

**INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

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**LAND AND MARITIME DELIMITATION AND SOVEREIGNTY  
OVER ISLANDS**

**(GABON/EQUATORIAL GUINEA)**

**MEMORIAL OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

**VOLUME IV**

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5 October 2021



## VOLUME IV

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**Annex 47**

Kingdom of Spain, Ministry of State, *Letter of Spanish Citizenship Given to the Inhabitants of Corisco, Elobey and their Dependencies* (18 February 1846)



**TRANSLATION**

MINISTRY OF STATE.

Copy D

SECTION: Political

[By hand]

Charter  
of  
Spanish Citizenship

Given to the inhabitants of Corisco, Elobey and  
dependencies by the Consul Mr. Adolfo  
Guillemar de Aragón, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
1846

I, Mr. Adolfo Guillemar de Aragón, Knight of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Carlos III, Council of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain and her Secretary, Special Consul of Spain for the Western Coast of Africa, Judge and Arbitrator on the Mixed Tribunal constituted in Sierra Leone, Inspector General of the Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea.

\_\_\_\_\_

Whereas in 1843 the deceased King of Corisco Island asked Mr. Juan José de Lerena, Royal Commissioner sent by Her Majesty

## TRANSLATION

to the Coast of Africa, for a Charter of Spanish Citizenship for himself and his people, which was granted to him and has been presented to me;

In virtue of a solemn act that took place today, February 18, in the village of Boncoro, in which the current King, on behalf of his people ceded, in absolute, that island to Her Majesty and to her descendants—as affirmed by the current King on behalf of his people, as affirmed in the formalized document in his and my possession and the oath of obedience and loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, with the agreement of all the inhabitants of Corisco—which he and his gathered chiefs have presented to me. Therefore, its inhabitants are Spaniards, not only by the special grace granted in 1843 by Mr. Juan José de Lerena, but also because the Island itself and its dependencies, among which is the island of Elobey, are Spanish, as evidenced in the aforementioned formalized document. I come in the name of Her Majesty to renew that Charter given to the deceased King

**TRANSLATION**

and to grant to the current one and to his people the prerogative title and rights of Spanish citizens under the same terms as those enjoyed by the inhabitants of Spanish colonies and by virtue of Articles 1 and 2 of the Constitution that governs in the Monarchy. Children who have been or will be born in Corisco or its dependencies, of a father or mother born on the aforementioned islands, shall be recognized as Spaniards.

In their dealings with them from this point forward, foreign nations should bear in mind that the inhabitants of Corisco and dependencies enjoy the same protection as Spanish residents of the motherland; and on the basis of today's act, those inhabitants should be respected as Spaniards now that the same territory is part of the Nation; Foreign nations should consider them, for all titles, as Spanish citizens; treat them as men who are under the protection of the Motherland and the laws of men; and consider,

## TRANSLATION

above all, that violation of Corisco Island's territory or any attempt against its inhabitants, no matter the pretext, must be considered as a most grave insult against the Spanish nation.

While it is true that, at this very moment, neither the island nor its inhabitants are yet governed by the authorities sent by the national Government to which they now belong, they do not lose the prestige and high consideration they merit, given that the Spanish flag flies, with authorization, in the chiefs' dwellings and that one and all under its shadow must always remain free from any injury, no matter how slight.

Given in the Bay of [illegible] of the Island of Corisco on board the Spanish Corvette warship "Venus" on February 18 of 1846. - Adolfo Guillemar de Aragón -  
Copy - Signed - Recorded -

True and faithful copy



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/13/21

Date







MINISTERIO DE ESTADO.

SECCION politica

Copia D.

Carta  
de  
Nacionalidad Española  
dada á los habitantes de Gorisco, Gobej, y sus  
dependencias por el Cónsul Don Adolfo  
Guillemas de Aragon, en 18 de Febrero  
de 1846.

Yo Don Adolfo Guillemas de Aragon, Caballero  
de la Real y distinguida Orden de Carlos III,  
del Consejo de S. M. la Reina de las Españas  
y Su Secretario, Cónsul especial de España  
en la Costa Occidental de África, hez y  
arbitrio en el Tribunal Unido establecido en  
Sierra Leona, Inspector general de las posesiones  
españolas en el golfo de Guinea De O.

Por cuanto el Rey difunto de la Real de  
Gorisco pidió en 1843 al Sr. Don Juan José de  
Lerma, Comisionado Regio mandado por S. M.

en la Costa de Africa, una Carta de Nacionalidad Española para él y sus pueblos, la cual le fue concedida y me ha sido presentada: \_\_\_\_\_

En virtud de un acto solemne pasado hoy 18 de febrero en el pueblo de Boncoro, por el cual la cesion absoluta del territorio de dicha Isla ha sido hecha a S. M. C. y a sus descendientes, por el actual Rey, en nombre de sus pueblos, como consta por el actual Rey en nombre de sus pueblos, como consta por el auto que obra en su poder y en el cual, y del juramento de obediencia y fidelidad que él y sus hijos muridos han prestado en mis manos a S. M. la Reina de España con ausencia de todos los habitantes de Boncoro. \_\_\_\_\_

Por cuanto que sus moradores son Españoles, no solamente por gracia especial concedida en 1513 por el Sr. Don Juan José de Cerrea sino que la Isla misma y sus dependencias en las cuales se halla la isleta de Obey, es Española como consta del auto anteriormente citado, en nombre de S. M. C. vengo en renovar la carta dada al difunto Rey,

y en conceder al actual y á sus pueblos el título prerrogativas y derechos de ciudadanos españoles bajo el mismo pie de los suplicantes por los habitantes de las Colonias españolas, y en virtud de los artículos 1.º y 2.º de la Constitución que rige en la monarquía, serán reconocidos como españoles, los hijos nacidos ó que nazcan en Borneo y sus Dependencias, de padre ó madre nacido en las citadas islas.

Las Naciones extranjeras al tratar con ellos en adelante, deberán tener presente que desde luego disfrutaban los habitantes de Borneo y Dependencias de la misma protección que los españoles residentes en la Madre patria, y que si antes del acto de hoy, de han dichos habitantes, ser respetados como tales españoles, ahora que el territorio mismo es parte de la Nación, deberán las Naciones extranjeras considerarlos por todo título como ciudadanos españoles y comportarse con ellos como con unos hombres que están bajo la protección de la Madre patria y del soberano legítimo, y consideren

sobre todo que la violacion del territorio de la Isla de Orosco o' algun atentado con sus habitantes, cualquiera que sea el pretexto, deberian ser considerados como un insulto gravisimo hecho a la nacion española.

Si bien es verdad que en este mismo momento la isla y sus habitantes no quedan todavía regidos por autoridades enviadas por el Gobierno de la Nación a la cual pertenecen, no pierden por eso una gota del prestigio y alta consideracion que merecen, puesto que la bandera española tremola con autorizacion en la morada de los Reyes y que siempre a su sombra una gota de agua quedan ileso de toda injuria por levisima que fuere.

Dado en la bahia del Puerto de Orosco a bordo de la Corbeta de guerra española, "La Venus" a 18 de Enero de 1846. Años Guillelmo de Aragón = Europa = Fernando = Pío.

Esta conforme

**Annex 48**

The Spanish State, Ministry of State, *Letter Reaffirming Spanish Possession of the Island of Corisco* (20 July 1958)



**TRANSLATION**

MINISTRY OF STATE.

Copy E

SECTION: Political

[By hand]

Admiralty - Armaments Directorate - Gulf of Guinea Naval Division - No. 1 - Mr. Carlos Chacon y Michelena, Knight of the Royal and Military Order of San Hermengildo, Captain of the National Armada Frigate, Governor General of the Islands of Fernando Pó, Annobon, Corisco and dependencies and Head of the Gulf of Guinea Naval Division

-

Spaniards have been established on the island of Corisco and its dependencies for many years without any nation disputing their possession and rights. They left due to burning and looting by an English warship without the authorization of its government in 1841; Her Majesty the Queen Isabella II has commissioned me with the fullest extent of her powers to take the most appropriate action regarding this possession. The entire population having shown their loyalty to

### TRANSLATION

Spain, proclaiming Queen Isabella as their ruler, and requesting flags to raise at different points on the island, their wishes were granted.

I declare to Commanders of any nation's warships that may come to this island of Corisco or its dependencies that; for the circumstances described and in the name of Queen Isabella II; I declare them Spanish Islands, an integral part of the Monarchy. The display of any other nation's flag on them is prohibited. All their inhabitants and any foreigners who trade on them are subject and bound by the current laws governing the Spanish colonies and those that the Parliament of the Kingdom may enact in the future.

Given on board the steamship "Vasco Nuñez de Balboa" on July 21 of 1858 in the Bay of Corisco.- Carlos Chacon.- I certify that the foregoing document has been drafted in the same terms and is a copy of the Letter of Spanish Citizenship for the Island of Corisco issued on the [illegible]



**TRANSLATION**

of March of 1842 by Mr. Juan José de Lerena, which was signed on this date by the referenced Mr. Carlos Chacon and whose signature is verified as his own. - On board the same [ship], dated as *ut supra*.- Juan Dubvalle - Copy - Signed - Recorded.-True and faithful copy.

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09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



MINISTERIO DE ESTADO.

SECCION *politica*Copia C.

Ministerio de Marina. = Direccion de  
 Armamento. = Division Naval del Golfo de  
 Guinea. = N.º 1.º = D. Carlos Chacon y Michelena,  
 Caballero de la Real y Militar orden de San  
 Hermenegildo, Capitan de Fragata de la Armada  
 nacional, Gobernador general de las Islas de  
 Fernamb. P.º, Annobon, Coisico, y dependencias, y  
 Jefe de la division Naval del Golfo de Guinea. =  
 Por cuanto en la Isla de Coisico y sus dependencias  
 han estado establecidos los españoles desde mucho  
 años sin que ninguna otra Nacion les haya dis-  
 =putado su posesion ni derecho, a consecuencia por ellos  
 en razon del incauto y saqueo efectuado por un  
 buque de guerra ingles sin autorizacion de su  
 Gobierno en el año de 1841. = Y de la Reina  
 D.ª Isabel 2.ª me ha comisionado para que con toda  
 la plenitud de mis facultades hiciese sobre esta  
 posesion lo que fuere mas aceptado. Y habiendo  
 todo el pueblo manifestado su adhesion a la

España, proclamado a la Reina Isabel  
 por su soberanía y solicitando banderas para  
 arbotarlas en diferentes puntos de la Isla,  
 se accedió a sus deseos. - Manifiesto a todos los  
 Comandantes de los buques de guerra de cual-  
 quiera Nación que a esta Isla de Coisaco y  
 sus Dependencias llegasen que por las circuns-  
 tancias expresadas y en nombre de la Reina  
 D<sup>a</sup> Isabel II. las declaro Islas españolas,  
 parte integrante de la Monarquía, sin que  
 se permita arbotar en ellas otro pabellón que  
 el de sus habitantes y los extranjeros que en ellas  
 comercian sujeto y obligados a las leyes vigentes  
 en las Colonias españolas, o a las que las Cortes  
 del Reino se sirvan promulgar en lo sucesivo. -  
 Dado a bordo del vapor Vasco Núñez de  
 Balboa a 23 de Julio de 1858 en la bahía de  
 Coisaco. - Carlos Chacón. Certifico que es docu-  
 mento que antecede esta redactada en los mismos  
 términos y es copia de la carta de nacionalidad  
 española para la Isla de Coisaco expedida en 7.

de Mayo de 1843 por Don Juan José de  
 Lerena la cual ratifica en esta fecha el  
 citado Sr. Don Carlos Ochoa y cuya firma  
 es la suya propia. = F. de B. del mismo,  
 P. de ut supra = Juan Dubuelt. = Ex copias  
 firmadas. = Becenas =

Esta conforme



### **Annex 49**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter No. 367 from the Governor-General of Fernando Póo to the Minister of Overseas Possessions* (2[1] November 1895) (excerpt)





**TRANSLATION**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- OF -

**FERNANDO PÓO**

AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

[Illegible seal]

V-14-96

No. 5

[To] Your Excellency, Minister of the Overseas Possessions

Your Excellency,

No. 367

Reporting on my visit to Corisco Bay and to the Muni, Campo, and Benito Rivers. In accordance with the notice sent to Your Excellency on the fifth day of the current month, on the sixth day of this month I travelled to Corisco Bay in order to visit Corisco Island and the two Elobey Islands, as well as to survey the Muni River and its tributaries, mainly regarding the difficulties

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## TRANSLATION

arising with the Pamue Chief of Punta Mosquitos, and the claims made by France in relation to the Islet that is a dependency of Corisco called Embagna [(Mbañe)].

On the day of my arrival to the mouth of Muni River, the issue with the Pamues was solved after the Chief of Punta Mosquitos handed over the [illegible] that they had taken, without making any demands. Hopefully, these events will not repeat with the same frequency, not so much because of the guarantees given by the Pamues, but because of the presence of a gunboat in those waters.

Regarding France's plan to occupy Embagna, I have not received any news confirming this, apart from the statements made by Corisco fishermen. This circumstance, together with the claims related to the situation in Muni River, about French agents of Gabon impeding trade

**TRANSLATION**

has forced me to send to the Commissioner General of the French Congo a communication which I am sending Your Excellency in letter number 368, refraining from making a complaint since I consider that a complaint would be premature in this case and detrimental since the facts are not clearly and accurately confirmed.

As soon as I receive a response from the Commissioner General of the French Congo, I will communicate it to Your Excellency.

In my opinion, it is our right to prevent France's occupation of Embagna, based on our possession of it since time immemorial as well as based on the fact that such an occupation would constitute a clear violation of the status quo in the event that Embagna could be considered included in the disputed territory, which cannot be permitted.

The French intervention

## TRANSLATION

exercised by French agents in NDombo, to the detriment of trade in Muni River, and especially affecting the merchants' associations that pay us a certain annual amount for [illegible] protection, would constitute, in the event that the complaints that I have received were true, a violation to the status quo for the sole reason that the claim was made after the date of the agreement.

Having explained to Your Excellency the status of the issues leading to my trip to Corisco Bay, I will now expose the impressions that I have received during my visit about the political situation and the situation of Spain in Muni River and the disputed territory.

From Santa Clara Cape to Campo River, we can find the coast, and territories between its parallels, over which

**TRANSLATION**

to Gabon, it would be difficult to successfully interpret the wishes of the Government in line with the factual situation.

I believe, Your Excellency, that I have faithfully translated in this long document our current situation in the disputed territories, and at the same time I have exposed the measures that I consider necessary for the preservation of our influence in Africa.

Undoubtedly, my lack

**TRANSLATION**

of experience in entries, which are absolutely new for me, will lead Your Excellency to find major deficiencies in this work, however it was elaborated with the exclusive purpose of bringing Your Excellency the news that I consider useful and that may serve as a basis for His Majesty's Government to make any decisions as may be considered appropriate.

May God

**TRANSLATION**

bles Your Excellency with many years. Santa Isabel, November 21, 1895.

Your Excellency,

[Signature]

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Water Street Translations, LLC

09/14/21

Date





68301 @ 2A-567-95

GOBIERNO GENERAL

- DE -

FERNANDO FOO

Y SUS DEPENDENCIAS



V- 14-96-

Nº 5

5/11/96  
30005

Excmo Señor

N.º 367

Conforme con lo manifiesto  
 Dando cuenta de la visita hecha a V.B. en comuni-  
 ta girada a la Bahía de Coris de cinco del comen-  
 del Corisco y Rio. Muni- te, sali el seis de esta  
 campo y Venito para la Bahía de Coris  
 lo con objeto de girar  
 visita a la Isla del  
 mismo nombre, y a las de  
 los dos Lobos, al mismo  
 tiempo que para reconocer  
 el Muni y sus afluentes,  
 enterandome persona a  
 cuenta de las dificultades

buena, no tanto por la  
seguridad dada por los  
Pamuy sino por la presen-  
cia de una importante pro-  
piedad de un lago en su  
aguellos aguas.

Respecto al proyecto de ocu-  
pación de Embogua por  
los Franceses no he podido  
adquirir noticia alguna  
que concierne al caso, apo-  
ste de las afirmaciones de  
los Señores de Coripio, si-  
curtancia que me he a-  
las reclamaciones de los  
factores establecidos en el  
Muni, sobre algunas  
por puntos al Comarca.

surgida con un jefe Pa-  
muy de Punta Morqui-  
to, y de las pretensiones de  
los Franceses sobre el lago  
de dependencia de Coripio  
llamado Embogua.

El mismo día de mi lle-  
gada a la boca del Muni  
quedo rayado el asunto de  
los Pamuy, por haber entre-  
gado el jefe de Punta  
Morquitos de Mellana que  
habian apresado, un la-  
marco escarpado de una  
te, y es de esperar que estos  
hechos no se repitan con  
la frecuencia que hasta

GOBIERNO GENERAL  
— DK —  
**FERNANDO FÓO**  
Y SUS DEPENDENCIAS

por los agentes franceses  
del Gabon, me ha obli-  
gado a dirigir al Comisario  
General del Congo frances  
la comunicacion de que  
day trabado a UG enc-  
arta numero 368 abite  
incumbens de protesta que  
considero prematura en  
este caso y contraprodu-  
cente siempre que los  
hechos no esten defini-  
dos de manera clara y  
precisa.

Gran pronto tengo res-  
puesta del Comisario Gene-  
ral del Congo frances me  
ha procurare a desaylo

a conocimiento de UG.  
En mi concepto habien-  
tando bien, por asiste un  
perfecto derecho ha impu-  
dir la ocupacion de por  
bagna por los franceses, tan-  
to por el de posesion de  
de tiempo inmemorial,  
como porque tal ocupa-  
cion constituiria una  
manifiesta impacion del  
Estado que atan en el caso  
de que pudiera consideras-  
se a Ambagua como un  
dolo en el territorio en  
litigio vicinanzas que  
no puede admitirse.  
La intervencion francesa

agencia por los agentes  
 y el personal del punto de  
 control en el aeropuerto  
 del Comercio del Muni  
 y a una mas especial-  
 mente en perjuicio de  
 las Casas o Factorías que  
 por abonos determinaba  
 cantidad anual por de-  
 cho de protección, con-  
 tituía, caso de resultar  
 cientos los quejas que se  
 me han dirigido una  
 impresión al Muni, que  
 por el solo hecho de haberse  
 manifestado la protesta  
 con posterioridad  
 a la fecha en que fue

partado.

