

This last item appears to have established a line that had been the *de facto* limit between the two states since 1893, when the districts of Cuu Anh, Thanh-Anh, Loc Ninh, and Phuoc Le became part of Cochin China (*Bulletin official de l'Indochine Francaise*, No. 410, 1893, p. 742).

O. Decree of March 30, 1932, dealing with the creation of an administrative delegation in the Province of Darlac (see Appendix 8).

A delegation of Dak Dam was created within Darlac. The western (Cambodian) limits of the entity were specified to be the Dak Dam, reinforcing the decree of December 6, 1904, and the water divide of the Song Be and the Dak Bung So. The water divide appears to apply to the frontier between Darlac and the adjacent province in Cochin China.

P. Decree of March 4, 1933, establishing the limits of the Province of Pleiku (see Appendix 9).

In creating the new province from Kontum, a small section of the Annam - Cambodia

boundary was delimited; "[from] Point A by 116 G 78.96 longitude 15 G 33 latitude point where the Cambodian border passes east of the Sesam (Se San). The demarcation line follows the Sesam to Point B...." Point B is delimited on the internal (provincial) boundary. However, the Se San, for a brief distance, becomes the international boundary.

Q. Decree of December 6, 1935, on the delimitation of the Cochin China - Cambodia boundary (see Appendix 10).

The decree delimits and provides for the demarcation of the boundary between the Mekong and the Bassac rivers. The brief distance measures approximately 6.2 miles in length. From earlier maps, it appears that Cambodia gained a small portion of territory on the eastern segment of the new boundary while the remainder is unchanged.

R. Decree of December 11, 1936, dealing with delimitation of the Cochin China - Cambodia boundary (see Appendix 11).

The boundary east of the Bassac for a distance of 4.7 miles was redelimited. The change in territory, however, was very small.

S. Decree of January 31, 1939, pertaining to the islands in the Gulf of Thailand (see Appendix 12).

The Governor General of Indochina, Jules Brevie, divided the administrative and policy responsibility for islands in the Gulf of Thailand between Cochin China and Cambodia. The famous "Brevie line" is the result. Neither Cambodia nor Vietnam appears to recognize this line as an international boundary, and sovereignty over many of the islands has been in dispute. It should be noted that the letter of transmission stated specifically: "It is understood that the above [delimitation] applies only to the administration and policing of these islands and the issue of the islands' territorial jurisdiction remains entirely reserved."

T. Decree of July 26, 1942, dealing with territorial changes on the boundary between Cochin China and Cambodia (see Appendix 13).

The Bassac River island of Khanh Hoa was reattached to Cochin China; a 200-meter wide strip extending for 2.5 kilometers along the Benghi canal was ceded to Cambodia. The latter cession included the village of Benghi (Binh-Di).

V. SUMMARY

Treaty descriptions or decrees from the French period of administration delimit the Cambodia - Vietnam boundary from the coast near Ha Tien to the Srepok River in the central highlands. A conventional line, accepted by both states on maps and in correspondence, carries the line to the Se San. For a brief distance a French decree delimits a boundary in that river. North to the Laos tripoint, the boundary coincides with the water divide, and is supported cartographically by both Cambodia and Vietnam.

However, several points of difference exist along the boundary:

- (1) the junction of the Prek Binh Gi and the Bassac rivers: the Cambodian claim of the boundary in the former stream is substantiated by decree and should be followed:
- (2) the neck of land between the Bassac and Mekong: the proper alignment cannot be determined from existing data. The alignment on the DMATC 1:50,000 sheets should be utilized with an "indefinite" or "in dispute" note.
- (3) Dak Jerman-Dak Duyt region: the precise alignment again cannot be determined. The DMATC 1:50,000 map should form the basis for compilation with an "indefinite" or "in dispute" note.
- (4) Dak Dang vs. Dak Huyt: the dispute cannot be resolved from existing data. The Dak Dang should be used as the boundary with the dispute indicated, pending a solution.
- (5) Srepok - Se San: the basis for the boundary has not been discovered. The line drawn on the DMATC 1:50,000 series represents the most logical interpretation and does not vary greatly from the Cambodian or Vietnamese versions. The la Drang area should be considered "indefinite."
- (6) Northern water divide: the problem is technical and cannot be indicated on any map except at the largest of scale. It may be considered to be covered by the general boundary disclaimer and not shown locally. The alignment on the DMATC 1:50,000's should be utilized.

