

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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SUMMARY

At a recent lecture given by Colonel Alberto BERGALLI (Ret), who was introduced by General Pedro Sizzo (Ret), the speaker covered certain historical and modern aspects of the geo-cartographic frontier limitations related to the Rio Uruguay.

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1. In a recent lecture at the Instituto Historico y Geografico of Uruguay, Col BERGALLI made reference to the geo-cartographical aspects of treaties fixing boundaries related to the River Uruguay.

2. According to Col BERGALLI, no land cartography or geodetic study of the Republic was made from the time Uruguay was made an independent state until 1913, the year in which the Servicio Geografico Militar was established.

Later, from 1913 to 1961, several charts from Uruguayan authors were published, but even if these charts constitute useful elements for consultations, they do not help to solve problems of international limits.

The chart made by the Institutos Geograficos Militares of Uruguay and Argentina concerning the river Uruguay, which was published in 1949, marks portions of Uruguayan and Argentine territories including the river. This chart was made by aerophotogrametric means and originally at a scale of 1:30,000 and covered an area from Rio Cuareim to 10 kilometers south of the mouth of Arroyo Chapiouy Chico. Other portions of both territories and Rio Uruguay over Paysandu and Rio Negro are registered in air photographic stereoscopic pairs to scales 1:20,000 and 1:33,000 respectively. These were obtained by our Military Air Force in 1959 and 1960. As far as the hydrographical cartography is concerned, the section where the Rio Uruguay is registered is over two and one-half centuries old. The first paper on the Rio Uruguay containing sounding and location of islands was made by Manuel Iberles in 1692. Between 1910 and 1940, five editions of charts for navigation of the Argentine Republic were published in which modifications are registered of hydrographic and physio-terrestrial elements which exist on the Rio Uruguay. Even

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though important changes can be noticed on the insular territory in front of the Department of Rio Negro, there are still some imperfections, such as non-existing islands, shown on charts and other new insular formations which have been omitted. The Hydrographic Service of the Navy has made some surveys on some parts of the Rio Uruguay and its ports which constitute only partial cartographic elements.

Rio Uruguay started playing its part as a frontier boundary on 13 January 1750, the date on which the Treaty of Madrid was signed. The starting point of the fluvial frontier with Brazil comes from the treaty of limits dated 12 December 1851. The limits between Argentina and Brazil were adjusted in the treaty signed in Parana on 14 December 1857 and in the 1st Article, the Rio Uruguay was established as the boundary between the nations from the mouth of the Rio Cuareim on up.

Other significant dates and treaties related to this river frontier are:

Treaty of 6 October 1898 - the "talweg" line was established as a dividing line for the Uruguay River to the Cuareim River confluence.

Assembly of 4 October 1910 again established the middle dividing line over the same river between the outlet of the Cuareim River and the SW point of the Brasilera Islands.

Complementary Assembly of 27 December 1927, approved by the Argentine Congress in September 1940, determined that the dividing line would pass by the middle of the channel of the River Uruguay.

The Boundary Treaty of the River Uruguay, which took place 26 September 1916 (known as Brun-Moreno), which was not ratified by either of the two countries, stated that the boundary line between the mouth of the Cuareim River and the estuary of the River de la Plata would continue to be the "talweg" with the islands to the east belonging to Uruguay and those to the west, belonging to Argentina.

The incidents concerning the occupation of the islands of River Uruguay, which took place after 1916 and until 1937, led to the recording of proceedings in Buenos Aires on 3 January 1938, when the "status quo" of 1 January 1936 in the islands was stipulated until a definite solution would take place.

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