Dada cuenta a U. E. 2101  
 estado en que se encuen-  
 tran los asuntos que  
 afeccionaron mi viaje a  
 La Bahía de Porico, para  
 a exponer las impresio-  
 nes que he recibido duran-  
 te mi visita sobre el  
 estado Político y situación  
 de España en el Muni  
 y territorio en litigio.  
 Desde el falo de Santa  
 Clara al Rio Campo se  
 entiende el toro de  
 corte sobre el cual y temi-  
 toros comprendidos entre

dad al Gabon sería difícil interpretar con acierto los deseos del Gobierno armonizándolos con una situación creada por los hechos.

Creo como Señor haber traducido fielmente en este ya largo escrito, nuestra actual situación en los territorios en litigio, y haber al mismo tiempo expuesto las medidas que estimo necesarias para la conservación de nuestra influencia en África.

Seguramente mi falta

GOBIERNO GENERAL  
— DE —  
**FERNANDO PÓO**  
Y SUS DEPENDENCIAS

de competencia en asuntos, nuevos en absoluto — para mí hara que V. E. encuentre grandes deficiencias en este trabajo, — pero para el todo me he inspirado en el deseo de dar a V. E. las noticias que considero útiles y que podran servir para que el Gobierno de su Magestad resuelva lo que conii dese mas oportuno.

Dios

Guarde a Vc. misivas  
años. Santa Fe del  
21 Noviembre 1895

Excmo Señor

Reyes de España

Excmo Señor Ministro de Ultramar





**Annex 50**

*Letter No. 368 from the Spanish Governor-General of Fernando Póo to the Commissioner-General of the French Congo (22 November 1895)*



## TRANSLATION

[Illegible handwriting in top margin]

General Government of Fernando Póo and its Dependencies

[Illegible stamp]

No. 368

30001

[Annotation in left margin:] Reporting that [illegible] Corisco Bay and the Muni, Campo and Benito Rivers, he received several complaints from Corisco fishermen; and forwarding the letter addressed to the Commissioner of the French Congo.

Your Excellency,

During my tour of Elobey, Corisco and the other locations I visited, I was met with complaints from several inhabitants of that territory in connection with the conduct of French authorities. Hence, on November 15, I posted the following letter to the Commissioner of the French Congo:

“His Excellency, the General Commissioner of the French Congo. = Your Excellency, Upon my arrival in Corisco Bay, I have received a number of complaints from merchants who transport their goods along the shore and mouth of the Muni river, and throughout the territory extending from Cape Santa Clara to the Campo River, whose sovereignty, as has been agreed, is the subject of a dispute between our nations. = Specifically, Mr. General Commissioner, such complaints indicate that agents of the French government have been blocking the passage of indigenous vessels traveling along the coast towards the Muni River, a practice that has also been used by Agents of the post at [illegible] with those traveling by land, in some cases going as far as to detain said goods and even take the same and their owners to Gabon. I would have no objections to such conduct if the goods that have been detained and even seized were among those included and set forth in the Brussels Conference and, as such, were the subject of illegal transportation, which the Agents of said government and mine are under a duty to prevent, in accordance with the commitments they have undertaken; however, if they are actually legitimate commercial goods, then allow me to say, Your Excellency, that I find it strange that French agents are engaging in a conduct that amounts to an absolute assertion of sovereignty over a territory to which, as long as this matter remains unresolved, France and Spain hold an equal claim. And this recent exercise of a pretended authority to block traffic appears even stranger in light of the fact that it has taken place following the status quo — that is, since last year.

Furthermore, the fishermen from Corisco have brought to my attention that, upon traveling to the [illegible] islet, located 6 miles southeast of Corisco Island, to conduct their fishing activity, they were ordered to leave by a French agent because France intends to establish a new post at that location.

Since Corisco belongs to Spain, [illegible] is a dependency attached thereto. And while it cannot be conclusively established that the inhabitants of Corisco have a permanent residence in that area, there is no question that the use they have been making of it since time immemorial amounts to a right of possession. And this is a right that Spain cannot

## TRANSLATION

relinquish, let alone acquiesce to its being supplanted by a French agent's occupation, which would constitute a violation of the status quo.

Such are, Your Excellency, the complaints I have received from those who find their interests have been negatively affected by the French agents' conduct. However, in case that such reports have been misinterpreted by individuals who might benefit from distorting the facts, I beg Your Excellency to advise me of the instructions that the Agents of said government have with regard to the obstruction of traffic in the aforesaid territory, and the purported occupation of [illegible], as I am confident that, unless there is a clear contradiction or that Your Excellency has, in my view, misjudged the question of who has a better claim, no words can be more valuable and worthy of respect to me in regard to this matter than those truthfully uttered by the General Commissioner of the French Congo. For this reason, I look forward to receiving any reports that Your Excellency may be willing to provide me with before I report to my Government on this matter.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration".=

It is with great honor that I present the above letter to Your Excellency's superior consideration.

God bless Your Excellency.

St. Elizabeth, November 22, 1895

His Excellency

[Illegible signature]

His Excellency, the Minister of Overseas Territories



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21

---

Date





1830/ @-211-569-95

GOBIERNO GENERAL  
DE  
FERNANDO PÓO  
Y SUS DEPENDENCIAS

V-14-96  
110-41



N. 368

30001

Excmo Señor

Dando cuenta que la visita  
 guada a la Bahía de  
 Corisco y Rio Muni, Cam-  
 Globey Corisco y demas pun-  
 to y Puerto, se le han pre-  
 sentado varias quejas por  
 pescadores de Corisco, y tras  
 dando la cuenta de lo que al  
 Comisario del buque fran-  
 ces

Al girar la visita á  
 los recorridos se me han  
 dado distintas quejas por  
 varios habitantes de aquel  
 territorio del proceder de  
 las autoridades Francesas,  
 lo que ha dado ocasion  
 á que con fecha quince

de Noviembre dirija al  
 Sr. Comisario del Congo  
 Si raras la siguiente con-  
 ta:  
 " Excmo Señor Comisa-  
 rio General del Congo  
 Frances. = Excmo Señor.  
 A mi llegada a la Ba-  
 hía de Corisco recibí que-  
 ras de diferentes Fac-  
 tores de los que ejercen  
 su tráfico tanto sobre las  
 villas y desembocadura  
 del Muni, como sobre todo  
 el territorio cuya Sobera-  
 nía se ha convenido  
 encontrarse en litigio

entre nosotros respecti-  
 vas Naciones y que se  
 extiende desde el cabo  
 de Santa Clara al río  
 Campo. = Concretamente  
 el Comisario General  
 las quejas a que me re-  
 fiere a que por los Agen-  
 tes del Gobierno Frances  
 se impide el paso a las  
 embarcaciones indígenas  
 que corren la costa en  
 dirección al estero, pro-  
 cedimiento que tam-  
 bien emplean con los  
 que viajan por tierra  
 los Agentes del puerto



GOBIERNO GENERAL  
— DE —  
**FERNANDO PÓO**  
Y SUS DEPENDENCIAS

el que tanto los Agentes de ese Gobierno como los del mio estan en el deber de impedir? segun los compromisos contratados; pero si se tratase solo de mercancías de licito comercio ha de permitirme V. B. que me extrene un procedimiento que por parte de los Agentes Franceses implica pretension absoluta de la Soberanía sobre un territorio al que mientras no se resuelva en definitivo, tienen igual derecho Francia y España

M. Dumbo, habiendote llegado en determinadas cosas a intervenir las mercaderías y aun conducir estas y sus mercancías al Gabon. Nada tendria que objetar a este procedimiento si las mercancías intervinieras y aun embargadas fuesen de las compradas y señaladas en la Conferencia de Bruecelas y que por consiguiente constituyen trafico francobritánico

siendo tanto más de esta-  
 tar esta nueva preten-  
 sion de impedir el tráfico,  
 la circunstancia de ha-  
 berse manifestado con pro-  
 piedad al Estado que  
 o sea desde el año último

Por otra parte me me-  
 mifican los pescadores  
 de Gorisco el hecho de  
 que al ir a efectuar  
 faenas de su profesion  
 en el Hotel de Embogna  
 situado a seis millas al N.E.  
 de la dicha Isla de Goris-  
 co, se les ha intimado por  
 un Agente Frances la

orden de abandonarlo, por  
 que Francia va a esta-  
 blecer un nuevo puerto en  
 aquel punto.

Desde que Gorisco por-  
 tenece a España, viene  
 Embogna siendo una de-  
 pendencia anexa a ella,  
 en la cual si bien no pue-  
 de establecerse de manera  
 terminante que los Goriscos  
 tengan habitaciones perma-  
 nentes, es indudable que  
 el uso hecho de ella desde  
 tiempo inmemorial, cons-  
 tituye un derecho de posesion,  
 derecho al que no

GOBIERNO GENERAL  
— DE —  
**FERNANDO FÓC**  
Y SUS DEPENDENCIAS

3.  
pueda España renunciar  
y mejor aún admitir  
que sea sustituido por la  
ocupación de un Ege-  
te Francés, circunstancia  
cia que constituirá  
una infracción del  
Statu-quo pactado.  
Cotas don Secmo. Senor  
las quejas que se medán  
por aquellos que se comi-  
dan perjudicados en  
sus intereses por los pro-  
cedimientos de los Ege-  
tes Franceses, mas como  
quiera que pudiera ha-  
berse dado a estas de-

nuncias, toda inter-  
pretación por individuos  
a quienes conviniere des-  
figurar los hechos, me-  
do a 488 se dirra, ma-  
nifestarme cuales son  
las instrucciones que to-  
bre oponerse al tráfico  
en el Territorio que señ  
lo, tienen los Egentes  
de ese Gobierno así como  
sobre la pretendida ou-  
sación de Embargo, en  
la seguridad de que a  
no ser por manifiesta  
contradición o en mi  
concepto error de apreñ

cion de V. E. en succion  
 de mejor derecho, para  
 mi no puede haber aser-  
 vacion de mas valor  
 y respeto sobre estos asun-  
 tos que la que legalmente  
 procede de la ley del  
 Comisario General Fran-  
 ces de Gabon y es por esto  
 por lo que expreso antes  
 de dar cuenta a mi  
 Gobierno de este asunto,  
 los informes que V. E. de-  
 sirva comunicarme.

Recibo a V. E. acpte  
 la expresion de mis ten-  
 timientos los mas oby-

Tinguidos. =  
 lo que tengo el honor  
 de llevar al superior co-  
 nocimiento de V. E.

Dios que a V. E. m. d. d.  
 Ha habido 22 Nov de 1895-

Atento Señor

Indonee undapung

Excmo Señor Ministro de Ultramar

## **Annex 51**

*Letter No. 203 from the Commissioner-General of the Colonial Administration of The French Republic to the Governor-General of Fernando Póo and Dependencies of The Kingdom of Spain*  
(4 February 1896)



## TRANSLATION

-- Copy --

Libreville, February 4, 1896

	The Government Commissioner General
No. 203	To His Excellency the Governor General of Fernando Po
x	& Dependencies

Dear Governor,

I have the honor of confirming to Your Excellency receipt of his letter dated November 5, 1895. Since our governments ceased measures with a view to settling our dispute in the Gulf of Guinea, I am no longer qualified to deal with Your Excellency on matters of law. I will therefore respond to his letter by keeping to the facts.

The information that it mentions regarding establishing a post on an islet located 6 miles to the SE of Corisco is unfounded.

Regarding the arrests of persons travelling the Muni River either by land or by water, I have the honor of informing Your Excellency that no incident of this type has been brought to my attention, and that Colony agents are still instructed to maintain the status quo on the Muni River.

But Your Excellency's letter seems to incidentally inquire as to the customs regime in force on the coast south of this river's mouth and the Customs agents' surveillance to that effect.

In 1873 France's action in these territories, which since 1842 it has considered an integral part of the colony of Gabon, took on the continuous character that it has today. This was a result of having established the Mondah customs post,

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## TRANSLATION

where agents, since then, have ensured duty collection and fraud prevention.

Near 1891 this action, exercised in a continuous and uninterrupted manner since the aforementioned era, became the object of claims from your predecessors that the colonial authority could not take into account.

Should the information in Your Excellency's letter concern, not the status quo applied to the Muni River, but the *de facto* situation existing since 1873 on the part of the coast south of this river's mouth, I cannot, any more than my predecessors, pursue these claims. Solely the cabinet in Paris may be seized for claims of this nature.

In responding to Your Excellency with the candor that he will always find in me, I send my wishes for a prompt resolution of a dispute that, in this part of the Gulf of Guinea, has caused a halt in civilization work undertaken in Africa by the signatory powers of the Berlin Act.

I ask Your Excellency to accept my best ..... etc.

Signed: P. S. de Brazza

Certified copy:

The Colonial Administration  
Head of The Government Secretariat  
[signature]

[stamp:]  
FRENCH REPUBLIC  
COLONY OF FRENCH CONGO  
THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL  
OF THE GOVERNMENT

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---

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09/09/21

---

Date





Libreville, le 4 février 1896

*Copie*

N° 203

*X*

Le Commissaire Général du Gouvernement  
 A Son Excellence le Gouverneur Général de Fernando Po  
 & Dépendances

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception à votre Excellence de sa lettre en date du 5 Novembre 1895.

Depuis que nos gouvernements ont arrêté des mesures en vue du règlement de notre différend dans le Golfe de Guinée, je n'ai plus qualité pour traiter avec Votre Excellence de questions de droit. Je répondrai donc à sa lettre en me tenant uniquement dans le domaine des faits.

Les informations qu'elle mentionne au sujet de l'établissement d'un poste sur un îlot situé à 6 milles au S. E. de Corisco sont dénuées de fondement.

En ce qui concerne des arrestations qui auraient été opérées sur des personnes se rendant soit par terre, soit par eau dans la rivière Abouy, j'ai l'honneur d'informer Votre Excellence qu'aucun incident de ce genre n'a été porté à ma connaissance, & que rien n'a été modifié dans les instructions qui prescrivent aux agents de la Colonie le maintien du statu quo dans la rivière Abouy.

Mais la lettre de V. E. me paraît soulever incidemment la question du régime douanier en vigueur sur la côte qui s'étend au sud de l'embouchure de cette rivière, & la surveillance exercée à cet effet par les agents du service des Douanes.

L'action de la France sur ces territoires qu'elle considère depuis 1842 comme faisant partie intégrante de la colonie du Gabon, & pris en 1873 le caractère de stabilité qu'elle a aujourd'hui, à la suite de la fondation du poste

de douanes de Mondak, dont relèvent les agents qui depuis cette époque assurent la perception des droits & la répression de la fraude.

Cette action, exercée d'une manière permanente & ininterrompue depuis l'époque précitée, a fait, vers 1891, de la part de vos prédécesseurs, l'objet de réclamations dont il a été impossible à l'autorité coloniale de tenir compte.

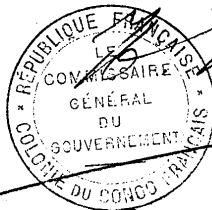
Au cas où les informations contenues dans la lettre de votre Excellence viseraient être statu quo appliqué à la rivière Nouny, mais l'état de choses existant en fait depuis 1873 sur la partie de la Côte qui s'étend au Sud de l'embouchure de cette rivière, je ne pourrais pas plus que mes prédécesseurs, donner suite à ces réclamations, le Cabinet de Paris ayant seul qualité pour être saisi de réclamations de cette nature.

En répondant à votre Excellence avec la franchise qu'elle rencontrera toujours en moi, je fais des vœux pour la prompt solution d'un différend qui est dans cette partie du Golfe de Guinée, une cause d'arrêt de l'œuvre de civilisation entreprise en Afrique par les puissances signataires de l'acte de Berlin.

Je prie votre Excellence d'agréer . . . . .

Signé: P. L. de Brazza

Pour Copie Conforme:  
L'Administrateur Colonial  
Chef du Secrétariat du Gouvernement



**Annex 52**

Kingdom of Spain, Ministry of Overseas, *Visit from the Governor-General of Elobey* (1897)  
(excerpt)



**TRANSLATION**

V 19

35  
YEAR 1895

MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS

Sub secretariat

Department 2  
Fernando Póo

SUBJECT  
The Governor-General's Visit to Elobey.

No. 34

1897 No. 36  
GUINEA  
804  
17

[Stamp: Corps of Archivists, Librarians and Archaeologists  
CENTRAL ARCHIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS]

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**TRANSLATION**

MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS  
POSSESSIONS  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
Department 3  
Fernando Póo

*[illegible]*. The Governor-General of Fernando Póo, in official letter No. 353, dated November 5<sup>th</sup> of last year announces his departure to Elobey in the gunboat in order to restrain the *[illegible]* Mosquito *[illegible]*, whose vessel was flying our flag and to prevent the French from Gabon from violating the Status Quo, from setting foot on the islet of Mbañe, if it appears that they intend to.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/13/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





V 1A 35

V. 14-93

AÑO DE 1895

# MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR

Subsecretaria

NEGOCIADO 2o

Fernando P. de

ASUNTO

Visita del gobernador general  
a Lobey

5)

Nº 34



1897 nº 36

GUINEA  
804  
17

## MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR

SUBSECRETARIA

Negociado 472

Re. 1-x-e-1-170-17 •

N.º 1. El Gobernador General  
 de Fernando Pó en carta  
 Oficial número 353, fecha  
 5 de Noviembre p.º p.º,  
 anuncia su salida pa-  
 ra Llobey, en el cano-  
 no con objeto de reprí-  
 mir los desmanes de  
 los Países de Punta Mor-  
 quito que han apresa-  
 do una ballenera de  
 la factoría Woermann,  
 cuya embarcación es-  
 talaba nuestra bande-  
 ra, e impedir que los  
 franceses del Gabon,  
 infringiendo el statu-  
 quo pongan el pie, se-  
 que parece se propo-  
 nen hacerlo, en el  
 islote Albane, que se

### **Annex 53**

Kingdom of Spain, *Negotiations with France to Sign a Border Treaty Between the Spanish and French Possessions on the West Coast of Africa, 1899-1900* No. 2 Report by the Political Section in Regard to the Foregoing Royal Order (22 November 1899) (excerpt)



TRANSLATION

2  
59811

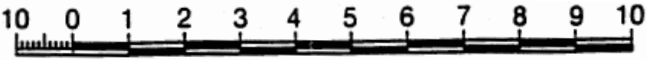
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**GRAPHIC SCALE**



SPA 3806\_T

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**TRANSLATION**  
**DOCUMENTS**  
SUBMITTED  
**TO THE COURTS**  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF 1900  
BY  
THE MINISTER OF STATE  
(THE MARQUIS OF AGUILAR DE CAMPÓO)

[Coat of Arms]

MADRID  
EST. TIPOGRÁFICO "SUCESORES DE RIVADENEYRA"  
PRINTERS TO THE ROYAL PALACE  
Paseo de San Vicente, No. 20

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1900

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**TRANSLATION**

NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE

TO SIGN A

**BORDER TREATY**

BETWEEN THE SPANISH AND FRENCH POSSESSIONS

ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA

[seal]

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

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## TRANSLATION

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“I know that Your Honor is aware of our situation in the territories that are included in the status quo, and that you lament it as deeply as I, due to our lack of means to prevent this, and I hope Your Honor will forgive my expressions as a reflection of patriotism and the good wishes that you may guide me.

