

Mr. E. W. A. Scarlett's min. of 27/6/57.

I had hoped to get this forward sooner, but a meeting with the Foreign Office and the Hydrographic Dept., of the Admiralty was inescapable and I could not persuade the F.O. to attend earlier than yesterday afternoon (a number of Depts., there are involved.)

The meeting was a little trying and ran on until 6 p.m. when it was too late to get the draft in shape and approved here. After speaking to Mr. Kennedy I sent off, in his name, a short interim telegram saying that a full reply would reach British Guiana today.

Present at the meeting was :

Cdr. Kennedy	(Admiralty)
Mr. Wright	(General Dept. F.O.)
Mr. Clift	(American Dept. F.O.)
Miss Pestell	(European Dept. F.O.)
Miss Gutteridge	(Legal Dept. F.O.)
and Mr. Farran and myself.	

The discussion was limited to the question of definition of the area to be covered by the licence.

We were all agreed that it was important that, even at the exploration stage, the area should be fully defined and that an attempt should be made to draw the lines of boundaries of the continental shelf in accordance with the principles set out in the International Law Commission's draft articles.

(see para. 5 of No. 4.)

Cdr. Kennedy then explained that he was in considerable difficulty because of the absence of reliable and up-to-date charts of the area. He had, by reference to the material available, produced four differing lines at both ends none of which was unassailable. In these circumstances the Foreign Office, not unnaturally pressed for the definition of an area that would be unquestionably well within any boundaries that could ultimately be agreed upon. I was able to resist this and we eventually got down to discussing which of Cdr. Kennedy's lines should be adopted for the present purpose and we reached agreement that lines based on the American chart of the Venezuelan coast and on the Netherlands chart of the Guianan coast were preferable. We agreed that this should be put to British Guiana and that we should follow this up with an early approach to H.M. Representatives at Caracas and The Hague in the hope that negotiations on the boundaries could be started up soon.

The Foreign Office made a final effort to get us to retreat some distance behind the suggested lines for caution's sake, but eventually gave way.

I then drafted the manuscript portion of the draft telegram opposite and secured the agreement of all present to its terms.

I agree with the earlier part of the draft (which was not before the meeting) subject to the small modifications indicated.

Reintro. quickly to watch the exchange control point.

(Sgd.) E. W. A. Scarlett  
27th Jun

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