Owing to the basic problems of the boundary, the standard disclaimer that "the representation of the boundary is not necessarily authoritative" must be used. The boundary should be shown as an established international boundary with the five exceptions noted above. Where scale does not permit, i.e., on a page-size, these five may be considered to be covered by the general disclaimer.

Since the question of the islands in the Gulf of Thailand, however, remains unresolved, the Brevie Line may be shown on maps as a *de facto* line but not represented as an

international boundary. The conflicting claims over the islands remain.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1

Convention of July 9, 1870, between France
and Cambodia relative to the Delimitation of the frontier

The frontier remains without change as drawn from Pillar No. 1 (at the mouth of the Prech-Prien) as far as Pillar No. 16 (at Ta-Sang on the Cai-Cay).

The territory lying between the Cai-Bach and the Cai-Cay which was French (and of which the annual revenue totals approximately 1,000 francs), will be granted to Cambodia, in compensation for the approximately 486 houses which comprise the villages situated near Soc-Trang, at Bang Chrum.

Pillars Nos. 17, 18, and following will be annulled as far as Hang-Nguyen; Cambodia will retain all territory currently inhabited by the Cambodians of the provinces of Prey-Veng, Bonifuol and Soc-Theit.

The boundary will be demarcated later and it will reserve for the French occupation the strip of territory extending along the Vaico which is currently occupied or exploited by Annamites.

/x/ Nordom /s/ Real Admiral de Cornulier-Luciniere.

Abor, Raoul, *Conventions et Traites de Droit international interessant l'Indochine, Hanoi, 1929.*

APPENDIX 2

Agreement concluded Between His Majesty the King of Cambodia and the Rear Admiral, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Cochin China, to Determine definitively the boundary Between the Kingdom of Cambodia and French Cochin China.

H.M. Prea Bat Som Dach Prea Norodom Baroui Ream Te Vea Tans Pres-Chau Crung Cam Pu Chea Thip Phdey, King of Cambodia, and the Rear Admiral Dupre (Marie - Jules), Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Cochin China acting in the name of the French Government.

Wishing to determine by joint agreement the boundary between the Kingdom of Cambodia and French Cochin China, and after having studied the country to place this line of demarcation on waterways or hilly terrain sufficiently reliable and prominent enough to avoid any later dispute, have adopted and signed the present agreement which includes the following provisions:

The border between French Cochin China and the Kingdom of Cambodia will be marked by numbered pillars, bearing an inscription indicating their purpose. The number of posts will be 124. Number one will be placed at the eastern end of the border and the numbers will increase toward the west to Pillar 124, placed about 1,200 meters north of the Vinh-Te canal and of the Annamite Village of Hoa-Thanh.

This border line will pass by the following main points:

The starting point is post No. 1 installed on the bank of the stream of Tonly-Tru; the general direction of the border will then be southwest and will pass by the villages of Sroc-Tun, Sroc-Paplan, Sroc-Ban Chrung, Rung-Khoch, Sroc-Tranh, Sroc-Chung-Ngon, Phum-Andet, Sroc-Cao, Sroc-Com-Pong-Mean-Chey (or Bango); will follow the right bank of the Cai-Bac, ascend by the left bank of the Cai-Cay, pass through Phum-Com-Pong-Casang, Sroc-Ta-Meng, Sroc-Ta-Trong, Sroc Cheo, Phum-Bathu, Sroc-Rach-Chanh, Sroc-Tanu; then it will follow the north bank of the canal of Chris-Asey (in Annamite Xung-Nguyen); it will cut this canal at the mouth of the Peam-Sdey (in Annamite Ta-Su); it will follow the northern bank of the Rach-Banam, cross the main river at the latitude of Vinh-Chuong, pass through Bac-Nam, cut the river south of the island of Co-Ki (in Annamite Cu-Lao Cai-Sen); it will pass through the intersection of the Prec-Croch with the Prec-Slot; it will follow a line parallel to the canal of Vinh-Te, to the north; it will end at the village of Giang-Thanh and will be drawn from there directly to Ha-Tien, with the canal of Prec-Cros to the east.