“In having the honor of forwarding to Your Excellency the above correspondence, I believe it is my duty to add that I find these acts contrary to the status quo agreed upon with the French Republic for the territories in dispute in the Muni, but I lack the forces to resist the invasions of the *chefs de poste*, since I lack even a warship to travel upon in order to learn personally of these events. I also feel that it is unquestionably essential to guarantee the interests of the foreign traders established in Elobey, who each pay one thousand pesos per year in tribute to the State; moreover, since the circumstances that our Nation is going through are not suitable for making pledges, it is urgent to craft an arrangement that registers whatever our neighbors leave us, and firmly establish the sovereignty of Spain to emerge from the violent situation we are experiencing in these territories. However, Your Excellency, in exercise of your worthy judgment and knowledge of the political tendencies of His Majesty’s Government, you will be better placed to assess these incidents and order what needs to be done for this and other analogous cases that may arise henceforth.”

By royal order, as transmitted by His Excellency the President of the Council, I am honored to inform Your Excellency of the foregoing for all pertinent effects.

God, etc.

(Signed.) THE MARQUIS OF CASA LAIGLESIA.

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**No. 2**

REPORT BY THE POLITICAL SECTION  
IN REGARD TO THE FOREGOING ROYAL ORDER

November 22, 1899.

Your Excellency:

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers has recently forwarded to this Ministry correspondence wherein the Governor General of Fernando Póo includes a copy of the protest made by the Vice Governor of Elobey to the Commissioner of the French Congo last August 6.

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That protest made reference to several violations of the status quo and of the treaties that were committed or tolerated by the French authorities, consisting of the following:

1. The burning by the French *chef de poste* of the village of Belondo (right bank of the Benito River), whose Chief Moñamo, a Spanish subject, refused to pay the tribute that the aforesaid official imposed upon him in violation of the status quo;

2. The company Sociedad Normanda, established on the Muni, under French protection, is keeping a great number of Senegalese armed with modern rifles, thereby failing to observe Articles 8 and 9 of the Conference of Brussels, which forbid Blacks who do not belong to law enforcement to carry firearms or advanced weaponry;

3. The village of Ibutje was punished by the Commissioner's Office of the French Congo without having given prior notice to the Spanish Vice Government in Elobey.

Those acts are not isolated instances that could be explained by fleeting circumstances or by having occurred for the first time; there is a long list of prior acts which, like these, are rooted in the lack of definition that characterizes the borders between the Spanish and French possessions, in the determination of our neighbors to create material interests and extend their influence in the territories subject to dispute and, above all, in the low regard they show for the status quo that the two powers agreed to maintain until the matter was definitively resolved.

"From Benito to Bata," writes the Vice Governor of Elobey, "and from the Munda and Nelombo to the Muni [rivers], the French are taking one step forward each day: today they set up a customs office, tomorrow a '*poste*', to ensure their influence in the territory while never heeding our just protests. We are losing more ground each day, as well as in the territories, which they afterwards claim were theirs before the status quo; this is for the prestige of our nation, which does not possess adequate forces here to support our claims, or even the means to fly the flag."

Therefore, both the Vice Governor of Elobey and the Governor General of Fernando Póo are alerting the higher levels of the appropriateness of concluding a definitive distribution of the territory, a state of events wherein our rights might not be weakened (because a timely protest undermines claims that an event has been overlooked); but wherein our prestige in those countries is suffering, the moral high ground is compromised in advance, which is the basis of the authority that we may in fact exercise over them in the future and—worse yet—we run the risk that our authorities in Guinea or the French authorities, in disagreement over the interpretation of a specific point, but undoubtedly believing that it is intimately linked to the dignity of their respective nations, let themselves be dragged into an act of conflict, afterwards leaving even more insuperable obstacles to claiming our rights.

In order that Your Excellency may duly appreciate the current situation and the means of remedying it, the Political Section will now set forth the pertinent background.

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*I.— Territories that Spain possesses or claims in the Gulf of Guinea. —Bases for such possession or claim.*

1. The island of Fernando Póo, situated in the Bay of Biafra, across from Mount Cameroon, very close to the coast and the border, and therefore situated between the English colony of Niger and the German colony of Cameroon.

2. The island of Annobon, farther to the south, at a greater distance from the coast and almost across from the river mouth of "Fernand Vaz" (French colony of the Congo).

3. The islands of Corisco, Great Elobey and Little Elobey, in Corisco Bay; these are farther to the north and much closer to land than Annobon. The two Elobeys are precisely at the entrance to the Muni, Mooney or Danger River, an extremely important channel for communications and commerce in those areas.

4. An extension of territory on the continent, bounded on the north by the Campo River and the parallel corresponding to the intersection of that river with meridian 10°; on the east by meridian 17° east of Greenwich (border of the independent state of the Congo); and on the south by Cape Santa Clara and the dividing line between the waters of the Munda and the Gabon.

The size of these possessions amounts to 180,000 kilometers, but we do not exercise effective sovereignty over them, nor does France recognize our right to exercise such sovereignty beyond Fernando Póo, Annobon and Corisco (some 2,100 kilometers total), and a tiny territory on Cape San Juan, surrounded on the north, south and east by lands the French claim as theirs.

The bases invoked by Spain are:

1. The Treaty of El Pardo of March 24, 1778, whereby Portugal, in exchange for the island of Santa Catalina and the colony of Sacramento (both in South America), ceded to Spain the islands of Fernando Póo and Annobon, and the right to engage in commerce in the Gulf of Guinea from Cape Formozo (situated at the mouth of the Niger) to Cape López, which is south of the Gabon River. As Your Excellency must certainly know, that stretch of coast includes not only the territories that are currently claimed by Spain, as set forth above; it includes a portion of the English colony of Niger, the German possession of Cameroon and also a part of the French Congo, all regions that Spain has not claimed because it never took actual possession of them as it did with the others, but to which it actually has a sovereign right by virtue of the aforementioned Treaty.

Indeed, Spain has always interpreted this to mean that, in light of the dominant ideas during the era in which the Treaty was executed, the right conceded by Portugal was equivalent to the right to dispose of those territories. Such an interpretation also finds its basis in the valuable consideration that characterized the transfer, in the stipulations invoked so that, despite the transfer, the Portuguese would continue to be free to engage in the trafficking of the indigenous people, and in the ultimate inadmissibility of the idea that Spain would exchange possessions such as Sacramento and Santa Catalina for islands such as Fernando Póo and Annobon for the mere authority to engage in commerce in a country whose mercantile importance was still unknown.



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2. Its right of occupation. Indeed, shortly after signing the Treaty of El Pardo, Spain took possession of Fernando Póo and Annobon, and later of Corisco, where trading posts were established to engage in trade along the rivers of that bay (principally the Muni and the Munda) and along the Gabon itself, where the French had not yet thought to establish themselves. The exercise of Spanish sovereignty in those regions experienced a few setbacks and interruptions, for example, the abandonment of Fernando Póo and Annobon in 1781 due to the diseases that decimated our military forces; the occupation of the former island by the English in 1827 under the pretext of establishing the joint tribunal to repress the slave trade; and the pillaging and destruction in 1841—also by the English—of the trading posts in Corisco. The last of these acts, and the repudiation of the idea of selling Fernando Póo to England, led to the Spanish Government's decision to send an expedition in 1843 that occupied the islands for good, and to whose chief, Brigadier Larena, several tribes on the continent that depended upon Corisco expressed their desire to be subjects of Spain.

In 1846, 1858, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1864 and 1873, those tribes and others, inhabitants of the Elobeys and of several points along the coast, from the Campo River until Cape Santa Clara, expressed and confirmed a similar wish. Logically, they were accepted, and were awarded legal status by issuing them *letters of nationality* that were confirmed several times over; the indigenous chieftains were rewarded with gifts, pensions and concessions of diverse types; guides were appointed for Corisco and the adjacent rivers along the coast; and Spain did not fail to publicize these acquisitions, either celebrating them in the presence of foreign subjects, or informing of them to those with the most direct interest therein, namely the French authorities in Gabon, or publishing news of these acquisitions in works such as the one by Mr. Navarro (*Apuntes sobre el estado de la costa occidental de Africa y principalmente de las Posesiones españolas en el Golfo de Guinea [Notes on the Status of the West Coast of Africa and Principally of the Spanish Possessions in the Gulf of Guinea]*), an 1859 publication by royal order; and by Mr. Martínez y Sanz (*Breves apuntes de la isla de Fernando Póo [Brief Notes on the Island of Fernando Póo]*) and the *Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica [Bulletin of the Geographical Society]* of Madrid (especially in 1878).

Subsequent to that era, in 1882, Mr. Montes de Oca, Governor of Fernando Póo, undertook an excursion to the interior of the Muni River, receiving from the indigenous people along both banks new expressions of adherence to Spain. Shortly thereafter, an expedition by the Society of Africanists, underwritten by diverse centers and personalities and by the State, came out with the idea of not only visiting the coasts from the Campo River to Cape Santa Clara and penetrating into the interior thereof, but also of annexing more territories to Spain, namely the Isle of Malimba and those situated to the north of the Campo River all the way to old Calabar, in other words, those that make up the German colony of Cameroon. Unfortunately, the Germans had forged ahead with regard to those territories, and had even moved south of the Campo River; the French had also occupied certain points between that river and the area surrounding Cape San Juan, and our explorers directed all their efforts to penetrating and taking possession of the interior, to prevent our neighbors, who were spreading out along the north, east and south of Cape San Juan, to limit our possession to an insignificant slice of the coast.

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Diseases, the lack of material means, obstacles to communications, prevented the explorers from fully achieving their objective; nevertheless, they were able to enter into over 370 treaties with indigenous peoples and penetrate 200 kilometers from the coast.

II.—*Dispute with France.*

In 1839, France obtained permission from an indigenous chieftain to establish itself along the left bank of the Gabon River. Three years later, it acquired a small stretch of territory along the right bank of the same river, and shortly thereafter (June 1843) was when it truly took possession of its acquisitions, beginning the construction of a blockhouse, from which today's colony of Libreville took shape. They sought ways of extending along the coastline, and particularly along rivers that were most favorable to commerce, such as the Muni, and so the French wasted no time in penetrating the area that Spain called its own. Without pausing to examine whether the Spanish Government could allege justifications for a prior acquisition, they entered into pacts with indigenous peoples, at times taking advantage of their fickleness, or incentivizing some with gifts and favors, and finding diverse ways of gaining the consent of those who wished to remain loyal to the commitments they had reached with the Spanish authorities. At the same time, they were protesting against the acts that the Spanish authorities—in exercise of a perfectly legitimate right—sought to perform to exercise their sovereignty. They did that in 1860, but it was more for the purpose of achieving the suppression of the fees that the Chief of Corisco was charging the ships that traded in the Munda than in order to claim territory. Our Government agreed to the suppression, out of deference to the French Government, and in fact viewed the latter's efforts as a confirmation and tacit recognition of Spanish sovereignty. New issues arose in 1863, 1867, 1872 and 1877, although not as grave and urgent in nature as those that arose after 1883. This is when the French established a customs outpost near the mouth of the Muni River, handed out their country's flags to the indigenous people, and also occupied certain points between the Campo River and Cape San Juan. As noted earlier, that territory was also occupied by the Germans, and our right thereto was thereby equally ignored by two powers. In search of the respect we were due, our minister in Berlin, the Count of Benomar, immediately addressed the imperial government with which he had already entered into negotiations; at the same time, [with] the French Ambassador, to obtain the delimitation of borders between the German and French possessions. The Count of Benomar first attempted to have the matter resolved among the three powers; next, he dealt separately with the German Minister of Foreign Affairs and the French Ambassador; and he finally limited himself to negotiating with that minister, counseling His Majesty's Government to undertake all efforts he may find appropriate to approach the government of that neighboring republic.

At that time, the African Conference was meeting in Berlin. Our representative there was the distinguished geographer, Mr. Coello, and he was the one who assisted the Count of Benomar in his work, drafting a highly erudite dissertation that was submitted to the German Government. The latter held off giving a categorical reply,

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because the territory that Spain was claiming was also being claimed by France. But finally, in early 1885, it indicated confidentially that whatever the outcome of the negotiations with France, Germany was not planning on maintaining the areas occupied south of the Campo River and of the parallel corresponding to the intersection between that river and meridian 10° east of Greenwich.

At that point (1885) the Spanish Government believed that the time had come to reach an understanding with its French counterpart, which immediately expressed its willingness to reach a friendly settlement to the matter, not only in regard to Guinea, but also Cape Blanco and Galgo Bay, but at the same time asked the Spanish authorities to refrain from taking any measure that might affect the pending matter. As a consequence of that request, Mr. Montes de Oca and Mr. Ossorio, representative of the Society of Africanists, were ordered to interrupt their explorations, which in fact they did.

To settle the matter, France proposed the system it had just used with England and Portugal, namely to appoint a commission made up of delegates from both powers, and to submit their agreements to final approval by both governments. Spain agreed. The Commission met in Paris in March 1886, and through September of that year discussed the matter of Cape Blanco, reaching a settlement in that regard; it then went on to address the matter of Guinea, first examining the legal validity of the bases invoked by each of the two nations. In response to the rights invoked by Spain, the French contended that the Treaty of 1778 only contained the transfer of Fernando Póo and Annobon, and with regard to the coastline, was limited to conceding to Spain the right to engage in commerce. The French believed that they too could invoke the latter right, because France had adhered to the Treaty, thereby obtaining (according to one of its articles) all the advantages that were not necessarily exclusive in nature. They brought to the dispute a letter from Aranda to Floridablanca, which stated that the objective pursued by Spain in acquiring Fernando Póo, Annobon and the right to engage in trade along the coast was to procure slaves for their colonies in the Americas; they disputed the validity of our contracts with indigenous peoples; they invoked the fact that Germany, which in regard to Spain had limited itself to the declaration mentioned earlier, had recently (December 24, 1885) entered into a border treaty with France, ceding to France the acquisitions made by Dr. Nachtigal south of the Campo River. Our delegates insisted on their interpretation of the Treaty of 1778; they stressed the defects of nullity reflected in the pacts entered into between France and the indigenous peoples, wherein the lack of formalities showed the lack of competence of the contracting parties, and the fact that the pacts had not even been published, nor were they approved by the President of the Republic until many years following their execution. The result was that the delegates of the two nations could not agree, either on their interpretations, on matters of principle, or even on the geographical distribution of the tribes inhabiting the disputed regions. Finally, each having exhausted their arguments, they agreed in 1887 to move on to practical solutions, namely the distribution of territories. The first Spanish proposal was of course unacceptable to the French; it consisted of establishing the Munda and the Djembe as boundaries,

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thus abandoning to France a smallish region to which Spain had scarcely established a claim, since although its claim included all the way to Cape Santa Clara, it had declared to the French Government back in 1870 that it did not intend to maintain its sovereignty any farther than the Munda.

The French replied with a proposal of their own, even more unacceptable than ours, since it was offering us the area from the Campo River to Outomnanié Point, demanding in exchange that we abandon Cape San Juan, although they had already recognized our sovereignty over it. That offer looked to us as if the French wished to break up the negotiations; however, these were expanded in one of the following meetings, with talks of setting the border at the Benito River, and even of extending it to Cape San Juan, thereby recognizing Spain's sovereignty over the entire coastline from Cape San Juan to the Campo. This proposal was also rejected, since our understanding was that we were being given a region without ports or rivers, stripping us of the most fertile areas replete with river channels, namely the area south of the Muni River. But the French also rejected the offer made next by our delegates, consisting of a border from the Noya River, from its sources until the bend at Goon, and from there a straight line to the coast. That would leave both banks of the Munda to the French, and the Muni and all territory to the north of it for Spain. But the French also stated on that occasion that they needed the Muni and that they could not possibly accept any settlement that failed to grant it to them. The Spanish Ministries of Overseas Territories and the Navy indicated the importance of maintaining our delegates' original proposal (the Munda and the Djembe line), improving the offer by ceding the island of Annobon. The Council of Ministers rejected that idea, believing that public opinion would frown on that concession, and in fact there is reason to believe that such an offer would have had no effect on the French, since they failed to accept the new proposal that would bring the border from the bend at Goon to the sources of the Imana River, and from there, following the course of this river, to the coast.

This was in November 1888; the discussions continued to be held after the first meeting (March 1886), but only very occasionally, and had suffered several interruptions, due principally to the many diverse occupations of the French delegates, who not only had responsibilities to the Commission but also had other jobs to do in their country's government. In view of the impossibility of reaching an agreement with our delegates, the French delegates felt it was appropriate to consider their work concluded and submit the matter to arbitration, a contingency already foreseen by the Spanish Government, who nevertheless felt it was preferable for the Commission to continue discussions and seek the basis for a direct settlement between the interested parties. So they did in fact continue for a time, but in the end, the discussions were halted and any possible solution was put off until new incidents in the disputed territories and new claims between the two nations prompted the French Government to press for a speedy conclusion to the matter.

Consequently, the French Embassy in Madrid sent this Ministry a note in September 1890 proposing arbitration. The idea was well received, but it was still agreed that the joint Commission should meet once again to propose the manner in which to spell out the agreement on Cape Blanco, and for the two governments

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to have enough time to get public opinion gradually accustomed to the idea of arbitration.

The next meeting of the Commission was not held until January 1891.

It was impossible to reach an understanding regarding arbitration, since our plenipotentiaries maintained the need to mark the territories that would have to be submitted to arbitration, naturally including among them the ones claimed in one of the first discussions, namely, from the Campo River to Cape Santa Clara, and their interior area up to meridian 17° east of Greenwich. The French plenipotentiaries argued, on the one hand, that they lacked the mandate to reach a decision on this point, and on the other hand, argued that the arbitrator should decide with regard to the Elobeys and the territories extending from the coast to the mountains, reflecting the assumption that French sovereignty over the remainder of the hinterland (from the mountains to meridian 17°) was unquestionably legitimate.

The discussions ultimately ended in July 1891 because one of the French plenipotentiaries, Mr. Girard de la Rialle, had to leave Paris; the matter was thus returned to the two governments.

