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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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*615.163/11-2453*

FROM AMEMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR

215  
DESP. NO.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 24, 1953  
DATE

REF: Dept's instruction A-26 October 30 1953.

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SUBJECT: Information on boundary between El Salvador and Honduras.

In its instruction of October 30, 1953, the Department requested the Embassy to supply, for the Department's Special Assistant for Maps, available information concerning the status of certain segments of the El Salvador-Honduras boundary as indicated on an outline map enclosed with the Department's instruction.

At the Embassy's request, the Army Attaché has consulted the Chief of the Inter-American Geodetic Survey party in El Salvador concerning this matter. The officer in question, Captain Vernon S. WILLIAMS, who works closely with the Salvadoran cartographic authorities, discussed the question with the Chief of the Dirección de Cartografía, Ing. Alirio CORNEJO. Sr. Cornejo said that the present status of the Salvadoran-Honduran boundary from the point where Guatemala, Salvador, and Honduras join to its point of contact with the Goascoran River should be referred to simply as "indefinite". He said there is no dispute between Honduras and El Salvador over the frontier and that he is confident it will be delimited in the near future by a joint commission established for this purpose working in spirit of friendship and harmony.

*Undefined*

In this connection, Captain Williams recently saw a memorandum from the Minister of Public Works enjoining all personnel of the Dirección de Cartografía from making any statements with reference to the Salvadoran-Honduran frontier. This directive was apparently issued to forestall any controversy which might jeopardize the work of the border commission or adversely affect the spirit of amity under which it is hoped that the commission will operate.

The Embassy reported in Weeka No. 48 of November 29, 1952 that the boundary commission was supposed to start work in January 1952. A recent press report (Diario Latino October 22, 1953) stated that according to the Honduran Ambassador to El Salvador, definite work establishing the border between Honduras and El Salvador would begin in December 1953. The Inter-American Geodetic Survey working in conjunction with the Dirección de Cartografía has three horizontal control and two supplementary mapping control teams ready to start on

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Desp. No. 215

From San Salvador

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the project whenever agreement is reached between the two governments. Progress, however, has been exceedingly slow and it is doubtful that the project will get under way before early next year.

In view of the desire of the Minister of Public Works that no statements concerning the frontier be made, it is hoped that the Department will agree that it would not be fruitful further to pursue the matter at this time.

Incidentally, it should be remarked that the IAGS, although it will actively collaborate with the Salvadoran authorities in mapping operations in this area, will not in any way participate in the determination of the frontier itself.

For the Ambassador:

*Andrew E. Donovan II*  
Andrew E. Donovan II  
Counselor of Embassy

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