Signed and sealed in Phnom-Penh on 15 July 1873, corresponding to the Fifth Roch of the month of Asat, Roca-Panh-Cha-Sac year, 1235 of the Cambodia era.

The royal seal.

Signed: Real Admiral DUPRE

Bulletin Officiel de la Cochinchine francaise, Annee 1873 No. 12, p. 435.

APPENDIX 3

Decree of 6 May 1897 Creating a Commission to Draft a Project to define the frontiers of Cochin China

The Governor General of Indochina, in view of the degree of 21 April 1891, and the reports of the Lieutenant Governor of Cochin China dated 2 September 1896 and 22 April 1897, decrees the following:

Article I

A commission is instituted to draft a project to define the borders of Cochin China with Cambodia: 1) starting at post No. 1, in Canletru, and continuing towards the east to Annam, and 2) with Annam (provinces of Binh-Thuan and Khanh-Hoa).

Article II

The composition of this committee will be the following: Lucien Faure, Chief of the Cabinet of the Governor General, President; Lacote, Administrator First Class of Native Affairs of Cochin China, Member; Sestier, Resident Second Class in Annam, Member; Collard, Vice Resident in Cambodia, Member.

Article III

The Lieutenant Governor of Cochin China, the Superior Residents in Annam and in Cambodia, are responsible, as may concern each one of them, for the execution of this decree.

Saigon, 6 May 1897

Paul DOUMER

Bulletin Officiel No. 5, Partie Cochinchine, p. 435, annee 1897.

APPENDIX 4

The Governor General of Indochina

In view of the decree of August 21, 1891;

In view of the decree of April 19, 1899, placing the administration of Laos under the authority of the Superior Resident;

In view of the decree of January 31, 1899, creating at Ban-Don, an administrative post for the Commissariat in Stung-Treng,

On the suggestion of the Superior Resident of Laos,

DECREES:

Article 1 - There is created in Laos an administrative circumscription to be known as the Commissariat of Darlac, and comprising that part of the province of Stung-Treng, limited on the north by the chain of the water divide between the basins of the Houei Tiamal and the Houei Tiaba; the course of the Srepok up to Pak-Ladrang, the chain of the water divide between the basins of the Nam Ladrang and the Nam-Lieou.

Article 2 - The administrative post of Ban-Don, created by the decree of January 31, 1899, is abolished.

Article 3 - The superior Resident of Laos is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Saigon, November 2nd 1899

Paul DOUMER

For the Governor General
the Superior Resident of Laos
A. TOURNIER

Journal Officiel de l'Indochine française, p. 1478, 1899.

APPENDIX 5

The Governor General of Indochina, Officer of the Legion of Honor,

In view of the decree of April 21, 1891;

In view of the decree of November 2, 1899, creating in Laos an administrative circumscription, designated as the Commissariat of Darlac:

In view of the deliberations of the Superior Council of Indochina on August 26, 1904, concerning the proposal of the Secretary General of Indochina;

The Permanent Commission of the Superior Council assembled,

DECREES:

Article 1 - The province of Darlac is detached from the territory of Laos and placed under administrative and political authority of the Superior Resident of Annam.

Article 2 - The Secretary General of Indochina and the Superior Residents in Annam and Laos are charged, each in his own field, with the execution of this decree.

Hanoi, November 22, 1904.