### III.—*Establishment of the status quo.*

The negotiations that were set to begin had the principal objective of reaching an arbitration agreement. However, it was also necessary to address in the clearest terms what conduct both powers should observe, in order to avoid altering the existing state of affairs to the detriment of either party. This need had been clearly perceived ever since the two governments reached an agreement in 1885 to resolve the differences between them through a joint commission, and in fact the authorities in Fernando Póo and Gabon received orders to refrain from any activities that might violate the status quo. But discontent arose all too soon regarding the way to assess what constituted a violation of the status quo. Our authorities understood that building houses to establish new trading posts was such a violation, and conceived the national flag as a sign of sovereignty; on the other hand, the French Government believed that the national flag could be used simply as a symbol, and felt that the contentious nature of the territory, which did not prevent free commerce, could also not prevent the establishment of French or Spanish trading posts, particularly in light of the fact that the subjects of other nations were not in any way hindered from establishing themselves, and thus enjoyed better conditions than the citizens of the two countries who were precisely engaged in debates about the ownership of the territory.

These objections certainly prevailed in the mood of the Spanish Government, even though no formal agreement was entered into between it and the French Government. It all came down to an oral agreement reached between Mr. Moret and Mr. Cambón, the Minister of State and the French Ambassador in Madrid, respectively, on the following bases:

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1. Full freedom of commerce for Spanish and French subjects, both on land and in sailing vessels.

2. Refrain from any and all acts involving any claim or expression of sovereignty in those places.

3. The flags flown by the trading posts of both countries, or those indicating fees paid by one or the other, will not be seen as national emblems, but simply as *colors*, to assist in distinguishing one from the other.

This agreement was confirmed in private correspondence between Mr. Cambón and Mr. Moret, and in discussions between the former and the successors to the latter, the Marquis of la Vega de Armijo and the Duke of Tetuán. The agreement gave rise to the instructions given to the governors of Fernando Póo; at times, it was used as grounds for complaints by the French Government, and it was our Government's belief that not only the banks of the Muni River, but also those of the Benito, and in general, all the territories in dispute, were to be subjected to the agreement. This was acknowledged in the official note dated February 11, 1891, by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ribot.

The halt in discussions by the Joint Commission (July 1891) coincided with a debate between the Spanish and French authorities in Guinea regarding the French attempts to collect duties in the Munda area and the Spanish threat to use force to prevent that. With a clash imminent, each of the two governments separately telegraphed their authorities in Guinea to prevent it, and negotiations began with the objective of providing them with identical instructions, saying that since both countries were about to take the entire matter to arbitration, they must refrain from any and all acts of force and from collecting any duties from their subjects in the disputed territory.

But the instructions were never issued; the French Government wanted the status quo to extend to the Elobays; the Spanish Government, on the other hand, wanted the arrangement involving identical instructions to include the three principles agreed upon between Messrs. Moret and Cambón. Some discrepancies arose around the manner for doing so, and in light of the proportions and complications that the matter had acquired, Mr. Ribot drafted a proposed arbitration agreement, attaching thereto a protocol governing the status quo and identical instructions (December 1891). The arbitrator was to be the King of Denmark, as already arranged in confidence, and the agreement was to be ratified by the legislatures.

Our Government requested certain changes, consisting principally of leaving the arbitrator's name out of the agreement (in order to prevent any debate that might arise in the parliaments around his august person) and clearly marking the territories that would be subject to the arbitration proceedings. The French Government erected no obstacles to the indicated changes, but did not believe the time was yet right to conclude the agreement and submit it to the legislature. In July 1892, it stated through its Chargé d'Affaires in Madrid that it was ready to sign the agreement, which it did not do, however, nor did so later, undoubtedly because the serious incidents in Melilla, the Cuban insurrection and the concerns arising from the war with the United States, have prevented His Majesty's Government from devoting its attention to other international matters of lesser importance.

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Meanwhile, the French have lost no time and missed no opportunity, and the Political Section could give Your Excellency a long list of violations of the status quo that they have committed; it can be said that the state of affairs, which should have remained the same as fourteen years ago, is now radically different. Customs offices, military outposts, administrative offices of various kinds, have been installed by our neighbors, reflecting their plan to extend their prestige and sovereignty by any means possible. Our actions in those regions have expressed themselves solely through protest; protests by our authorities in Fernando Póo and in Elobey; protests by our Government; protests by our Ambassador in Paris; protests that have at times been satisfied, others argued over, and most often forgotten shortly afterwards by our very selves. In 1890 this Ministry asked the Ministry of Overseas Possessions for a list of commercial entities established under our protectorate in the territories mentioned in this report. There was only one that was Spanish: the Compañía Transatlántica [Transatlantic Company]. Nor have any explorations taken place. Relations with the indigenous people have been scarce, because our authorities had neither boats to compete with the French in such activities nor money to emulate their generosity. The extreme hinterland, that which borders on the independent state of the Congo, has been studied, and it can be said that it was *discovered* by the French, and offers them enormous value, that of joining the Congo and the Ubangi rivers.

Thus, the situation today is even less favorable than seven years ago, because if at that time French public opinion demanded the Muni River as indispensable, it will demand the interior even more, and with equal or greater ardor, and may also object to withdrawing from the coast between the Campo River and Cape San Juan, where there are now interests that had yet to be created in 1885 and 1892. Each day that passes makes it harder to reclaim our rights, and this consideration leads us to acknowledge the unavoidable need to put an end to the current state of uncertainty.

There are only two ways of doing this: arbitration by a third-party power, and direct dealings between the two governments. We must rule out joint commissions: experience has shown us that in this matter they would be ineffective and perhaps even counterproductive.

Our rights are of such a nature that, even if we are certain of them, we could not turn them over to an examination by an arbitrator without feeling apprehension. We must also confess that the neglect with which we have managed them will strip them of a large part of their value in the eyes of a third party. On the other hand, the litigation will take a very long time. Setting forth the justifications invoked by both nations, already complicated before, would take even longer due to the need to indicate which French occupations are entirely lacking in validity after having been verified as violations of the status quo. Therefore, the arbitrator's mandate must be very broad, since he would have to examine the factual and legal background, interpret it, define the hinterland and, ultimately, the territory, if he could not find sufficient grounds (the most likely case) to award it *in toto* to one of the litigants. It is to be feared that the French Government, whose interest in putting an end to the current situation is not as ardent as ours, would find it hard to acknowledge such a broad jurisdiction by the arbitrator. And if it fails to recognize such jurisdiction, it is hard to understand how it could knowingly accept an award that would satisfy Spain.

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## TRANSLATION

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On the other hand, a government-to-government negotiation could examine the new legal aspects of the matter, since both sides have wasted too much time on arguments. That process would address the matter in the condition it was left by the Joint Commission in 1891, and would seek to achieve a definitive distribution of the territory, contributing, if necessary, new data to facilitate such a solution.

For example, it could be insinuated to the French Government that its Spanish counterpart would be willing to set the eastern boundary of its possessions not at meridian 17° east of Greenwich, but instead along a conventional or natural line (rivers and mountains), leaving sufficient space for the union between the Ubangi and Congo rivers. As Your Excellency is certainly aware, Germany signed treaties with France in 1885 and 1891 to establish the boundaries of their African possessions, establishing as a border to the Gulf of Guinea precisely the line that we consider the northernmost border of ours, namely the Campo River and the parallel corresponding to its intersection with meridian 10°, but extending it only up to meridian 15° and leaving a space of two degrees between this meridian and 17° so that France may penetrate and expand its presence in the Ubangi. With France recognizing our sovereignty from the Campo River towards the south, with regard to the interior we could be content with reaching meridian 15°, then leaving a two-degree belt (about 200 kilometers wide) between this meridian and the boundaries of independent Congo so that the French would have the union between the Congo and Ubangi rivers. Obviously, this line is indicated only as an example, and could undergo (while maintaining its essence) any deviations that accidents of terrain might demand.

Another factor that could benefit us is represented by Corisco and the Elobays, especially the latter, given their situation at the mouth of the Muni River. If we are forced to renounce that river, possessing them would be useless to us, while ceding them could serve to achieving better conditions in terms of the size of the hinterland. However, with regard to Corisco, we should not lose sight of the relative importance it can offer us given the position it occupies in the bay that bears its name.

Due to its situation across from the French Congo and its healthy climate, the island of Annobon also holds value in view of an exchange or as a condition for recognizing a larger territory for us.

Under the present circumstances, and without knowing the attitude that the French Government may assume, it is hard to be any more specific. However, our aspirations must be made to fit the circumstances.

The concession of commercial advantages to the French in the disputed territories, and the recognition of such advantages to Spain, are also points of view to keep in mind. In any event, it will be necessary for Your Excellency, in an official note or in the manner you deem most appropriate, to address the French Ambassador to this Court, informing him of the protest by the Vice Governor of Elobey against the acts that gave rise to this report, and using that occasion to express to him that His Majesty's Government wishes to see a solution to the difficulty caused by such disagreeable incidents over the past half-century and would be pleased to learn the French Government's views on the possibility of a settlement based on the proposals aired within the Joint Commission



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and on any modifications that today's circumstances may merit, in the view of that government.

At the same time, it would be appropriate to address His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris to urge him to contribute to the successful outcome of these efforts, asking the Minister of Foreign Affairs to duly authorize Mr. Patenôtre for that purpose, and striving to overcome potential difficulties such as those that have arisen on other occasions from the French Ministers of the Navy and the Colonies.

Your Excellency shall decide.

(Signed.)—J. PÉREZ CABALLERO.

Approved:  
(Signed.)—SILVELA.

NOTE.—Pursuant to the matters proposed in this report, the Minister of State addressed the issue orally with the French Ambassador in Madrid.

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**No. 3**

THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
MINISTER OF STATE

(TRANSLATION)

Madrid, January 24, 1900.

Mr. President:

The Government of the Republic has recently learned, through a telegram from the Vice Governor of the Congo, that the Spanish have begun the construction of a fort on Cape San Juan, a place situated in the territories that are part of the Gulf of Guinea, which are the subject of a dispute between our two countries.

As these events constitute in and of themselves a modification to the agreed-upon status quo, I have been charged with directing Your Excellency's attention to them.

As our Minister of Foreign Affairs wishes to resume as soon as possible the negotiations aimed at concluding these differences, and according to his colleague in the Colonies, he is at this time seeking the most favorable footing for proceeding to a settlement, and hopes to submit

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This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Christina Courtright, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

03/19/21

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PRESENTADOS

# Á LAS CORTES

EN LA LEGISLATURA DE 1900

POR

EL MINISTRO DE ESTADO

(MARQUÉS DE AGUILAR DE CAMPÓO)



MADRID  
EST. TIPOGRÁFICO «SUCESESORES DE RIVADENEYRA»  
IMPRESORES DE LA REAL CASA  
Paseo de San Vicente, núm. 20.

1900

NEGOCIACIÓN CON FRANCIA

PARA CELEBRAR UN

TRATADO DE LÍMITES

ENTRE LAS POSESIONES ESPAÑOLAS Y FRANCESAS

EN LA COSTA OCCIDENTAL DE ÁFRICA



» Como sé que conoce V. S. nuestra situación en los territorios comprendidos dentro del *statu quo*, y la lamenta tanto como yo, por falta de medios para evitarla, espero merecer de V. S. que disculpe mis manifestaciones en gracia al patriotismo y buenos deseos que al hacerlas me guía.

» Al tener el honor de trasladar á V. E. la comunicación antes transcrita, me creo en el deber de añadir, que considero estos actos contrarios al *statu quo* convenido con la República francesa para los territorios en litigio en el Muni, pero me encuentro sin fuerzas para oponerme á las invasiones de los *chefs de poste*, pues carezco hasta de un barco de guerra con que marchar á enterarme personalmente de lo ocurrido. Estimo además de todo punto indispensable garantizar los intereses de los factores extranjeros establecidos en Elobey, que pagan mil pesos anuales cada uno de contribución al Estado; mas como quiera que las circunstancias por que atraviesa nuestra Nación no son á propósito para empeñar cuestiones, urge concluir un arreglo que mar- que lo que nos dejen nuestros vecinos, y establecer de una manera firme la soberanía de España, saliendo de la violenta situación en que estamos en estos territorios. Sin embargo, V. E., en su elevado criterio y conocedor de la marcha política del Gobierno de S. M., podrá apreciar mejor estos incidentes y ordenar lo que deba hacerse para éste y otros casos análogos que pueden presentarse en lo sucesivo.»

Lo que de Real orden, comunicada por el Excmo. Sr. Presidente del Consejo, tengo el honor de poner en conocimiento de V. E. para los efectos que procedan.

Dios etc.

(Firmado.) EL MARQUÉS DE CASA LAIGLESIA.

## N.º 2

### INFORME DE LA SECCIÓN DE POLÍTICA REFERENTE Á LA ANTERIOR REAL ORDEN

23 de Noviembre de 1890.

Excmo. Señor:

La Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros ha dado recientemente á este Ministerio traslado de una comunicación en la que el Gobernador general de Fernando I.ºo incluye copia de la protesta dirigida por el Subgobernador de Elobey al Comisario del Congo francés en 6 de Agosto último.

» Al mismo tiempo he de manifestar á V. E. que la Sociedad Normanda «establecida en el Muni, bajo el protectorado francés, tiene á su servicio un gran número de senegaleses armados con fusiles modernos. Veneencia sabe muy bien que, según los artículos 8.º y 9.º de la Conferencia de Bruselas, «está convenido entre las naciones la prohibición á los negros del uso de armas «rayadas ó perfeccionadas, siempre que no pertenezcan á la fuerza pública; de modo que espero merecer de su recta justicia que, con objeto de no faltar á lo «preceptuado en la citada Conferencia ni al *statu quo*, sean desarmados esos individuos ó retirada esa fuerza del río.

» Por otra parte, enterado de que el día cinco del corriente mes fué castigado por esa Comisaría el pueblo de Ibanje sin haber antes dado aviso á este Subgobierno, protesto de semejante acto.

» Siento con toda mi alma, Sr. Comisario, verme en la precisión de dar cuenta á la Superioridad de hechos que alteran la tranquilidad y buenas relaciones que siempre deseé y deseo que reinen entre esa Comisaría y este Subgobierno, pero no puedo pasarlos en silencio, porque retardaría en perjuicio de los intereses de mi Nación.

» Reciba V. E. la seguridad de mi más alta consideración. Elobey seis de Agosto de mil ochocientos noventa y nueve.»

» Al dar á V. S. traslado de esta comunicación, me creo en el deber de recordar la difficilísima situación en que se encuentra la Autoridad española, obligada, como V. S. sabe, á presentear constantemente toda clase de atropellos á los derechos españoles y el olvido más absoluto por parte de los franceses del *statu quo*, mientras nosotros lo cumplimos con el mayor cuidado. Nuestras protestas no alcanzan más resultado, V. S. lo sabe, que iniciar discusiones por escrito entre la Comisaría del Gabón y estas Autoridades, sin que se consiga nunca más fin práctico que la pérdida poco á poco del prestigio español en los territorios en litigio. Desde Benito hasta Bata y desde el Munda y Nelombo hasta el Muni, cada día dan los franceses un paso adelante, hoy colocundo una Aduana, mañana un *poste*, para asegurar su influencia en el territorio, sin que nunca sean atendidas nuestras justas protestas.

» Un reparto definitivo del territorio, fuese cual fuese, creo yo que haría más airoso el papel de España, que esta situación en la que cada día perdemos más, lo mismo en territorios, que después aseguran ser suyos antes del *statu quo*, que en prestigio de nuestra Nación, que no cuenta aquí con fuerzas suficientes para apoyar las reclamaciones, ni siquiera con medios de enseñar el pabellón.

Refiérese dicha protesta á varias infracciones del *statu quo* y de los tratados, cometidas ó toleradas por las Autoridades francesas, y consistentes:

1.º En haber sido incendiado por el *chef de poste* francés el pueblo de Belondo (orilla derecha del río Bonito), cuyo jefe Moñamo, súbdito español, se negó á pagar la contribución que, faltando al *statu quo*, le impuso aquel funcionario;

2.º En tener la Sociedad Normanda establecida en el Muni, bajo el protectorado francés, un gran número de senegaleses armados con fusiles modernos, sin respetar, pues, los artículos 8.º y 9.º de la Conferencia de Bruselas, que prohiben á los negros que no pertenezcan á la fuerza pública el uso de armas rayadas ó perfeccionadas;

3.º En haber sido castigado el pueblo de Ibanje por la Comisaría del Congo francés, sin dar previamente aviso al Subgobierno español de Elobey.

Esos hechos no son acontecimientos aislados cuya explicación sea posible encontrar en circunstancias transitorias ó que ahora por primera vez se presenten; tienen una larga serie de antecedentes originados, como ellos, por la indicación en que los límites de las posesiones españolas y francesas de aquellas regiones se hallan, por el empeño que nuestros vecinos ponen en crear intereses materiales y desenvolver su influencia en los territorios sometidos á litigio; y, sobre todo, por el escaso respeto que guardan al *statu quo* que ambas Potencias convinieron en mantener mientras la cuestión no fuera definitivamente resuelta.

«Des de benito hasta Bata, dice el Subgobernador de Elobey, y desde el Munda y Nemblo hasta el Muni, cada día dan los franceses un paso adelante, hoy colocando una Atuma, mañana un «posto», para asegurar su influencia en el territorio, sin que nunca sean atendidas nuestras justas protestas. Cada día perdemos más, lo mismo en territorios, que después aseguran ser suyos antes del *statu quo*, que en prestigio de nuestra Nación, que no cuenta aquí con fuerzas suficientes para apoyar las reclamaciones, ni siquiera con medios de enseñar el pabellón.»

Por eso, tanto el Subgobernador de Elobey, como el Gobernador general de Fernando Pío, llaman la atención de la Superioridad hacia la conveniencia de terminar con un reparto definitivo del territorio, un estado de cosas en el que acaso no podrán debilitarse nuestros derechos (porque una protesta oportuna despoja de valor á los hechos que pudieran desconocerlos); pero en el cual sufre nuestro prestigio en aquellos países, se compromete anticipadamente la fuerza moral, base de la autoridad que en lo futuro podríamos ejercer efectivamente sobre ellos, y—lo que es peor—se corre el riesgo de que nuestras Autoridades en Guinea ó las francesas, discordes en la apreciación de un punto concreto, pero conformes en considerarlo íntimamente ligado á la dignidad de sus respectivas Naciones, se dejen arrastrar á un acto de fuerza, después del cual la reivindicación de nuestro derecho encontraré obstáculos todavía más insuperables que ahora.

Para que V. E. pueda apreciar debidamente la situación actual y los medios de remediarla, la Sección de Política pasa á exponerle los antecedentes de ella.

I. — Territorios que España posee ó reclama en el Golfo de Guinea. — *Títulos en que se funda.*

1.º La isla de Fernando Pío, situada en la bahía de Biafra, frente al monte Camarones, muy próxima á la costa y al límite, por consiguiente, entre la colonia inglesa del Níger y la alemana de Camarones.

