

same source of information as larger
maps in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil"

A-430 from Rio
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Agency: Comissão Brasileira Demarcadora de Limites,
Ministerio de Relações Exteriores (Brazilian Boundary
Demarcation Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Address: Rua dos Andradas 96/16º andar, Rio de Janeiro (Tel. 243-5312)
Key Personnel: Col. Juvenal Milton ENGEL, Chefe. II Divisão

In 1966 when Col. Engel became chief of the Comissão Brasileira Demarcadora de Limites (CBDL-II) there was almost no action on any of the four boundaries with which the second division is concerned. The Argentinian and Uruguayan boundaries have been well enough defined in the past and needed no new survey work. The Bolivian boundary has been held in abeyance since 1958 and the Paraguayan boundary work had been stopped in 1963.

In order to keep his staff happy and busy Col. Engel visited the Argentinian and Uruguayan boundaries and found that there was work to be done. No great amount has been done as yet, but as soon as arrangements were made for mixed commission action on these two boundaries the Brazilian congress ratified the agreement with Bolivia and the Paraguayans agreed at least in part, to the Brazilian proposal on the boundary near Sete Quedas. The result is that CBDL can and should now work on all four boundaries, but really has to small a staff and is limited by the lack of funds. At present it has all of two parties which he normally keeps in the field for three months before bringing them back to Rio for another three months period, after which the process is repeated.

A. Uruguayan Border:

The Brazilian border with Uruguay is fairly well defined by rivers for about two thirds its length, but there still is a stretch of some two hundred and twenty five kilometers of dry-land boundary on which some four hundred and forty monuments have been erected. The usual distance between monuments is about three kilometers, in many cases the distance is as short as fifty meters. On this boundary there are no real problems of disputed areas and the main difficulty is that many of the monuments have been destroyed or otherwise lost and many others have been painted time and again with anti-Brazilian and or anti-imperialist symbols and phrases. Col. Engel said he really did not object to the paint as in some respects it helped to protect the monument.

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There is to be a meeting with the Uruguayans in July or August of 1969 to work out a formula for the international boundary from the coast to the edge of the continental shelf. No heated discussions are expected and the main problem will be the decision of the proper azimuth. The rest of the boundary is considered to be settled, and the Uruguayan claim to Ilha Brazileira at the junction of the Quarai and the Uruguay is discounted by the CEDL on the grounds that the island has been in Brazilian possession for over one hundred years and therefore can be nothing but Brazilian.

B. Argentinian Border:

The Brazilian boundary with Argentina is long but well defined by rivers, and only a twenty-five kilometer stretch of dry land boundary exists. On this some forty monuments were erected. The number is large because a water divide was followed and a monument was set up at each bend in the division. Col. Engel reports that he has been over this boundary line in person and was abit taken back to find only four of the monuments are in resonably good condition, while the others have been mutilated, lost, strayed, or stolen. The rivers make excellent boundaries, but there is a small problem of islands in the rivers. At one time these had been surveyed and allotted to either Argentina or Brazil depending on the location of the islands in the river and in some cases on the main channel. Monuments had been placed on each island on the side next to the channel and apparently much to close to the waters edge because practically all have been washed away and the difficulty now is to decide which islands belong to whom and to re-monument them. This time with the monument on a high point, preferably in the middle of the island. As an added attraction some new islands have been built up, while others have completely disappeared.

On June 15, 1969 The Brazilians met with their Argentinian counterparts in Buenos Aires and it was agreeded that a mixed commission would be set up to operate in the near future along both the land and water boundaries to relocate and rebuild those monuments that have been broken, displaced, lost, or washed away. There is no problem of disputed territory and except for the matter of the islands the boundary is so well defined naturally that man made monuments are a mere formality.

C. Paraguayan Border:

The boundary with Paraguay was actually settled by a treaty in 1872 and demarcated in 1874, however the Paraguayans decided in very recent times that the water power that may eventually be developed from the Sete Quedas on the Parana might be lost to Paraguay entirely or in part if the boundary surveys were carried through in accordance with that treaty, which says that "the lines shall follow along the Serra de Maracaju to the middle of the falls."

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The Paraguayans wish the line to follow a branch of this range that would pass somewhat to the north and reach the river at Porto Col. Renato, which would put the boundary well above the falls. The Brazilian counter proposal is that the boundary follow a south trending branch of the hills that would bring the line to the river just below the falls, near the mouth of the Rio Piratuy or Igurey. A median line along the serra would bring the line out at about the fifth fall, which is more or less in agreement with the old demarcation and agreement. Also a new agreement was signed by Brazil and Paraguay in June 1965 by which Paraguay is guaranteed a one half interest in any water power or other economic gains that might be developed in the future. This appears to have settled the main Paraguayan complaint in fear that they would be done out of the water power. Col. Engel says that the CBDL is working very carefully in the area as the situation is still considered delicate.

Actually the only activity of the mixed commission has been the opening of Picadas along the line in the Serra de Maracaju from a point in section IV-340 to IV-366. The monumenting of the remaining nine kilometers will probably take some time.

D. Bolivian Border:

The boundary with Bolivia reportedly has been settled to the satisfaction of both Bolivia's and Brazil's foreign offices, but a small point of the boundary remains to be surveyed. The Bolivian congress approved the proposed boundary in 1958, but the Brazilian congress dragged its feet and ratified the proposal only in December of 1968. The area to be surveyed is that from the headwaters of the Rio Verde and by the signing of this agreement in 1968 the Brazilians agreed to use the eastern tributary, long considered by the Bolivians as the principal headwaters, to the point known as Quatro Irmãos. Col. Engel reports that three main points in this line were surveyed years ago, and that astrofixes of what were then considered good quality were made. That of Turvo was observed in 1878, while the one at the headwaters of the Rio Verde was observed in 1909 and the other in Quatro Irmãos was put in in 1942. The astrofix in Quatro Irmãos is considered as acceptable, but the other two will have to be reoccupied and a number of new points will have to be established in the intervening spaces. Again there is no problem of territorial claims, it is just a matter of surveying and monumenting.

Request:

Col. Engel reported that he has been trying to build up a small, specialized library on boundary demarcation practices and problems, and that he would very much appreciate any contributions that the Department of State and or any other Washington agency might be able to provide. He was especially interested in obtaining a copy of "International Boundaries" by S.W. Boggs; which was published in 1946.

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He was also very much interested in published reports on the Mexico-U.S. boundary, including anything on recent territorial changes, as he has the little problem of islands and other changes by shifting river currents.

OAS Maps:

Col. Engel reported that he had not seen the OAS on the La Plata Basin, although he understood that one of the men from Drewes office was through here earlier this year. He said it was his understanding that the boundaries had been checked in Argentina for the whole basin, but they had not actually been submitted to each of the international countries whose foreign offices might well have something to say. It is suggested that INR-MP or better the OAS office send two or more copies of the base maps to Col. Engel for his study and retention if no changes are to be made.

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