For the Governor General:
the Secretary General of Indochina
BRONI

Journal Officiel de l'Indochine française, p. 1446, 1^{er} décembre 1904.

APPENDIX 6

The Governor General of Indochina, Officer of the Legion of honor,

In view of the decree of April 21, 1891;

In view of the advice given by the Superior Council of Indochina in its sitting of August 27, 1904;

The Permanent Commission of the Superior Council of Indochina, assembled,

DECREES:

Article 1 - The province of Stung-Treng, presently a dependency of Laos, is reintegrated into the territory of Cambodia, excluding the part situated on the right bank of the river called N. Thamm [Dak Dam] (map of the Service Geographique de l'Indochine, 1:1,000,000 edition of April 1903), which is placed under the administrative and political dependence of Annam.

Article 2 - The region known as Sien-Pang [Siem Pang], whose eastern and northern limits are indicated in yellow on the 1:3,000,000 map annexed to the present decree, is detached from the province of Khong (Laos) and reincorporated into the territory of the province of Stung-Treng.

Article 3 - The Superior Residents in Annam, Cambodia and Laos will establish mutually a draft regulation relative to the delimitation on the ground of the circumscriptions concerned.

Article 4 - The Secretary General of Indochina, the Superior Residents of Annam, Cambodia and Laos are charged, each in his own field, with the execution of this decree.

Hanoi, December 6, 1904

For the Governor General,
the Secretary General of Indochina
BRONI

Journal Officiel de l'Indochine française, p. 1500, année 1904.

APPENDIX 7

The Governor General of Indochina,

In view of the decrees of 20 October 1911, determining the powers of the Governor General and the Administrative and Financial Organization of Indochina;

In view of the decree of 25 December 1913;

In view of the ministerial cablegram No. 352 of 22 November 1913;

In view of the ministerial circular of 20 June 1911;

In view of the instructions of the Governor General of 3 January 1914;

In view of the decree of 6 December 1910, instituting a commission to study the question of the finding of borders between Cochin China and Cambodia;

In view of the minutes of this commission, making proposals to modify the border line between the provinces of Kampot and Ha-Tien, Tay-Ninh and Preyveng, Thudaumot, and Kompongcham (District of Kratie);

In view of the decree of 22 June 1912, naming the demarcation commissions in charge of placing persons to mark the new borders as determined by the commission instituted by the decree of 6 December 1910;

In view of the decision of the Colonial Council of Cochin China, dated 6 October 1913, on the demarcation of borders between Cochin China and Cambodia;

At the proposal of the Governor of Cochin China in private council, and of the Superior Resident of Cambodia;

The permanent Committee of the Council of Government of Indochina included, the following is decreed:

Article 1 - The new borders separating the provinces of Ha-Tien and Kampot, between the inner harbor of Ha-Tien and the Gulf of Siam, follows the telegraph line to the point where it intersects the line of fortifications at a distance of 2,293 meters from Ha-Tien; this point is indicated by the Letter B on the plan attached to the original of the decree.

From point B, the border follows, for a length of 1,441 m., the present limits of the village of Saky, marked by traces of old fortifications, to C, then to D, the northernmost point of the village of Saky, constituted by Phnom-Prachieu (in Annamite, Nui Da-Dung); the distance from B to C is 423 m, the distance from C to D is 1,018 m.

From D to E (distance 688 m), the border crosses a deep "beng", then at E, rejoins a line of fortifications which it follows to F, the limit of the territory of Saky; the distance from E to F is 481 m.

From F, the line of fortifications, which were rejoined at E, continues without interruption

to the coastline, where it ends at G, after a distance from F to G of 3,158 m.

Article 2 - The new border between the provinces of Tay-Ninh and Prey-Veng,

The enclave called Cai-Cay at the confluence of Cai-Cay with the Rach Ong-Ba is attached to Cambodia.