2.º La de Annobon, más al Sur, á mayor distancia de la costa y casi enfrente de la desembocadura del «Fernand Vaz» (colonia francesa del Congo).

3.º Las islas de Corisco, Elobey grande y Elobey chico, en la bahía de Corisco; esto es, más al Norte y mucho más inmediatas á tierra que Annobon. Los dos Elobeyes están precisamente en la entrada del río Muni, Mooney ó Dúnger, vía importantísima de comunicación y de comercio en aquellos parajes.

4.º Una extensión de territorio en el continente, limitado al Norte por el río Campo y el paralelo correspondiente á la intersección de este río con el meridiano 10º; al Este por el meridiano 17º del Este de Greenwich (límite del Estado independiente del Congo); y al Sur por el cabo Santa Clara y la divisoria entre las aguas del Munda y el Gabón.

Asiende la extensión de estas posesiones á unos 180.000 kilómetros; pero ni ejerceremos sobre todos ellos soberanía efectiva, ni nos reconoce Francia derecho á ejercerla más que en Fernando Pío, Annobon y Corisco (unos 2.100 kilómetros en total) y un pequeño territorio en el cabo San Juan, rodeado al Norte, Sur y Este por tierras que sostienen los franceses ser suyas.

Los títulos invocados por España son:

1.º El Tratado de El Pardo de 24 de Marzo de 1778, por el que Portugal cedió á España, en cambio de la isla de Santa Catalina y de la colonia del Sacramento (ambas en América del Sur), las islas de Fernando Pío y Annobon y el derecho de comerciar en el Golfo de Guinea, desde cabo Formozo (situado en la desembocadura del Níger) hasta cabo López, que está al Sur del río Gabón. Como V. E. no ignora, esa extensión de costa no comprende solamente los territorios que, según quedó expuesto mas arriba, son actualmente reivindicados por España; dentro de ella están una parte de la colonia inglesa del Níger, la posesión alemana de Camarones y una parte también del Congo francés, regiones todas que España no ha reclamado porque nunca tomó posesión tan efectiva de ellas como de las otras, pero á cuya soberanía tenía realmente derecho en virtud del Tratado citado.

España, en efecto, lo ha interpretado siempre en el sentido de que, dadas las ideas dominantes en la época de su celebración, el derecho que Portugal concebió equíválamente al disponer de aquellos territorios; tal interpretación se apoya, además, en el carácter oneroso de la cesión, en las estipulaciones que mediaron para que, á pesar de ella, siguieran disfrutando los portugueses la libertad de traficar con los indígenas, y en la inadmisibilidad, por último, de que España cambiase posesiones como el Sacramento y Santa Catalina, por dos islas como Fernando Pío y Annobon, y por la simple facultad de comerciar en un país cuya importancia mercantil era todavía desconocida.

2.º En el derecho de ocupación. A poco, en efecto, de firmarse el tratado de El Pardo, como España posesión de Fernando Pío y Annobon, y más tarde de Corisco, donde se establecieron factorías para ejercer el comercio con los ríos de aquella bahía (principalmente el Muni) y el Munda) y con el mismo Gabón, en el cual todavía no habían penetrado estableciéndose los franceses. Sufrió el ejercicio de la soberanía española en aquellas regiones algunas contratiempos ó interrupciones, como fueron, por ejemplo, el abandono de Fernando Pío y Annobon, en 1781, á causa de las enfermedades que diezmaron nuestras fuerzas militares; la ocupación de la primera de las islas por los ingleses en 1827 con pretexto de establecer allí el tribunal mixto para la represión de la trata de negros; y el saqueo y destrucción, también por los ingleses, en 1841 de las factorías que existían en Corisco. Este último hecho y el haber sido rechazado por la opinión el pensamiento de vender Fernando Pío á Inglaterra, decidió al Gobierno español á enviar en 1819 una expedición que ocupó definitivamente las islas, y á cuyo jefe, el brigadier Lerena, manifestaron varias tribus del continente, dependientes de Corisco, deseo de someterse á España.

En 1846, 1858, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1864 y 1873, esas y otras tribus, habitantes en los Elobey y en distintos puntos de la costa, desde el río Campo hasta el cabo de Santa Clara, expresaron y ratificaron un deseo análogo. Como era lógico, se les aceptó, se le dió valor jurídico con la expedición de *carrates de nacionalidad* varias veces confirmadas, se les premió con regalos, pensiones y concesiones de diverso género á los jefes indígenas; se nombraron pilotos para Corisco y los inmediatos ríos de la costa, y no se omitió dar publicidad á las adquisiciones de España, ya celebrándolas en presencia de subditos extranjeros, ya comunicándolas á quienes más directamente interesaban, que eran las Autoridades francesas del Gabón, ya insertando noticia de ellas en obras como la del Sr. Navarro (*Apuntes sobre el estado de la costa occidental de África y principalmente de las Posesiones españolas en el Golfo de Guinea*), publicada de Real orden en 1859; la del Sr. Martínez y Saenz (*Breves apuntes de la isla de Fernando Pío*) y el *Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica* de Madrid (especialmente en 1878).

Con posterioridad á esa época, en 1882, el Sr. Montes de Oca, gobernador de Fernando Pío, llevó á cabo una excursión por el interior del río Muni, recibiendo de los indígenas de ambas orillas nuevas manifestaciones de adhesión á España. Poco después, una expedición de la Sociedad de Africanistas, subvencionada por diversos centros y personalidades y por el Estado, salió con pensamiento, no sólo de visitar las costas desde el río Campo hasta el cabo Santa Clara y penetrar en el interior de ellas, sino de anexionar á España otros territorios más, cuales eran la isla de Malimba y los situados al Norte del río Campo hasta el viejo Calahor, ó sea los que forman la colonia alemana de Camarones. Desgraciadamente los alemanes se habían adelantado respecto á esos territorios, y aun se habían corrido al Sur del río Campo; los franceses habían ocupado también algunos puntos entre dicho río y las inmediaciones del cabo San Juan, y nuestros exploradores dirigieron todos sus esfuerzos á internarse y tomar posesión del interior, para evitar que nuestros vecinos, extendiéndose por el Norte, Este y Sur del cabo San Juan, dejasen nuestra posesión limitada á un insignificante trozo de costa.

Enfermedades, falta de medios materiales, obstáculos en las comunicaciones, impidieron á los exploradores realizar plenamente su objeto; consiguieron, no obstante, celebrar más de 370 tratados con los indígenas y llegar á 200 kilómetros de la costa.

## II.—*Litigio con Francia.*

En 1830 obtuvo Francia de un jefe indígena permiso para establecerse en la orilla izquierda del río Gabón; tres años después adquirió una pequeña extensión del territorio en la orilla derecha del mismo río, y al poco tiempo (Junio, 1843) fué cuando realmente tomó posesión de lo adquirido, empezando la construcción de un *blockhaus*, origen de la actual colonia de Libreville. Buscando modo de extenderse por las costas, y sobre todo por ríos tan favorables para el comercio, como el Muni, no tardaron los franceses en penetrar en la zona que España considera suya. Sin detenerse á examinar si el Gobierno español podría alegar títulos de una adquisición anterior, hicieron pactos con los indígenas, aprovechando unas veces su volubilidad, estimulándola otras con regalos y favores, y consiguiendo por diversos modos el consentimiento de los que querían permanecer fieles al compromiso contraído con las Autoridades españolas. Al mismo tiempo, protestaban de los actos con que éstas, en uso de un derecho perfectamente legítimo, pretendían ejercer su soberanía. Eso hicieron en 1860, pero más con el objeto de obtener la supresión de los derechos que el Jefe de Corisco cobraba de los buques que comerciaban en el Munda que con el fin de hacer una reivindicación territorial. Acedió nuestro Gobierno á la supresión, por deferencia al de Francia, y hasta creyó ver en la gestión de éste una confirmación y un reconocimiento implícito de su soberanía. Nuevas cuestiones surgieron en 1863, 1867, 1872 y 1877, aunque no con carácter tan grave y urgente como las que se presentaron después de 1883. En esta última fecha, los franceses establecieron un puesto de Aldeanas cerca de la desembocadura del Muni, repartieron banderas de su país entre los indígenas y ocuparon también algunos puntos entre río Campo y cabo San Juan. Según más arriba se dijo, ese territorio fué ocupado igualmente por los alemanes, y nuestro derecho se vió, por consiguiente, desconocido á la vez por dos Potencias. Con objeto de obtener el respeto debido, nuestro Ministro en Berlín, señor Conde de Benomar, se dirigió desde luego al Gobierno imperial con el que había entablado ya negociaciones, por su parte, el Embajador de Francia, para obtener la delimitación de fronteras entre las posesiones alemanas y francesas. El Sr. Conde de Benomar intentó primero que la cuestión se resolviera entre las tres Potencias; procuró luego tratar separadamente con el Ministro de Negocios Extranjeros alemán y con el Embajador francés, y al fin se limitó á negociar con aquel Ministro, aconsejando al Gobierno de Su Majestad que hiciera las gestiones que considerara oportunas cerca del Gobierno de la vecina República.

Estaba entonces reunida en Berlín la Conferencia africana; representaba en ella á nuestra patria el ilustre geógrafo Sr. Coello, y él fué quien ayudó al Sr. Conde de Benomar en sus trabajos, redactando una eruditísima Memoria, que fué presentada al Gobierno alemán. Este dilataba una contestación categórica, porque el territorio que España



poco extensa, sobre la cual apenas había sostenido España pretensiones, pues aunque su reclamación comprendió hasta el cabo Santa Clara, había declarado desde 1870 al Gobierno francés que no intentaba mantener su soberanía más allá del Mundo.

A esa proposición respondió la primera francesa, más inaceptable aún que la nuestra, pues nos ofrecía desde el río Campo hasta Punta Outommané, exigiéndonos en cambio el abandono de cabo San Juan, cuya soberanía nos había ya reconocido. Tal pareció esta oferta, que se creyó ver en ella el deseo de los franceses de romper las negociaciones; pero la ensacharon, en una de las Conferencias inmediatas, hablando de poner el límite en el río Benito, y hasta de llevarlo al cabo San Juan, reconociendo a España toda la costa entre éste y el Campo. Tampoco se aceptó esta proposición, por entenderse que nos daba una región sin puertos ni ríos, despojándonos de la más fértil y rica en vías fluviales, que es la situada al Sur del Muni. Pero igualmente rechazaron los franceses la oferta que entonces hicieron nuestros Delegados, consistente en señalar como frontera el río Noya, desde sus fuentes hasta el recodo de Goon, y desde allí una línea recta a la costa. Quedaba así el Mundo para Francia en sus dos orillas, y para España el Muni y todo el territorio hacia el Norte. Pero ya en aquella ocasión manifestaron los franceses que el Muni les era necesario, y que no les sería posible aceptar arreglo alguno en que no se les concediese. Los Ministerios de Ultramar y de Marina de España indicaron la conveniencia de mantener la primera proposición de nuestros Delegados (la línea del Mundo y del Djembé), mejorándola con la cesión de la isla de Annobon. El Consejo de Ministros rechazó la idea, creyendo que la opinión vería con disgusto esa cesión, y en realidad hay motivo para creer que no hubiera producido efecto alguno en los franceses, pues no aceptaron la nueva propuesta que se les hizo de llevar la frontera desde el recodo de Goon hasta las fuentes del Imana, y desde allí, siguiendo el curso de este río, a la costa.

Era esto en Noviembre de 1888: las conferencias venían celebrándose desde la primera reunión (en Marzo de 1886) muy de tarde en tarde, y habían sufrido diversos interrucciones, originadas principalmente por las muchas ocupaciones de los Delegados franceses, que, además de su cargo en la Comisión, tenían otros en la Administración de su país. En vista de que no podían llegar a un acuerdo con los nuestros, dichos Delegados indicaron la conveniencia de dar por terminados sus trabajos y someter la cuestión a un arbitraje, contingencia prevista ya por el Gobierno español, que entonces, sin embargo, creyó preferible que la Comisión siguiera discutiendo y buscando base para un arreglo directo entre las Altas Partes interesadas. Siguieron, en efecto, durante algún tiempo; pero al fin las conferencias se interrumpieron y toda solución quedó aplazada hasta que nuevos incidentes en los territorios disputados y nuevas reclamaciones entre las dos Naciones, inspiraron al Gobierno francés el deseo de apresurar el término de la cuestión.

En consecuencia, la Embajada de Francia en Madrid dirigió a este Ministerio una Nota en Septiembre de 1890 proponiendo el arbitraje. Bien acogido el pensamiento, se acordó, sin embargo, que la Comisión mixta se reuniera de nuevo para proponer la forma en que se había de consignar el acuerdo relativo a cabo Blanco, y para que los

reclamaba era también reclamado por Francia; pero, al fin, en los comienzos de 1885 indicó confidencialmente que cualquiera que fuese el resultado de las negociaciones con esta última Potencia, no pensaba mantener las ocupaciones hechas al Sur del río Campo y del paralelo correspondiente a la intersección de éste con el meridiano 10°. Este de Greenwich.

Creyó entonces (1885) el Gobierno español llegada la ocasión de entenderse con el francés, el cual se manifestó desde luego dispuesto a arreglar amistosamente el asunto, no sólo en lo relativo a Guinea, sino a cabo Blanco y la bahía del Galgo; pero pidió que las Autoridades españolas se abstuvieran de todo acto que pudiera prejuzgar la cuestión pendiente. A consecuencia de ese ruego, se ordenó al Sr. Montes de Oca y al Sr. Osorio, representante de la Sociedad de Africanistas, que interrumpieran sus exploraciones, como en efecto lo hicieron.

Para solucionar el asunto propuso Francia el sistema que acababa de seguir con Inglaterra y Portugal, esto es, el nombramiento de una Comisión compuesta de Delegados de ambas Potencias, y cuyos acuerdos serían sometidos a la aprobación definitiva de los dos Gobiernos. Aceptó España: se reunió la Comisión en París en Marzo de 1886; discutió hasta Septiembre del mismo año lo relativo a cabo Blanco, llegando en ello a un arreglo, y entró a tratar lo concerniente a Guinea, examinando, en primer término, el valor jurídico de los títulos de cada una de las dos Naciones. Frente a los invocados por España, sostenían los franceses que el tratado de 1778 sólo contenía la cesión de Fernando Pó y Annobon, y se limitaba, respecto de las costas, a conceder a los españoles el derecho de comerciar; creían que aun este último derecho podían invocarlo también los franceses, porque Francia había adherido al Tratado, obteniendo así (conforme a un artículo de él) todas las ventajas que no tenían necesariamente un carácter exclusivo; perseguirlo por los españoles al adquirir Fernando Pó, Annobon y el derecho de comerciar en la costa, era el procurarse negros para sus Colonias de América; discutían la validez de nuestros contratos con los indígenas: invocaban el hecho de que Alemania, que respecto a España se había limitado a la declaración de que antes se hizo mención, acababa de celebrar (24 de Diciembre de 1885) con Francia un Tratado de límites, renunciando a su favor las adquisiciones realizadas al Sur del río Cumpo por el Dr. Nictigal. Nuestros Delegados insistían en su interpretación del Tratado de 1778: ponían de relieve los vicios de nulidad de los pactos celebrados por Francia con los indígenas, pactos en los cuales la falta de formalidades corría parejas con la incapacidad de los contratantes, y que ni habían sido publicados, ni siquiera aprobados por el Presidente de la República hasta muchos años después de concluidos. El resultado era que ni en materia de interpretación, ni en cuestión de principios, y hasta ni en punto a la distribución geográfica de las tribus habitantes de las regiones disputadas, estaban los Delegados de ambas Naciones conformes; y al fin, agotados de una y otra parte los argumentos, acordaron (1887) pasar a las soluciones prácticas, esto es, al reparto del territorio. La primera proposición española era desde luego inaceptable para los franceses: consistía en fijar como límites el Mundo y el Djembé, abandonando así a Francia una comarca

1.° Completa libertad de comercio para los súbditos españoles y franceses, tanto en tierra como en las embarcaciones (*voite-voites*).

2.° Abstención de todo acto que envuelva la pretensión ó expresión de soberanía en aquellos lugares.

3.° Las banderas que usen las casas de comercio de ambos países ó aquellas que safiagan derechos al uno ó al otro no serán consideradas como pabellón nacional, sino simplemente como *colores* para distinguirse entre sí.

Este acuerdo fué confirmado en cartas particulares entre Mr. Cambón y el Sr. Moret, y en conferencias que aquí tuvo con los sucesores de éste, Sres. Marqués de la Vega de Armijo y Duque de Tetlán. En él se inspiraron las instrucciones dadas á los Gobernadores de Fernando Pó; en él se fundaron algunas veces las reclamaciones del Gobierno francés y á él creía el nuestro que debían someterse, no sólo las orillas del Muni, sino las del Benito, y en general, todos los territorios en litigio. Así lo reconoció en Nota oficial de 14 de Febrero de 1891 el Ministro de Negocios Extranjeros de Francia, Mr. Ribot.

Con la interrupción de las Conferencia de la Comisión mixta (Julio 1891) coincidió un cobrar derechos en el Munda y manifestar aquéllas que usarían de la fuerza para impedirlo. En la inminencia de un choque, cada uno de los dos Gobiernos telegrafió separadamente á sus Autoridades en Guinea para impedirlo, y comenzaron una negociación con objeto de dadas instrucciones idénticas, en el sentido de que, estando ambos países próximos á llevar el asunto total á un arbitraje, debían abstenerse de todo acto de fuerza y no cobrar derecho alguno á sus súbditos en el territorio disputado.

Pero las instrucciones no llegaron á darse; el Gobierno francés quiso que el *statu quo* se extendiese á los Elobays; el español pretendió en cambio que en el arreglo relativo á las instrucciones idénticas se incluyera las tres bases convenidas entre los Sres. Moret y Cambón; surgieron algunas divergencias en cuanto á la forma de hacerlo; y en vista de las proporciones y de la complicación que el asunto iba revistiendo, formuló Mr. Ribot un proyecto de convenio de arbitraje, al cual iba anejo un protocolo sobre *statu quo* é instrucciones idénticas (Diciembre 1891). El árbitro debía ser el Rey de Dinamarca, según se había ya arreglado confidencialmente, y el convenio debía ser ratificado por las Cámaras.

Nuestro Gobierno hizo algunas observaciones, consistentes principalmente en no incluir en el convenio el nombre del árbitro (á fin de evitar la discusión que acerca de su augusta persona podía suscitarse en los Parlamentos) y en marcar claramente los territorios que eran sometidos al juicio arbitral. El Gobierno francés no puso obstáculos á las modificaciones indicadas, pero no creyó que el momento era ya oportuno para concluir el convenio y presentarlo al Poder legislativo. En Julio de 1892 manifestó por medio del Encargado de Negocios en Madrid, que estaba dispuesto á firmarlo, lo cual no se hizo, sin embargo, ni se ha hecho luego, sin duda porque los graves sucesos de Melilla, la insurrección cubana y las preocupaciones nacidas de la guerra con los Estados Unidos, han impedido al Gobierno de S. M. dedicar su atención á otros asuntos internacionales de menor importancia.

dos Gobiernos tuvieron tiempo de preparar gradualmente á la opinión á la idea de un arbitraje.

