International Boundary Study

No. 146 – November 18, 1974

Burkina Faso *(Upper Volta)* – Niger Boundary

(Country Codes: UV-NG)

The Geographer
Office of the Geographer
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

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BURKINA FASO (UPPER VOLTA) - NIGER BOUNDARY

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I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Niger - Upper Volta boundary is approximately 390 miles long and is undemarcated by pillars. From the tripoint with Mali near the 15th parallel north, the line extends southeastward to the Dahomey tripoint on the Mekrou river. The boundary follows straight-line segments primarily, with several short distances along rivers.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By a French decree of March 1, 1919, the colony of Upper Volta was constituted by detaching districts from the colony of Upper Senegal and Niger, which was renamed French Sudan the following year. In 1922 the territory of Niger was given full status as a colony. Early in 1927, the district of Say, except for the *canton* of Gourmantche-Botou, was transferred from Upper Volta to Niger. An arrete of August 31, 1927, delimited a boundary between Niger and Upper Volta which was modified by an erratum of October 5, 1927.

The colony of Upper Volta was abolished on September 5, 1932, and divided among the colonies of Ivory Coast, French Sudan, and Niger. The districts of Fada and most of Dori (excluding the *canton* of Aribinda) were added to Niger.

Niger was made an overseas territory in 1946, became an autonomous republic within the French Community in 1958, and was granted independence from France on August 3, 1960.

A protocol of agreement on their common boundary was signed by officials of the governments of Niger and Upper Volta at Niamey on June 23, 1964:

> The Parties agree to consider as source document in establishing the boundary General Arrete No. 2336 of August 31, 1927, clarified by the erratum thereto, No. 2602 APA of October 5, 1927, and the map at the scale of 1:200,000 of the Institut Geographique National of Paris.

> A joint commission of no more than 10 members, which shall necessarily include the district administrators concerned shall begin the work of marking the boundary in mid-November 1964 starting with the disputed points, namely the Tera - Dori boundary.[1]

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[1] Available information does not indicate the status of the commission or the demarcation provided for in the protocol of agreement.

III. ALIGNMENT

Southward from the Mali tripoint at about 14° 59' 30" N. and 0° 13' 30" E., the Niger - Upper Volta boundary is delimited as follows by the erratum of October 5, 1927, which clarified the boundary arrete of November 31, 1927:

A line starting from the N'Gouna heights, passing to the Kabia ford (astronomic point), to Mount Arounskoye, to Mount Baleganguia, west of the ruins of the village to Tokebangou, to Mount Doumafende, and to the astronomic boundary mark of Tong-Tong; this line then curves south - east to cut across the road from Tera to Dori at the astronomic boundary mark of Tao situated west of the Ossolo pond, as far as the Sirba River at Bossebangou. It almost immediately turns to the northwest leaving in Niger, on the left bank of that river, a projection including the villages of Alfassi, Kouro, Tokalan, and Tankouro; then returning south, it again cuts across the Sirba at the level of the Say parallel.

From that point the boundary, following an east - southeast direction, continues in a straight line to a point situated 1,200 meters west of the village of Tchenguiliba.

From that point it runs in a straight, generally south - southwest north - northwest line; it passes approximately two kilometers from the village of Birniouoli and ends approximately two kilometers south of the village of Vendou Mama at the peak of the northernmost spur of the Senri-Djouri (Gourma) massif or Mountain of Jackals.

Turning next from west to east, it passes one kilometer south of Mount Tambado Djonga, follows the course of the Dantiabonga backwater, passes south of Dantiandou, runs along the Yoga Djonga mountains up to the junction of the Dantiabouga and Diamongou backwaters, along the latter up to the junction of the Dialongou and Boulefonou backwaters approximately five kilometers north of the latter village.

From that point the boundary follows the ridgeline of the Djoapionga mountains up to the source of the Boulefonou back-water, reascends the north slope of the Tounga and Djoaga massif and ends at the point known as Niobo-Farou (cayman pond), a sort of broad basin that the road from Botou to Fombonou crosses in the dry season.

Next it follows the east ridgeline of the Tounga-Djoago massif and then runs towards the Tapoa following a precise north - south direction. It passes approximately five kilometers east of the village of Kogori and reaches the Tapoa approximately four kilometers south of the aforesaid village.

It then runs along the course of the Tapoa up to a point where it meets the former boundary between the Districts of Fada and Say, which it follows to its intersection with the course of the Mekrou.

The tripoint with Dahomey is located on the Mekrou at about latitude 11° 54' 15" N.

MAPS

Carte de l'Afrique de l'Ouest au 1/200,000: Institut Geographique National (French); 1960 - 9; sheets north to south ND-31-XIII (Tera), ND-31-VII (Sebba), ND-31-VIII (Gotheye), ND-31-II (Diapaga), ND-31-III (Kirtachi), and NC-31-XXI (Kandi).

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).