From this point on, the new border at first goes in a straight line, of 1,523 m, to point B; then, for 209 m, it follows a line which makes a $190^{\circ} 30'$ angle with the above; then it goes to the Rach Ta-So, which it follows until it intersects the present unchanged border of Cochin China and Cambodia.

Article 3 - The new border between the provinces of Thudau-Mot and Kompong-Cham (district of Kratie) starts at the confluence of the Can le Cham and of the Can le Tru (Saigon river), follows the Can le Cham to a point where it leaves it to head north, making a large bend to the east; this point is marked by the letter A on the chart attached to the original decree.

It then joins point B in a straight line, intersecting the Prek-Chrieu and the road from Kratie, turns to the east and follows the course of the Prek-Chrieu to its source (point C); it then continues in a straight line to point D, where it meets the Prek-Mean or Djerman, following its course to its source, to end at the confluence of the Dar-Kle and of the Dar-Hoyt; it follows the latter to its source.

Article 4 - The Governor of Cochin China and the Superior Resident of Cambodia are responsible, each in his own concern, for carrying out the present decree.

HANOI, 31 July 1914

For the Governor General of Mission, Absent, and by Delegation:

The Secretary General of the General Government of Indochina,

VAN VOLLENHOVEN

APPENDIX 8

Decree of 30 March 1932 Dealing with the Creation of an Administration Delegation in the Province of Darlac (Annam)

The Governor General of Indochina, Commander of the Legion d'Honneur;

In view of the decrees of 20 October 1911, fixing the powers of the Governor General and the financial and administrative organization of Indochina;

In view of the decree of 23 August 1928;

In view of the decree of 13 February 1916, on representation and travel expenses;

In view of the decree of 23 February 1932, dealing with a 10% reduction in the amount of service or representation and travel expenses received, on the basis of local decree, by functionaries of metropolitan colonial, local, or municipal cadres serving in Indochina;

At the proposal of the Superior Resident in Annam, the following is decreed:

Article 1 - An administrative delegation is created in the province of Darlac (Annam), called the Delegation of Dak Dam. It will include the territories determined by the following limits:

To the northeast: The rivers of Srepok and Krong-Kho;

To the southeast: The water divide of the following rivers:

1. Of the Dak-Pri and Dak-Bro;
2. Of the Dak-Tong and the Dak-Bung-So;
3. Of the Dak-R'Mang and the Dak Bung-So.

To the south: The Donnai

To the west: The Dak Dam and the water divide of the Song-Be and the Dak-Bung-So.

The civil servant or officer placed at the head of this district as representative of Resident of France in Banmethuet, will reside in Buon-Jen-Drom.

Article 2 - The representative in Buon-Jen-Drom of the Resident of France of Darlac will have the right, as such, to representation and travel money, at an annual rate of 500 piastres, as provided by the decree of 13 February 1916. The 10% reduction provided by the above-mentioned decree of 23 February 1932, applies to this amount.

Article 3 - The Superior Resident in Annam is responsible for implementing the present decree.

Hanoi, 30 March 1932

P. PASQUIER

APPENDIX 9

Decree of 4 March 1933, Establishing the Limits of the Province of PLEIKU

Article 1 - The new province created in Annam by the decree of 24 May 1932, will be designated as the Province of PLEIKU. The capital will be PLEIKU.

Article 2 - The Province of PLEIKU will have the following limits:

1. To the north: The line A-Y, which separates it from the Province of Kontum, drawn on the two maps attached to the original of the present decree and designated as follows:

Point A by 116 G 78.96 longitude
15 G 33 latitude

Point where the Cambodian border passes east of the Sesam.