La nueva reunión de la Comisión no se celebró hasta Enero de 1891.

No fué posible entenderse en lo concerniente al arbitraje, pues nuestros Plenipotenciarios mantenían la necesidad de marcar los territorios que habían de quedar sometidos al juicio del árbitro, ó incluían naturalmente en ellos, los que en una de las primeras conferencias habían reclamado, esto es, desde río Campo hasta cabo Santa Clara, y el interior hasta el meridiano 17°. Este de Greenwích. Los Plenipotenciarios franceses alegaban, por una parte, que no tenían atribuciones para resolver sobre este punto, y pretendían, por otra, que el árbitro juzgase respecto á los Elobays y á los territorios que se extienden desde la costa á las montañas, dando por supuesto que en el resto del *inter-laud* (desde las montañas al meridiano 17°) no ofrecía duda la legitimidad de la soberanía francesa.

Al cabo, en Julio (1891), terminaron las conferencias, porque uno de los Plenipotenciarios franceses, Mr. Girard de la Rialle, tuvo que salir de París; la cuestión quedó, pues, entregada de nuevo á los Gobiernos.

### III.—*Establecimiento del statu quo.*

La negociación que iba á empezar tenía por principal objeto la conclusión de un convenio de arbitraje; pero había de atender también á regular con entera claridad la conducta que ambas Potencias deberían observar, para no alterar en perjuicio de una cualquiera de ellas el estado de hecho existente. Tal necesidad había sido claramente percibida, desde que en 1887 se habían puesto los dos Gobiernos de acuerdo para resolver las diferencias entre ellos por medio de una Comisión mixta, y en efecto, las Autoridades de Fernando Pó y del Gabón recibieron órdenes en el sentido de abstenerse de actos que pudieran infringir el *statu quo*. Pero bien pronto surgió la disconformidad en la manera de apreciar lo que constituía infracción del estado de hecho; nuestras Autoridades entendían que lo violaba la construcción de casas para establecimiento de nuevas factorías, y conceptuaban signo de soberanía los pabellones nacionales; el Gobierno francés, por el contrario, pensaba que la bandera nacional podía ser usada como simple distintivo, y creía que el carácter litigioso del territorio, que no impedía la libertad de comercio, no podía impedir tampoco el establecimiento de factorías francesas ó españolas, teniendo en cuenta, sobre todo, que los súbditos de otras Naciones no encontraban obstáculo alguno para establecerse, y resultaban, por consiguiente, de mejor condición que los ciudadanos de los dos países, entre los cuales precisamente existía la discusión respecto á la propiedad del territorio.

Estas observaciones prevalecieron definitivamente en el ánimo del Gobierno español, aunque no se celebró acuerdo formal entre él y el francés: todo se redujo á que el señor Moret y Mr. Cambón, Ministro de Estado y Embajador de Francia en Madrid, respectivamente, convinieron verbalmente en las bases siguientes:

La gestión de Gobierno á Gobierno no deberá, por el contrario, examinar de nuevo el aspecto jurídico de la cuestión, pues de un lado y de otro se agotaron tiempo há los argumantos. Esa gestión tomaría el asunto en el estado en que le dejó la Comisión mixta en 1891 y procuraría llegar á un reparto definitivo del territorio, aportando si es preciso al problema nuevos datos que faciliten su solución.

Podría, por ejemplo, insinuarse al Gobierno francés que el español estaría dispuesto á marcar como límite Este de sus posesiones no el meridiano 17° Este de Greenwich, sino una línea convencional ó natural (ríos y montañas) que deje espacio suficiente para la unión entre el Ubangui y el Congo. Como V. E. no ignora, Alemania ha celebrado en 1887 y 1894 tratados con Francia para delimitar sus posesiones africanas, estableciendo como frontera de las del Golfo de Guinea precisamente la línea que nosotros consideramos extremo Norte de las nuestras, ó sea el río Campo y el paralelo correspondiente á la intersección de éste con el meridiano 10°; pero prolongándola sólo hasta el meridiano 15° y dejando entre éste y el 17° un espacio de dos grados para que Francia pueda penetrar y ensancharse en el Ubangui. Al reconocernos Francia la soberanía desde río Campo hacia el Sur, podríamos, en lo que al interior se refiere, contentarnos con llegar al meridiano 15°, dejando entre éste y los límites del Congo independiente una faja de dos grados próximamente (unos 200 kilómetros de ancho), por la cual los franceses tendrían la unión entre el Congo y el Ubangui. Claro es que esta línea se indica sólo como ejemplo y podría sufrir (aun manteniéndola en su esencia) las desviaciones que los accidentes del terreno exigieran.

Otro factor del cual podría obtenerse partido lo constituyen Corisco y los Elobey, especialmente estos últimos, por su situación en la boca del Muni. Si nos vemos obligados á renunciar á ese río, su posesión nos sería inútil, mientras que su cesión podría servir para alcanzar mejores condiciones en cuanto á la extensión del *hinterland*. Respecto á Corisco, sin embargo, no hay que perder de vista la relativa importancia que puede ofrecer, por la posición que ocupa en la bahía de su nombre.

La isla de Annobon, por su situación frente al Congo francés y por su clima saludable, no carece tampoco de valor para entrar en un cambio ó como condición del reconocimiento de un territorio mayor á favor nuestro.

En las presentes circunstancias, y sin conocer la actitud en que el Gobierno francés se colocaría, es difícil concretar más. Sin embargo, nuestras aspiraciones habrán de acomodarse á las circunstancias.

La concesión de ventajas comerciales á los franceses en los territorios disputados y el reconocimiento de ellas á los españoles, son puntos de vista que tampoco deben olvidarse. De todas suertes, sería preciso que V. E. en nota oficial ó del modo que juzgue más oportuno, se dirigiese al Embajador de Francia en esta Corte, comunicándole la protesta del Subgobernador de Elobey contra los hechos que han servido de punto de partida á este informe, y tomando de ellos ocasión, expresarle que el Gobierno de S. M. deseara de ver zanjada una dificultad que tan desagradables incidentes ocasiona desde hace medio siglo, es complaciera en conocer el pensamiento del Gobierno francés acerca de la posibilidad de un arreglo basado en las proposiciones que en el seno de la Comisión mixta se hi-

Los franceses, entretanto, no han perdido el tiempo ni descuidado las ocasiones, y la Sección de Política podría ofrecer á V. E. una larga lista de infracciones por ellos cometidas al estado de hecho, estado del cual puede afirmarse que, debiendo ser el mismo de hace catorce años, es hoy radicalmente distinto. Adunas, puestos militares, oficinas administrativas de diversos géneros, han sido instaladas por nuestros vecinos, respondiendo al plan de extender por todos los medios posibles su prestigio y su soberanía. Nuestra acción en aquellas regiones ha tenido por única manifestación la protesta; protesta de nuestras Autoridades en Fernando Pó y en Elobey; protesta de nuestro Gobierno; protesta de nuestro Embajador en París; protesta unas veces satisfecha, otras discutida, y las más olvidadas al poco tiempo por nosotros mismos. En 1890 pidió este Ministerio al de Ultramar una lista de las casas comerciales establecidas bajo nuestro protectorado en los territorios á que este informe se refiere: sólo había una española, la Compañía Transatlántica. Exploraciones no se han hecho tampoco; las relaciones con los indígenas han sido escasas, porque nuestras Autoridades no disponían de barcos para competir en actividad con las francesas, ni de dinero para emular su generosidad. El extremo *hinterland*, el que linda con el Estado independiente del Congo, ha sido estudiado, y puede decirse que *desemburo* por franceses, y les ofrece un valor importantísimo, tal es de servir de unión entre el Congo y el Ubangui.

La situación es, pues, hoy más desfavorable que hace siete años, porque si entonces la opinión francesa reclamaba como indispensable el Muni, hoy reclamará además, y con la misma ó mayor viveza, el interior, y quizá se oponga también á la renuncia misma de la costa entre río Campo y cabo San Juan, en la cual existen actualmente intereses que en 1885 y 1892 no se habían creado. Cada día que pase hará más difícil la reivindicación de nuestro derecho, y esta consideración hace pensar en la necesidad ineludible de acunar con el presente estado de incertidumbre.

Sólo dos medios hay para ello: el arbitraje de una tercera Potencia y la gestión directa entre los dos Gobiernos. En Comisiones mixtas no hay que pensar: la experiencia ha demostrado que en este caso serian ineficaces y quizá contraproducentes.

Nuestros derechos son de tal naturaleza que, aun estando ciertos de ellos, no podríamos entregarlos sin inquietud al examen de un árbitro. Es preciso además confesar que el desentulo en que los hemos tenido los despojari de gran parte de su valor ante un tercero. El litigio sería, por otro lado, muy largo; la exposición, ya complicada antes, de los títulos de ambas Naciones, se ampliaría ahora con la necesidad de marcar qué ocupaciones francesas carecen en absoluto de validez por haber sido verificadas con infracción del *statu quo*. Las facultades del árbitro deberían, por consiguiente, ser muy extensas, pues tendría que examinar antecedentes de hecho y de derecho, interpretarlos, fijar el *hinterland* y partir, en último caso, el territorio, si no encontraba (como es probable) suficiente razón para adjudicarlo íntegro á uno de los litigantes. Es de temer que el Gobierno francés, cuyo interés en ver terminar la situación actual no es tan vivo como el nuestro, encontraría dificultad en reconocer tan extensa jurisdicción al árbitro. Y si no se le reconociera, apenas se comprenderá cómo podría éste dar un laudo con pleno conocimiento y á satisfacción de España.

— 15 —

ción y en las modificaciones que, á juicio de dicho Gobierno, aconsejen las circunstancias.

Al mismo tiempo convendría dirigirse al Embajador de S. M. en París para que coadyuve al buen éxito de la gestión, solicitando del Ministro de Negocios Extranjeros que autorice debidamente para ella á Mr. Patenótre, y procurando vencer las dificultades que como en otras ocasiones pueden surgir de los Ministerios de Marina y Colonias de Francia.

V. E. resolverá.

(Firmado.)—J. PÉREZ CABALLERO.

Conforme:  
(Firmado.)—SILVEIRA.

NOTA.—De conformidad con lo propuesto en este informe, el Sr. Ministro de Estado trató el asunto verbalmente con el Sr. Embajador de Francia en Madrid.

N.º 3

EL EMBAJADOR DE FRANCIA  
AL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO DE MINISTROS  
MINISTRO DE ESTADO

(TRADUCCIÓN)

Madrid 24 de Enero de 1900.

Sr. Presidente:

El Gobierno de la República ha subido recientemente, por un telegrama del Subgobernador del Congo, que los españoles habían principiado la construcción de un fuerte en cabo San Juan, lugar situado en la parte de los territorios del Golfo de Guinea, que son objeto de controversia entre nuestros dos países.

Constituyendo estos hechos por sí mismos una modificación del *statu quo* convenido, he recibido encargo de llamar sobre ellos la atención de V. E.

Descando nuestro Ministro de Negocios Extranjeros reanudar cuanto antes las negociaciones destinadas á terminar estas diferencias, y de acuerdo con su colega de las Colonias, busca en este momento el terreno más favorable para proceder á un arreglo, y espera poder presentar en breve plazo al Gobierno

de S. M. proposiciones que veríamos con gusto dieran por resultado un acuerdo definitivo.

Aprovecho, etc.

(Firmado.) PATENÓTRE.

N.º 4

EL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO DE MINISTROS  
MINISTRO DE ESTADO  
AL EMBAJADOR DE FRANCIA

Palacio 29 de Enero de 1900.

Excmo. Señor:

Muy señor mío: En contestación á su atenta nota de 24 del corriente, denunciando como infracción del *statu quo* la construcción de un fuerte por las Autoridades españolas en el territorio del cabo San Juan, tengo la honra de manifestarle que este Ministerio no tiene noticia de semejante hecho, pero que el Gobierno de S. M. Católica ha realizado constantemente actos de soberanía sobre dicho territorio sin contradicción del Gobierno francés, cuyos Plenipotenciarios en la Comisión mixta reunida en París, desde 1886 á 1894, reconocieron varias veces el derecho de España sobre cabo San Juan, incluyéndolo como posesión española en los mapas que presentaron en la sesión del 12 de Noviembre de 1886, considerándolo como tal posesión en la nota resumen de los derechos de Francia (aneja al protocolo n.º 15 de 24 de Noviembre de 1886), y declarando expresa y formalmente en su Memoria, unida al protocolo n.º 24, que consideraban dependencia de Corisco el territorio del cabo San Juan, con su anejo el reino de Maquició.

No existe, pues, divergencia de opinión ni puede surgir conflicto alguno entre España y Francia acerca de la soberanía de dicho territorio; y no es, por lo tanto, posible extender á él el *statu quo* convenido entre ambos países para las regiones que, siendo á la vez reclamadas por ambos, podían dar origen á dificultades.

Al hacer á V. E. las observaciones que anteceden, y que seguramente obtendrán el asentimiento del Gobierno de la República, creo oportuno llamar de

**Annex 54**

The French Republic, *Letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Minister of Colonies*  
(13 March 1900)



## TRANSLATION

Ministry  
of  
Foreign Affairs

FRENCH REPUBLIC

66

Office  
of  
Political Affairs

Paris, March 13, 1900

Northern  
Sub-Office

Confidential

[illegible stamp dated  
March 14, 1900]

COLONIES  
1<sup>st</sup> Dept. – 1<sup>st</sup> Office  
[illegible] March 1900  
96 102 - AE

Gulf of Guinea. Disputed  
French/Spanish territories

Mr. Minister, my dear colleague,

During our meeting the morning of March 10 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the delimitation of territories on the Gulf of Guinea disputed between Spain and us, you kindly shared with me the delineations that you considered the best and that we should strive to obtain.

[in margin:  
[illegible]  
Mr. [illegible]  
Response to  
[illegible]

They are, in order of preference:

1. the line dividing the waters that, from Cap St. Jean, would leave us the entire Muni basin.
2. The course of the Muni River.

In the interior, the Spanish possessions would end at the ridge line used as the Eastern boundary of the Muni, Benito and Campo basins, i.e., around 10° longitude East of Paris.

You also called my attention to

Mr. Decrais,  
Minister of Colonies.

**TRANSLATION**

your Department's interest in obtaining Spain's renunciation of the protectorate it established north of Senegal in the Rio de Ouro region, and whose delimitation, in the immediate surroundings of the coast, was the subject of an 1891 draft agreement that has not yet been signed. You esteemed that if satisfaction were given to us on this point, we could, in compensation, allow on the Guinean coast the extension of Spanish territories toward the interior up to the 13<sup>th</sup> and even 15<sup>th</sup> meridian East of Paris. We would, of course, avoid including the regions dependent on the Congo Basin, as determined by the General Act of the Berlin Conference.

As far as the islands are concerned, Corisco has, as you know, remained outside of the debate for now. The discussion has only concerned the Elobey islands. Notwithstanding the result of the negotiations in that respect, you expressed the desire that no military facilities be built there, and that Spain should acknowledge our preemptive right which, in your opinion, should also include the possessions we would recognize for Spain on the coast.

Mr. Minister, my dear colleague, I place importance in receiving assurance that the foregoing information accurately reflects the wishes expressed on behalf of your department at the aforementioned meeting.

Sincerely, [handwritten]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dehaene', written in dark ink.





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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Karen Brovey, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from French into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the French text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/09/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Ministère  
des  
Affaires étrangères

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

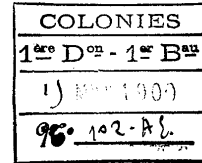
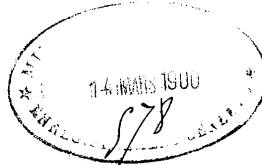
66

Paris, le 13 Mars 1900. --189--

Direction  
des  
Affaires Politiques

Sous-Direction  
Du Nord

*Confidentiel.*



Golfe de Guinée. Territoires  
contestés franco-espagnols. /.

Monsieur le Ministre et cher Collègue,

*Voir*

Au cours de l'entretien que nous avons eu, dans la matinée du 10 de ce mois, au Ministère des Affaires étrangères, relativement à la délimitation des territoires en litige entre nous et l'Espagne sur le Golfe de Guinée, vous avez bien voulu me faire connaître les tracés que vous jugiez les meilleurs et que nous devons nous efforcer d'obtenir.

Ce seraient par ordre de préférence :

1<sup>o</sup> la ligne de partage des eaux qui, partant du Cap St. Jean, nous laisserait <sup>dans son entier</sup> le bassin de la Mouny.

2<sup>o</sup> le cours de la Mouny.

*se* A l'intérieur, les possessions espagnales s'arrêtent à la ligne de faite qui sert de limite orientale aux bassins de la Mouny, du Benito et du Campo, c'est-à-dire par environ 10<sup>o</sup> de longitude Est de Paris.

A cette occasion, vous avez appelé mon

Monsieur Decrais,

Ministre des Colonies.

*M. Amey*

*Rapport au Ministre*

attention sur l'intérêt qu'attacherait votre Département à obtenir la renonciation de l'Espagne au protectorat qu'elle a établi au nord du Sénégal sur la région du Rio de Ouro, et dont la délimitation, dans le voisinage immédiat de la côte, a fait en 1891 l'objet d'un projet de protocole qui n'a pas encore été signé. Vous estimiez que, dans le cas où satisfaction nous serait donnée sur ce point, nous pourrions, à la côte de Guinée, admettre en compensation l'extension des territoires espagnols vers l'intérieur jusqu'au 13<sup>e</sup> et même au 15<sup>e</sup> méridien Est de Paris. On éviterait toutefois, bien entendu, d'y comprendre des régions dépendant du bassin du Congo, tel qu'il a été déterminé par l'acte de Berlin.

Pour ce qui est des fles, Corisco est, vous le savez, resté jusqu'à présent en dehors du débat. La discussion n'a porté que sur les Elobey. Quel que doive être à leur sujet le résultat de la négociation, vous avez exprimé le désir qu'aucun ouvrage militaire ne pût y être élevé, et que l'Espagne nous reconnût un droit de préemption qui devrait, à votre avis, englober également les possessions que nous lui reconnaitrions sur la Côte.