The demarcation line follows the Sesam to:

Point B by 117 G 13.60 longitude
15 G 80 latitude

then bends to the south-southeast passing through landmark 1178, the geodetic point 1269 m Tehu-Tu-Kom, the landmark 702, rejoins the Ya-Rung at Point F, follows the Ya-Rung and intersects Colonial Highway 14 at Point G, the 36.385 kilometer point (the bridge of Ya-Rung belonging to Pleiku), follows the water divide, to points 1197 and 1254 to Point J, the confluence of the Dak-Blan and Krong-Palong, follows the Dak-Blan to Point K located due west of Point L, Chi-Ko-Dan 997 M; then it rejoins point M, where the Dak-Grang is formed by the meeting of the two source rivers, descends the river and crosses Colonial Highway 19 at the kilometer point 122.800 (the Dak-Grang bridge belonging to Kontu, Point N), descends toward the south to rejoin a tributary of the Dak-Ayoun, not named, rejoins the Dak-Ayoun at its confluence and follows the Dak-Ayoun to:

Point Q by 117 G 59 longitude
15 G 40 latitude

then it ascends toward the east-northeast, crosses the crests of Chuking, of Chu-Bal, returns to the east over the crest to Kon-Bra, rejoins the Chu-Bloi and Point T, a bridge of Colonial Highway 188 (which belongs to Kontum) over the Yapour, descends the river to where it meets the Song-Ba, continues eastward following the crest of the Chu-Kia and of the Kong-Da-Dam, leaving the valley of the Dak-Po-Kar to the north and the valley of Ya-Toul to the south, then heads east through an incompletely known region (from the geographical point of view) to the borderline of the Binh-Dinh, which it reaches at point Y.

2. To the east, to the south and the west: the old limits of the province of Kontum, located south of the Line A-Y mentioned above.

Article 3 - The superior Resident in Annam is responsible for implementing the present decree.

Saigon, 4 March 1933

P. PASQUIER

APPENDIX 10

Decree of 6 December 1935 on the Delimitation of the Cochin China - Cambodian Boundary between the Provinces of Chau-Boc and Kandal

The Governor General of Indochina, Commander of the Legion d'Honneur

In view of the decrees of 20 October 1911, fixing the powers of the Governor General and the financial and administrative organization of Indochina;

In view of the decree of 2 July 1935;

In view of the decree of 20 September 1915, on territorial changes between the various parts of the Indochinese Union;

In view of the decree No. 1615 on 28 May 1935 of the Superior Residence in Cambodia, instituting a commission to study the question of the demarcation of the Cochin China - Cambodian border (Mekong-Bassac section);

In view of the minutes of this commission:

In view of the approval of the Superior Resident in Cambodia and the Governor of Cochin China:

In view of the favorable opinion of the Colonial Council of Cochin China and the Council of the Protectorate of Cambodia in their respective sessions of 2 and 18 October 1935, the Council of Government included; the following has been decreed:

Article 1 - The border separating the provinces of Chau-Doc (Cochin China) and of Kandal (Cambodia) between the Mekong and the Bassac follows the line drawn by the Commission instituted by the decree of 28 May 1935, mentioned above, on the chart attached to the original of the present decree.

This border is marked by Pillars 84, 85, 86, 87, and 88 and by points A, B, C, and D.

These pillars and points are delimited as follows:

Pillar 84 - To be installed ten meters south of the confluence with the Mekong of a canal dug between the parcels belonging, to the north, to the Le-Van-Cam, and to the south, to Nguyen-Cao-Bang.

Pillar 85 - To be installed on the east side of the Beng-Diem facing the west branch of this "beng."

Point A - To be fixed about 140 meters east of Bau-Ca-Tra; the point has already been marked by a triangulation marker installed in 1933 when the village of Tan-An was surveyed.

Point B - To be situated on the west boundary of a branch of the Muong-Lon heading

toward the north, about 150 meters from the meeting of this branch with the Muong-Lon itself.

Pillar 86 - To be installed on the west bank of the Rach Co-Lau opposite the confluence of this "Rach" and the Muong-Lon.

Point C - To be located at the south end of Ho-Ta-My on the side of a cartroad parallel to the south bank of this depression and about one kilometer from the West Bank of the Prek Bacnam.

Pillar 87 - To be installed on the south side of this road about 530 meters from the above.

Point D - To be fixed about 250 meters from the south border of the Prek Bacnam and about 430 meters from a fish pond belonging to Khieu-Thi-Moi.

Pillar 88 - To be installed at the end of the Bassac, on the southern limits of the Bacnam distillery's land.

Article 2 - A demarcation commission will be appointed later to mark the boundaries as soon as the waters recede.

Article 3 - the Governor of Cochin China and the Superior Resident in Cambodia are responsible, as may concern each of them, for implementing the present decree.

Hanoi, 6 December 1935

Rene ROBIN

APPENDIX 11

Decree of 11 December 1936, Dealing with the Delimitation of the Cochin China Cambodia Boundary between Chau-Doc and Prey-Veng

The Interim Governor General of Indochina, Officer of the Legion d'honneur,

In view of the decree of 20 October 1911 fixing the powers of the Governor General and the financial and administrative organization of Indochina;

In view of the decree of 9 September 1936;

In view of the ministerial circular of 20 June 1911;

In view of the decree of 20 September 1915 on territorial changes between the various parts of the Indochinese Union;

In view of the decree of 8 April 1936 of the Superior Resident in Cambodia appointing a Commission in charge of reviewing the demarcation of the Cochin China - Cambodian border between Chau-Doc and Prey Veng, carried out on 16 and 17 March 1935, by engineer surveyors of the Symphorien and Dumas Cadastral Survey;

In view of the minutes of this Commission;

In view of the approval granted by the Superior Resident in Cambodia and the Governor of Cochin China;

In view of the favorable opinion of the Colonial Council of Cochin China and the Council of the Protectorate of Cambodia in their respective sessions on 15 October 1935 and 16 July 1936,

The Council of the Government included, the following is decree:

Article 1 - The boundaries separating the provinces of Chau-Doc (Cochin China) and Prey Veng (Cambodia) between the Mekong and the Song So-Thuong, follow the line drawn by the Commission instituted by the above-mentioned decree of 8 April 1936.

This boundary is drawn through Pillars 83, 82, 81, 80, and 79.

These pillars are delimited as follows:

Pillar 83 - 2,180 m from Pillar 82, set east of the path which follows the left bank of the Fleuve Anterieur, 90 m from a very noticeable "Cai-gon," 38 m from the left bank of the river, and at a place where a large ditch bordered by bamboo meets a banked path.

From pillar 83, the boundary follows the ditch mentioned above in a straight line to a square granite boundary-stone laid in a concrete bloc. This is the T.G.I. Boundary-stone (coordinates: X -- + 13,434.60 and Y -- + 25,952.60, according to the Cochin - Chinese system) and 204 m east of Post 83.

From the boundary stone to Pillar 82, the boundary goes in a straight imaginary line oriented northwest-southeast, and Pillar 82 may be found 2,014 m from the triangulation point.

Pillar 82 - Pillar 82 is fixed in the parcel of Nguyen-Van-Bang in the place of the present jar, 2,014 m from the T.G.I. point and 86 m north of the triangulation point indicated by a square granite boundary-stone (having as coordinates X -- + 15,032.55 and Y -- + 24,585.74, according to the Cochin Chinese system). This is triangulation point 38 of the village of Thuong-Phuoc (Cochin China).

From Pillar 82, the boundary goes in a straight, imaginary line oriented northwest-southeast, and after 2,452 m across the plains, reaches Pillar 81.

Pillar 81 - Pillar 81 is in a parcel which is still part of a domain in the midst of brush on the Cochin Chinese side and 260 m east of a triangulation point (having as coordinates X -- + 17,097.00 and Y -- + 23,596.35, according to the Cochin Chinese system); this is the TSV point of the Thuong-Phuoc (Cochin China).

From Pillar 81, the boundary goes in an imaginary straight line oriented southwest-northeast, and after 2,568 m reaches Pillar 80.

Pillar 80 - Pillar 80 consists of a jar laid on a mound of earth. This jar is located in a parcel belonging to Le-Van-Hoai (Thoung-Phouc) and cultivated in rice and corn.