J'attacherais du prix, Monsieur le Ministre et cher Collègue, à recevoir l'assurance que l'exposé qui précède correspond exactement aux vœux formulés au nom de votre Département lors de l'entretien précité. /

*Agissez, Monsieur le Ministre et cher Collègue, les assurances de ma haute considération.*

*Debaucq*

**Annex 55**

*Letter from the French Minister of Colonies to the Administrator of the Franco-Spanish  
Delimitation Commission (19 June 1901)*



## TRANSLATION

[stamp:] POLITICAL DEPARTMENT [hw:]  
 CLASSIFICATION June 14  
 SERIES D BOX 38 FILE 2 1901

Annex no. -----to telegram  
 [illegible]  
 [illegible]  
 1<sup>st</sup> of Colonies  
 1<sup>st</sup> to -----  
 No. ----- dated June 19, 1901

Paris, June 14, 1901  
 462

[stamp:] 21

French-Spanish Commission  
 for the Delineation of the Gulf of  
 Guinea.

=====

Instructions to Mr.  
 Bonnel de Mezières

To the Administrator,

As you have already been advised,

in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

I have entrusted to you the leadership of the French delegation to the joint Commission that is charged with making a delineation of the French-Spanish possessions of the Gulf of Guinea, in execution of the Agreement dated June 27, 1900, and which must begin its work as of next July. In order to facilitate the technical work which the Commission must undertake and, moreover, in accordance with the desire that you yourself have expressed, I have designated to take part in the French Committee, under your orders. Captain Roche, currently at the disposal of the Department of Colonies, and Mr. L. Duboc,

Mr. Bonnel de Mezières -

## TRANSLATION

Second Lieutenant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Colonial infantry [illegible].

With respect to the expenses incurred by the operations of the French Commission, a sum of 105,000 Fr. will be reserved under the extraordinary loan that is currently being requested in Parliament with a view to dealing with the various expenses of the delineation. The figure for the salaries and the compensation that will be allocated to the members of the French delegation, as well as the division of said sum of 105,000 Frs., were the subject of an estimate that had been communicated to you previously. You are not unaware, then, that you have been accorded an escort of 40 men, two of whom will be officers, and a troupe of approximately 150 porters, who will be recruited through the local Administration of the French Congo.

Once the extraordinary loan referenced above has been granted by the Parliament and placed at the disposal of the Department, a delegation thereof will be made to the Commissioner General of the Government in French Congo, who will advise you of it.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS



## TRANSLATION

22

As for the guideline that you must observe in directing the work of delimitation, it appears to me that as of now it is clearly indicated. Your role, in effect, is outlined by the very text of the Agreement adopted on June 27, 1900, between the representatives of the two powers involved. Article 4 of that Agreement specifies that the border in question will start at the point of intersection of the thalweg of the Mouni River with a straight line drawn from the point at Coco Beach to Point Diéké; it will then rise along the thalweg of the Mouni River and that of the Outemboni River up to the point where the latter river is cut by the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of latitude north and merges with this parallel up to its intersection with the 9<sup>th</sup> of longitude East of Paris, which will form the line of delimitation up to where it meets the meridional ~~river~~ frontier of the German Colony of Cameroun.

However, I wish to draw your attention to Article 5 of the Agreement, under the terms of which all questions concerning the relationships among the neighboring populations of the border, the dispositions

## TRANSLATION

concerning lighting, marking, management and the use of the waters shall be the subject of joint arrangements between the two Governments. As far as both the villages and stations that may be located on the boundary line and the islands located at the mouth of the Mou[truncated] River are concerned, it will be up to you to confer with the Commissioners of the Spanish Government and to set forth in memoranda the decisions that are taken by the Joint Commission on Delineation.

As you know, it is in Libreville that you will meet the Spanish delegates and, from this initial contact, you must commit yourselves to set up, together with them, a working method that allows you to quickly bring to a successful conclusion the operations entrusted to you.

I have the honor of asking you to kindly send me, through the Commissioner General of the Government in the French Congo, all of the correspondence relating to the mission that you direct. Nevertheless, I authorize you to correspond

**TRANSLATION**

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directly with the Department in cases of extreme urgency and absolute necessity, under the condition that a copy of this correspondence is sent by you in a timely manner to the Commissioner General of the Government in the Congo.

These, Administrator, are the instructions that I have the honor of transmitting to you. I do not doubt that you will use all your tact and all your activity to successfully accomplish the task entrusted to you in a region that recent explorations have already enabled you to get to know./.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regard.

The Minister of Colonies

[signature]

[hw:] Certified copy:

The S/S Head of the Africa Department

[signature]



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/25/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



DIRECTION POLITIQUE  
CLASSEMENT  
SERIE D CARTON 38 DOSSIER 2

ll  
14 Juin  
1901

Annexe N° \_\_\_\_\_ à { Dépeche  
N° \_\_\_\_\_  
Objet \_\_\_\_\_  
Paris, le 14 Juin 1901  
N° \_\_\_\_\_ du 19 Juin 1901

21

Monsieur l'Administrateur,

Commission Franco-espagnole  
de délimitation du Golfe de  
Guinée.

Ainsi que vous en êtes avisé déjà,

Instructions à M. Bonnel de Mezières, d'accord avec M. le Ministre des Affaires

étrangères, je vous ai confié la direction de la dé-  
léation française à la Commission mixte, qui est  
chargée de procéder à une délimitation des posses-  
sions franco-espagnoles du golfe de Guinée, en exécu-  
tion de la Convention du 27 Juin 1900, et qui doit  
commencer ses travaux dès le mois de Juillet pro-  
chain.

Pour faciliter les travaux techniques auxquels  
doit procéder la mission, et, d'ailleurs, suivant le  
desir que vous m'avez vous-même exprimé, j'ai désigné  
pour faire partie sous vos ordres de la Commission  
Française, M. le Capitaine Roche, actuellement à la  
disposition du Département des Colonies, et M. L. Duboc,

Monsieur Bonnel de Mezières -

15  
 2 70 11  
 1911

Sous-Lieutenant au 6ème Régiment d'infanterie Colo-  
niale.h.d.

En ce qui concerne les dépenses occasionnées par  
les opérations de la Commission Française, il sera  
réservé sur le crédit extraordinaire qui est actuel-

lement demandé au Parlement en vue de faire face  
aux diverses dépenses de délimitation, une somme de

105.000 Frs. Le chiffre de la solde et des indemnités

qui seront attribués aux membres de la délégation

française, ainsi que la répartition de la dite somme

de 105.000 Frs. ont fait l'objet d'un devis, dont

il vous a antérieurement été donné communication.

Vous n'ignorez point, dès lors, qu'il vous est accordé

une escorte de 40 Hommes dont deux gradés, et une

troupe de 150 porteurs environ, qui seront recrutés

par les soins de l'Administration locale du Congo

Français.

Dès que le crédit extraordinaire dont il est

question ci-dessus aura été accordé par le Parlement

et mis à la disposition du Département, une délégation

en sera faite à M. le Commissaire Général du Gouver-

nement au Congo Français, qui vous en avisera.

22

Quant à la ligne de conduite que vous devez

observer pour la direction des travaux de délimitation, elle me paraît dès maintenant nettement indi-

quée. Votre rôle se trouve, en effet, tracé par le texte

même de la Convention passée le 27 Juin 1900 entre

les représentants des deux puissances intéressées.

L'article 4 de cette Convention spécifie que la li-

mite dont il s'agit partira du point d'intersection

du thalweg de la rivière Mouni avec une ligne droite

tirée de la pointe Coco Beach à la pointe Diéké;

elle remontera ensuite le thalweg de la rivière Mouni

et celui de la rivière Outemboni jusqu'au point où

cette dernière rivière est coupée pour la 1ère fois

par le 1er degré de latitude nord et se confondra

avec ce parallèle jusqu'à son intersection avec le

9° de longitude Est de Paris, que formera la ligne

de démarcation jusqu'à sa rencontre avec la <sup>frontière</sup> ~~frontière~~

méridionale de la Colonie Allemande du Cameroun.

J'appellerai toutefois votre attention sur l'ar-

ticle 5 de la Convention aux termes duquel toutes

les questions relatives aux rapports entre les popula-

tions voisines de la frontière, les dispositions

SS

concernant l'éclairage, le balisage, l'aménagement et la jouissance des eaux feront l'objet d'arrangements concertés entre les deux Gouvernements. Il vous appartient, tant en ce qui concerne les villages et stations qui se peuvent trouver sur la ligne frontière que les îles placées à l'embouchure du fleuve de la Moukoko de vous concerter avec les Commissaires du Gouvernement Rspagnol et de fixer dans des procès-verbaux les décisions qui auraient été prises par la Commission mixte de délimitation.

C'est, comme vous le savez, à Libreville que vous vous rencontrerez avec les délégués Rspagnols, et vous devrez vous attacher, dès ce premier contact, à arrêter avec eux une méthode de travail qui vous permette de mener rapidement à bonne fin les opérations qui vous sont confiées.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me faire parvenir, par l'intermédiaire de M. le Commissaire Général du Gouvernement au Congo Français, toutes la correspondance relative à la mission que vous dirigez. Je vous autorise néanmoins à correspondre



avec le Département directement dans les cas d'ex-<sup>23</sup>  
trême urgence et d'absolue nécessité, sous réserve  
que copie de cette correspondance sera communiquée  
par vos soins en temps utile à M. le Commissaire Gé-  
néral du Gouvernement au Congo.

Telles sont, Monsieur l'Administrateur, les ins-  
tructions que j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre.  
Je ne doute pas que vous n'employiez tout votre tact  
et toute votre activité pour mener à bien la tâche  
qui vous est confiée dans une région que de récentes  
explorations vous ont permis de connaître déjà./.

: Agréés, Monsieur l'Administrateur, les assurances  
de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Ministre des Colonies,

*Albert Sarrailh*

Pour Copie Conforme:  
Le 1/5 chef du bureau de l'Afrique:

*Hubert Lenoir*



**Annex 55 bis**

The French Republic, *Letter from* the French Ministry of Colonies *to* Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
(1 December 1906)



## TRANSLATION

MINISTRY  
OF THE  
COLONIES

-----  
[1]<sup>st</sup> Department

-----  
[1]<sup>st</sup> Office

[text partially cut off:]  
Replies should be [...] to  
the Ministry and addresses  
[...] above.

Congo-Cameroun  
Border,

--  
Franco-Spanish  
Boundary.

---  
[stamp:]  
POLITICAL  
SECTION  
[3] DEC 1906

FRENCH REPUBLIC

LIBERTY – EQUALITY – FRATERNITY

----- [stamp:] 274

Paris, [handwritten:] December 1, 1906

300

[handwritten:]  
wrote to Madrid  
on December 1906

wrote to [Colonies]  
on 5 December 1906

[stamp:] POLITIQUE
[handwritten:] 1906/II 38 2
<del>26</del> 4

7<sup>th</sup>

The Minister of the Colonies  
to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.  
(Department of Political Affairs.)

In a letter dated November 23 of this year, in response to a communication I sent you on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month regarding an approximately 50-kilometer error in the Franco-Spanish border, you kindly informed me of your interest in knowing in exactly which direction the demarcation error occurred and the regions that are particularly involved.

In the absence of any report from Captain Cottés, my Department does not have any specific information on this subject.

However, Commissioner General Gentil, when consulted

**TRANSLATION**

consulted once again on this matter, continues to believe that, in order to avoid border difficulties, it would be advisable to permit the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Gabon to go to San Sabel himself and consult the Spanish Guinean authorities on site in order to rectify this error.

[illegible  
margin  
note]

[illegible  
margin  
note]

In bringing this piece of information to your attention, I would appreciate it if you would let me know if it seems possible, in accordance with the desire Mr. Gentil expressed, to permit, by telegraph, the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Gabon to make arrangements with the Spanish authorities or, if you consider it preferable to discuss the matter beforehand, the Madrid Office, and to begin negotiations in Europe between the two Governments involved, before giving instructions to the local administration./.

[illegible  
margin  
note]

[signature]



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---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

February 23, 2021

---

Date







MINISTÈRE  
DES  
COLONIES

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

LIBERTÉ - ÉGALITÉ - FRATERNITÉ

274

DIRECTION

Paris, le 1<sup>er</sup> Décembre 1906

BUREAU

NOTA. Les réponses doivent être  
adressées au Ministre et portées  
en recommandé.

*Écrit à Madrid  
le 22 novembre 1906*  
*Écrit aux Colonies  
le 1<sup>er</sup> Décembre 1906*

1906  
D

POLITIQUE  
38 2  
~~26 4~~

Limitation Congo-  
meroun,

Tracé de la frontière  
franco-espagnole.

Le Ministre des Colonies

à Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires  
Étrangères.

( Direction des Affaires Politiques. )

DIRECTION  
POLITIQUE  
3 DEC 1906

Par lettre du 23 Novembre courant, et en  
réponse à une communication que je vous avais adressée  
le 17 de ce mois, au sujet d'une erreur de 50 kilomètres  
environ dans le tracé de la frontière franco-espagno-  
le, vous avez bien voulu me faire part de l'intérêt  
que vous auriez à connaître d'une manière exacte le  
sens dans lequel s'est produite l'erreur de délimita-  
tion ainsi que les régions qu'elle se trouve intéres-  
ser d'une façon spéciale.

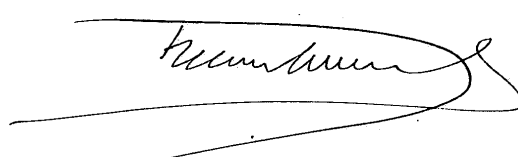
En l'absence de tout rapport de M. le Capi-  
taine Cottes, mon Département ne possède à ce sujet au-  
cun renseignement précis.

Toutefois, M. le Commissaire Général Gentil,  
consulté

consulté à nouveau à cet égard, persiste à croire  
que, pour éviter des difficultés de frontière, il y  
aurait intérêt à autoriser M. le Lieutenant-Gouverneur  
p.i. du Gabon à se transporter lui-même à San Sabel *920*  
et à se concerter sur place avec les autorités de  
la Guinée espagnole en vue de la rectification de  
cette erreur.

En portant cette indication à votre connais-  
sance, je vous serai reconnaissant de me faire savoir  
s'il vous semble possible, conformément au désir  
exprimé par M. Gentil, d'autoriser, par la voie télégra-  
phique, M. le Lieutenant-Gouverneur p.i. du Gabon à s'en-  
tendre avec les autorités espagnoles, ou bien si vous  
jugeriez préférable, d'entretenir préalablement de  
la question, le Cabinet de Madrid et d'entamer en  
Europe des négociations entre les deux Gouvernements  
intéressés, avant de donner des instructions à l'ad-  
ministration locale./.

*non fait*  
*par le*



*lii.*

*Let.*

**Annex 56**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter from the Colonial Section of the Ministry of State* (20 April 1907)



**TRANSLATION**

Ministry of State

Colonial Section

44

The Franco-Spanish Commission that established the delimitation of the continental territory of Guinea has concluded its work in the form and manner throughout explained in the explanatory reports that were submitted in a timely manner. As can be seen, the coordinate calculations were carefully performed by Captains Nieves and Roche, who obtained them separately and compared them [illegible], accepting or rejecting the results depending on whether or not they were within the tolerance limits.

Throughout the expedition, the 3 chronometers that the French Commission owned and the two owned by the Spanish Commission worked in agreement, until the mid-point of the eastern boundary, where one of the Spanish chronometers showed a marked discrepancy. For that reason, its readings were not subsequently taken into consideration, and Captains Nieves and Roche only referred to the hours that were noted

## TRANSLATION

as being in agreement with the other four chronometers that were duly checked before each observation.

To verify the aforementioned chronometric times, Captain Nieves prepared to observe the projected reappearance of the [illegible] moon of Jupiter on the night of September 24. This operation was hindered by the cloudy sky, but this detail appears in the report of the aforementioned Captain.

Upon receiving, from the Colonial Section, the task of determining whether, in establishing the [illegible] of the eastern boundary, some error might have occurred, Captain Nieves reviewed the [illegible: calculations?] and found them to be correct. Subsequently, if some error existed, it can only be due to the instruments, and it is impossible to identify, unless the on-site work is started over, with more time, and under better conditions than those that the Delimitation Commission was able to benefit from.

And still, it would be impossible to do that, even with a great deal of time, because to obtain a constant adjustment of the chronometers, it would be necessary

**TRANSLATION**

45

that Spanish Guinea be crossed by various telegraph lines, using which we could [illegible]: set the time at a specific moment, using a fixed station on the coast, at the various observation points, at the same time as the installation of the internal stations would be verified in a stable manner, and the observations would be repeated often to obtain an average result.

None of this can be done at the moment, given the situation in which the land is, and because this precise level of work is the only guarantee of success, neither will we obtain any security in redoing the work if it cannot be verified under the most exact conditions.

As a form of comparison, the Minister of State provided a map published, by royal order, by Mr. Enrique d'Almonte, a mining assistant, who was part of the royal Commission for Western Africa.

This map which showed the indications provided by various reconnaissance work, cannot be relied upon in this type of dispute, because the itineraries marked on it

## TRANSLATION

are not established by any astronomical observations, and because moreover, beside [illegible] incompletely recognized, is very fanciful, because the map goes so far as to show under [illegible] topographical features that are completely invented.

Additionally, it has a special feature in that the boundaries that are shown as being officially recognized by the Franco-Spanish Delimitation Commission are not correct because that map was published when the Spanish Commission was in Paris to harmonize their work with that of the French Commission, such that the map reproduced some sketches that were brought to be [illegible] in Paris, where they were partially corrected, none of these corrections is included on the map published by the Ministry, and it attributes (by royal order) different work to the Delimitation Commission than what it actually presented.

All of this could have been corrected in a timely manner if that map had not been published in such a hurry and if the Spanish commissioners responsible for the delimitation had had the time to



**TRANSLATION**

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review them, and to give their opinion on this topic, according to the mission they officially received.

From all of the above, it now appears that the Ministry of State has published, by royal order, meaning officially, a map that constitutes a particular and very “highly-esteemed” work of Mr.d’Almonte but which raises doubts and creates confusion related to the other official work done by the Franco-Spanish Commission [...sic] no corrections can be made.

Therefore, the undersigned are of the opinion that, respecting all that has been done by some and by others, and because it is impossible to verify it, this Protocol signed with France should be harmonized with the work done by the Franco-Spanish Delimitation Commission appointed for this purpose, that said Protocol should be considered as being of a provisional nature, and that it is appropriate to order that for the moment, the boundary will be that which was established by the Commission, until the country’s situation makes it possible to make these corrections more safely and precisely, bearing in mind that the true boundary will run as close as possible to the 1<sup>st</sup> parallel and

## TRANSLATION

the 9<sup>th</sup> meridian as specified in the treaty of Paris of [illegible].