From Pillar 80, the boundary goes in the same southwest-northeast direction as before and still in a straight line, and reaches Pillar 79 located 708 m from Pillar 80, after having intersected the Rach My-Can.

Pillar 79 - This is a hardwood post called Ciang-Hung, about 1.70 m high; it is planted on the right bank of the Song-So-Thuong and to the right of the banked path in the parcel belonging to To-Phuoc-Xen (Thuong-Phuoc).

Article 2 - A demarcation commission will be appointed later on to set the boundary pillars, as soon as the waters recede.

Article 3 - The Governor of Cochin China and the Superior Resident in Cambodia are responsible, in that which may concern each of them, for implementing the present decree.

Saigon, 11 December 1936

SYLVESTRE

APPENDIX 12

Directorate of Political Affairs
Number 867/API

Hanoi, 31 January 1939
The Governor General of Indochina
Grand Officer of the Legion
d'Honneur

To the Governor of Cochin China
(I Bureau) in Saigon

Subject: Islands in the Gulf of Siam

I have the honor of informing you that I have just reexamined the question of the islands of the Gulf of Siam, the possession of which is disputed between Cambodia and Cochin China.

The situation of this group of islands, scattered along the Cambodian coast and some of which are so near the coast that land filling presently being carried out will seem to fuse them to the Cambodian coast in a relatively near future, logically and geographically requires that these islands be under the jurisdiction of the Administration of Cambodia.

I believe that it is impossible to let the present state of affairs continue as it is, which is forcing the inhabitants of these islands to refer, either at the price of a long crossing, or at the price of a long detour through Cambodian territory, to the Administration of Cochin China.

As a consequence, I have decided that all the islands located north of the line perpendicular to the coast starting from the border between Cambodia and Cochin China and making a 140 grad angle with the north meridian, in accordance with the attached chart, will be from now on administered by Cambodia. The Protectorate will, in particular, take over the police of these islands.

All the islands south of this line, including the island of Phu-Quoc, will continue to be administered by Cochin China. It is understood that the demarcation line thus made will make a line around the north of the island Phu-Quoc, passing three kilometers from the extreme ends of the north shore of this island.

Administration and police powers on these islands will thus be clearly distributed between Cochin China and Cambodia, so that all the future disputes might be avoided.

It is understood that the above pertains only to the administration and policing of these islands, and that the issue of the islands' territorial jurisdiction remains entirely reserved.

You will please make provisions so that my decision is immediately put into effect.

Please notify me of the receipt of this letter.

Signed: BREVIE

APPENDIX 13

Decree of 26 July 1942, Dealing with Territorial Changes on the Boundary Between Cochin China and Cambodia

Article 1 - The small island of Koh-Koki (in Annamite, Culao Khanh-Hoa), presently under the jurisdiction of the Khum of Prek Chrey, Srok of Koh Thom, Khet of Kandal (Cambodia) is reattached to the village of Khanhan, province of Chau-Doc (Cochin China), as indicated on the chart attached to the original of the present decree.

Article 2 - The village of Benghi (in Annamite, Binh-Di) and a stretch of terrain about 200 m wide and 2.5 kilometers long between Benghi and the bend of the Benghi, presently under the jurisdiction of the village of Khanh-Binh, province of Chau-Doc (Cochin China), are reattached to Cambodia, as indicated on the chart attached to the original of the present decree.

The part of the land reattached includes lots 1 and 2 of the second sheet of the cadastral plan of the village of Khanh-Vinh.

Article 3 - The Secretary General of the General Government of Indochina, the Governor of Cochin China, and the Superior Resident in Cambodia are responsible, each in that which may concern him, for implementing the present decree.

Dalat, 25 July 1942

DECOUX

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

Government agencies may obtain additional information and copies of the study by calling the Office of the Geographer, Room 8742, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (Telephone: 632-2021 or 632-2022).