This is the way things have always been done for the delimitation of boundaries, and improvements [illegible] are likely, the observation methods, the advancements of all types, [illegible] regions to select, and even the circumstances [illegible] of the moment, mean that the boundaries demarcations are essentially temporary, always subject to correction over time. In this case, we are talking about Guinea, a wild and [uneducated] country, which can be perfectly subject to a provisional Protocol created for an unspecified period of time, and which may be denounced during its duration in order to establish, if there is a need and a possibility, a new delimitation, based on the parallels and meridians agreed upon in the first agreement.

Thus, considering the Franco-Spanish Commission's work as being acceptable now, the proposal is to accept the boundary as a provisional one where Spain would gain nearly 400 square kilometers, and France's request for just compensation, in that case.

The undersigned commissioners admit that there cannot be any disadvantage to

**TRANSLATION**

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the southern boundary, instead of following Utamboni's line until Mitombe, going north along the Rio [illegible]'s waterway, thus offering France the compensation that it is requesting.

As for allocating [illegible] Island to France, the commissioners consider that there is no sufficient reason to cede it. The issues of fishing and preventing contraband with this island as a base is not more appealing for France than for Spain, and the utility to own it if such a possibility exists for France must exist for Spain for the same reasons.

The situation with this island is clearly determined using surveys that were done to establish the thalweg [illegible], which means that it is located to the north and in full Spanish possession, and it must stay there, because, of all the islands in Rio Muni, it is the only one where the dry land can be inhabited and farmed under good conditions.

Such is the report that we submit to Your Excellency on the matter in question. May God protect you for many years to come.

Madrid, 8/2/190[illegible]

Signed

Eladio L. Vilches

Manuel Nieves

To [illegible] Head of the Colonial Section of the Ministry of State

Certified true copy, Director of the [illegible] Colonial Section [illegible]



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"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the French text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/13/21

Date



Ministère d'Etat  
Section Coloniale.

44

La Commission franco-espagnole qui a établi la délimitation du territoire continental de la Guinée, a mis fin à son travail dans la forme et de la manière tout au long expliqués dans les rapports explicatifs qui ont été présentés au temps opportun. Ainsi qu'on peut s'en rendre compte les calculs de coordonnées furent soigneusement faits par les Capitaines Nieves et Roche qui les ont obtenus séparément et comparés ensuite, admettant ou rejetant les écarts selon qu'ils se trouvaient ou non dans la limite de la tolérance.

Pour toute l'expédition, les 3 chronomètres que possédait la Commission française et les deux de la Commission espagnole marchèrent d'accord jusqu'à la moitié de la frontière orientale où une sensible divergence se produisit dans l'un des chronomètres espagnols. Les indications ne furent pas dans la suite prises en considération pour ce motif et les Capitaines Nieves et Roche ne s'en rapportèrent seulement qu'aux heures marquées

d'accord par les autres quatre chronomètres  
diurnement vérifiés avant chaque observation.

Pour vérifier lesdits temps chronométriques, le Capitaine Nieves, prépara l'observation annoncée d'une réapparition du  $\mu$  appelée de Jupiter dans la nuit du 24 Septembre. L'opération manqua par suite de l'éclaircissement du ciel, mais ce détail se trouve dans le rapport dudit Capitaine.

En recevant de la Section Coloniale la mission de recherche  $\mu$ , dans la fixation de l'axe de la frontière Orientale, quelque erreur pouvait se glisser, le Capitaine Nieves a vuise les calculs et les a trouvés exacts. Par suite, si quelque erreur existait, elle ne peut être absolument due qu'aux instruments et impossible à découvrir à moins de recommencer les opérations qui ferait avec plus de temps et dans de meilleures conditions que celles dont a pu bénéficier la Commission de délimitation.

Il n'est pas non plus responsable de l'effacement, même en beaucoup de temps, parce que pour obtenir une constante rectification des chronomètres il serait nécessaire

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La Guinée Espagnole fut croisée par diverses lignes télégraphiques au moyen dequelles on put faire connaître l'heure à un moment déterminé d'une station fixe sur la côte aux différents lieux d'observation, au même temps que l'installation des stations indicateurs se vérifierait d'une manière stable et que les observations se répèteraient souvent pour obtenir une moyenne de résultats.

Rien de cela ne peut être fait pour le moment, l'état dans lequel se trouve la côte, et comme cette précision dans le travail est l'unique garantie du succès, on n'offrira non plus aucune sécurité en recommençant le travail s'il ne peut être vérifié dans des conditions de plus grande exactitude.

Comme forme de comparaison, le Ministre d'Etat a fourni une carte publiée, par ordre royal, par M<sup>r</sup> Enrique d'Almonte, aide de ses mines, qui fit partie de la Commission royale de l'Afrique occidentale.

Cette carte où se trouvent reportés les indications fournies par différents travaux de reconnaissance, ne peut faire foi dans un litige de cette espèce, tant parce que les itinéraires qui y figurent ne

sont établis par aucune observation astronomique  
 que parce que le surplus, en dehors des zones incom-  
 plètement reconnues, est des fausses côtes, et  
 que la carte ne figurait pas ces accidents de terrain de pure invention -

Sur surplus, elle offre cette particularité  
 les frontières qui sont données comme officielles  
 reconnues par la Commission de délimitation  
 franco-espagnole, ne sont pas exactes parce que  
 la dite carte fut publiée alors que la Commission  
 espagnole se trouvait à Paris pour mettre à  
 travail l'accord avec ceux de la Commission  
 française, en sorte que la carte a reproduit  
 croquis qui ont été emportés pour être cor-  
 rigés à Paris où ils ont été rectifiés en partie,  
 qu'aucune de ces rectifications ne figure sur  
 la carte publiée par le Ministère, et qu'elle  
 trouve attribuée (non ordre royal) à la Com-  
 mission de délimitation des travaux différents de  
 qu'elle a présentés.

Ces corrections n'ont pu être rectifiées en temps  
 opportun si la dite carte n'avait pas été publiée  
 avec tant d'empressement et si les délégués espagnols  
 de la délimitation avaient eu le temps de



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vision et de donner leur avis à un sujet comme ils  
 en avaient reçu officiellement la mission.

De ce qui précède, il résulte maintenant que  
 le Ministère d'Etat a publié, par ordre royal, c'est-à-dire  
 avec un caractère officiel, une carte qui constitue un  
 travail particulier et "estimable" de M. d'Alarante,  
 mais qui soulève des doutes et crée de confusions  
 au sujet de l'autorité d'un travail officiel fait par la Com-  
 mission franco-espagnole ne tenant y apporter aucune  
 rectification.

En conséquence, les soussignés ont l'honneur de vous  
 adresser tout ce qui a été fait par le susdit et par  
 le susdit, puisqu'il est impossible de le vérifier le  
 Protocole signé avec la France mit mis en concor-  
 dance avec les travaux arrêtés par la Commission  
 de délimitation franco-espagnole homologués à cet  
 effet; que ledit Protocole devra être considéré  
 comme ayant un caractère provisoire et que  
 il a lieu d'arrêter que pour le moment la frontière  
 sera celle tracée par la Commission jusqu'à ce que  
 l'état du pays permette d'en faire la rectification  
 avec plus de sûreté et de précision, en partant tou-  
 jours de ce principe que la vraie frontière se rap-  
 prochera le plus possible du parallèle 1.° et du

mention 9<sup>e</sup> stipulé dans le traité de Paris de 1763.  
 C'est ainsi qu'il a toujours été procédé  
 dans le travail de délimitation ; et pour  
 parfaitement dont ont été susceptibles les  
 méthodes d'observation, le progrès de tout ordre  
 région à déparager et jusqu'aux circonstances de  
 du moment, tout que les tracés des frontières ne  
 essentiellement paragers, toujours rectifiables en  
 temps. Il s'agit, en l'espèce, de la Guinée, d'un pays  
 sauvage et inculte, qui peut parfaitement faire  
 l'objet d'un Protocole provisoire, établi pour un  
 temps incertain, et dénouable au cours de son exécution  
 afin de procéder alors, s'il y a nécessité et possibilité  
 d'une nouvelle délimitation suivant les points  
 et méthodes convenus dans le premier accord.

Ainsi donc, acceptant comme bon, pour le  
 moment le travail de la Commission Franco-  
 espagnole, il résulte de la proposition qui se fait  
 d'admettre la frontière comme provisoire, que  
 l'Espagne y gagne près de 400 kilomètres carrés  
 et la demande de compensation de la France est  
 juste dans ce sens.

Les délégués souverains admettent qu'il ne  
 peut y avoir aucun inconvénient à ce que

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Le pontierie meridionale au lieu de suivre le lit de  
 l'Atauloï jusqu'à Mitamba, remonte au Nord en  
 suivant le cours du Rio d'Kung, offrant par ce moyen  
 à la France la compensation qu'elle demande.

Quant à adjoindre à la France l'île Gande,  
 le délégué estime qu'il n'y a pas de raison suffisante  
 pour la céder. Les questions de pêche et la suppression de la  
 contrebande avec cette île comme base n'offrent pas  
 pour la France un intérêt plus grand que pour  
 l'Espagne et l'utilité de la posséder si elle existe pour  
 la France doit exister pour l'Espagne pour des raisons identiques.

La situation de cette île est clairement déterminée  
 à l'aide des sondages qui ont été fait dans le but de  
 fixer le Thalweg Nuni, lequel la laisse au Nord et en  
 pleine possession espagnole, et elle doit y être perçue  
 qu'elle est de tous les îles du Rio Nuni l'unique dont  
 le sol ferme est habitable et cultivable dans d'assez bonnes  
 conditions.

C'est le rapport que nous pouvons adresser à Votre Ex.  
 sur le cas dont il s'agit. Bien lui garde de longues années,

Madrid. 2.5<sup>es</sup> 1909

Signé:

Radio P. Vildres

Marcos Nieves

Al Sr. Jefe de la Sección Colonial del M<sup>to</sup> d'Est.  
 pour copie conforme, Le Chef de la Se<sup>on</sup> Colonial: Edward Dorek



## **Annex 57**

A. Barrera, “What They are and What They Should be: the Spanish Possessions in the Gulf of Guinea” *General Marine Review*, Conference of the Royal Geographic Society (November 1907) (excerpt)



TRANSLATION



GENERAL

# NAVAL

REVIEW

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**TRANSLATION**

WHAT THEY ARE...

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A reduction in personnel, which can be achieved with no harm to administration and governance, would generate another advantage that would go a long way toward improving many services, for which there will surely be exceptional people who aspire to hold those posts. These should be the people sent to propagate our civilization, to teach the inhabitants what the words work, family, honor, Homeland, King, etc. mean in life, and who, for the sake of patriotism, sacrifice themselves to the rigors of the climate, in providing a service to their country.

I doubt that these sorts of people cannot be found, as I do not believe that patriotism has abandoned us. We have so many examples in our history who teach us that Spain has never wanted for thousands of Spaniards who have sacrificed their comfort to go out to spread our civilization, to go out to colonize; and if our efforts toward civilization have been viewed badly on some occasions, today, any detractors we have so unfairly had are the first to recognize the advantages of our colonization, and seek within in the tenets that must serve to guide them in continuing it.

In speaking about the rigors of the climate, I must say that this is one of the topics that has provoked the most imagination when writing about Fernando Póo and its dependencies. It seems that there has been much determination to cast this country in a light in which by merely mentioning it the fevers take hold of us, and the thought of going causes our hearts to sink as we try to drive out the thought that this country exists, leaving it only to the unfortunate, who are looked upon with pity by other Spaniards because they must go there in search of their bread and butter. While the climate is not good, it is not as bad as it has been made out to be. The Spaniards and foreigners who go try it out and stay there, and the missionaries who went and have remained there, serve as an example that its evils are not so great. This simultaneously allows us to see that moderation and good habits are the main components of good health for those who do not have to toil in the fields.

There is no question that the climate is not excellent, and that one does not adapt to it, but as time goes on and hygiene continues to be implemented, the conditions of the country are improving, and will improve even more when it

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becomes more sanitary, when communication becomes more frequent and when life resources are in better supply. These improvements will be attained when those who live independently make the sacrifices for their Homeland that it deserves and go to the colony, as it is a duty of any good Spaniard to ensure that the only remnant of our colonial empire flourishes and prospers, setting it apart as a model of colonization and development for generations to come.

Our work in these possessions may be divided into two large groups: the administrative and the political aspect. I will begin by sharing an idea of the colony's administration, and will conclude by speaking about the state of agriculture and what, based on my knowledge and belief, could be done to foster development of these territories, which are found in a fully primitive state, where their inhabitants and their land are so different, as nothing—neither the conditions of the country, its people, nor their customs—is the same on the islands and on the mainland, apart from the lush vegetation that is characteristic of tropical countries.

The Colony's Administration may be divided into two groups: one, the colonial Section that directs the policy and administration of the Territories from Spain; and two, their administration per se. In order for this administration to be developed and sustained, the State subsidizes the Colony annually to the tune of two million pesetas for all items considered, with approximately five hundred thousand of those going to the colonial Section for staff and materials, not counting the communications service (248,500 pesetas), and the remainder is divided among the various branches of the administration of those territories, which fall under the command of a Governor General.

This remainder is divided into various portions to sustain and maintain the Secretariat of the Governor General, a Postal Authority, a colonial Labor Office, a Treasury Authority, a Customs Authority, a trial and magistrate court, a municipal court, a police force, an Office of Public Works, the Missions, Education, Health, Military Services and Port Captaincies, in addition to the Sub-Governments of the districts of Bata and Elobey, and the delegations of San Carlos in Fernando Póo, Asobla in the Muni, and Annobon, also

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sustaining a communications service in the Gulf of Guinea subsidized with 250,000 pesetas.

The Secretariat of General Government is entrusted with a multitude of matters that give rise to the functions of the General Government. These are complex matters, and are not only extremely important, but the plethora of administrative formalities require constant work so that one does not fall behind, and also so that all rulings and decisions that must make up the natural precedents for the Government are recorded, in addition to carrying out the executive duties that make up the Colony's Government.

It is well understood that a single person cannot be in charge of such significant matters and at the same time hold the post of Property Registry Official, as each of these tasks on their own could occupy his attention, aside from the fact that the Government may have to intervene in court proceedings stemming from land matters. It would seem natural that both positions would be separate, and that the Registry, an even more important responsibility than the Secretary position, given that it forms the foundation of ownership in the possessions, would be given a property Registry Official, who, after attending to the establishment and organization of the office, must record, in accordance with what the Law requires, property titles, which would form the basis for all legislation, and serve as a guarantee for those who wish to use their capital as a mortgage, thereby helping farmers who, lacking resources, are in large part on the brink of ruin. The separation of these positions is so logical that in Spain it is not enough for one to be an attorney to hold the position of registry official; one must study and pass special exams, and not all reach this goal. If this happens in Spain, is it not more natural for this to happen there, where ownership is just beginning to come into being, and where a lack of experience or the overwhelming workload of those in charge of the Registry could result in procedural and conceptual errors that cannot be remedied without seeking judicial intervention?

The case is the same for the Secretariat of the Land Board. This post has always fallen to an official from the Secretariat of General Government, and his role cannot be neglected because of this circumstance. Because the land issue is perhaps the most important of all the issues dealt with in the territories, if the numerous case files are not processed,



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Mary Lewis, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/19/21

Date







## REVISTA GENERAL

DE

## MARINA

NOVIEMBRE, 1907

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La disminución del personal, que puede hacerse sin perjuicio para la administración y gobierno de aquélla, produciría una ventaja más, y sería la no pequeña de mejorar muchos servicios, con lo que seguramente habría personas de condiciones excepcionales que aspirasen á aquellos destinos y que á ellos fueran á propagar nuestra civilización, á enseñar á aquellos naturales lo que representan en la vida las palabras trabajo, familia, honor, Patria, Rey, etc.; y que en aras del patriotismo se sacrificasen á los rigores de aquel clima, prestando un servicio á su país.

Dudo que no se encontrase personal de estas condiciones, pues no puedo creer que el patriotismo haya huído de nosotros, que tantos ejemplos tenemos en nuestra Historia, que nos enseñan que en España jamás ha faltado y que á él han sacrificado millares de españoles su comodidad para ir á difundir nuestra civilización, para ir á colonizar; y si nuestros esfuerzos en pro de la civilización han sido mal apreciados en algunas ocasiones, hoy, los detractores que tan injustamente hemos tenido, son los primeros en reconocer las ventajas de nuestra colonización y en ella buscan los preceptos que les han de servir de norma para continuarla.

Al hablar de los rigores del clima, he de decir que éste es uno de los temas sobre que más se ha fantaseado al escribir acerca de Fernando Póo y sus dependencias, pareciendo que ha habido empeño en pintar á aquel país con condiciones tales, que sólo con hablar de él las fiebres se apoderan de nosotros, y el pensar que á él se puede ir encoge el corazón y se procura apartar de la imaginación que tal país existe, dejándolo sólo para los desheredados de la fortuna, que son mirados con lástima por el resto de los españoles sólo por tener que ir á buscar allí el pan de cada día; y si aquel clima no es bueno, tampoco es tan malo como se le pinta, lo prueba los españoles y extranjeros que allí van y que allí se quedan, y un ejemplo de que su maldad no es tan grande nos lo dan los misioneros que allí fueron y allí continúan, haciéndonos ver al mismo tiempo que la morigeración y las buenas costumbres son los principales agentes de una buena salud para quien no tenga que trabajar en el campo.

Es indudable que aquel clima no es una cosa excelente, lo es también que no se aclimata uno á él; pero á medida que los tiempos van avanzando y que la higiene se va imponiendo, las condiciones de aquel país van mejorando, y mejorarán más el día que se higie-

nice, el día que con mayor frecuencia en las comunicaciones y mayores recursos de vida se obtenga una mejor alimentación; y estas mejoras se obtendrán el día que á la colonia vayan aquellos que con independencia en la vida hagan por su Patria los sacrificios que á la misma se deben, siendo uno de los deberes de todo buen español, hacer que lo único que nos resta de nuestro imperio colonial florezca y prospere, dejándolo como un modelo de colonización y explotación por las generaciones futuras.

En dos grandes agrupaciones se puede dividir nuestra labor en aquellas posesiones: la administrativa y la política; empezaré por dar una idea de la administración de la colonia, para concluir por hablar del estado de la agricultura y de cuanto, según mi leal saber y entender, podría hacerse en pro del desarrollo de aquellos territorios que se hallan en el estado primitivo más completo, y en los que sus habitantes y su suelo reúnen condiciones tan distintas, ya que ni las condiciones del país, ni sus naturales, ni las costumbres de éstos, ni nada, es igual en las islas y en el continente fuera de la lujuriosa vegetación propia de los países tropicales.

La Administración de la Colonia puede dividirse en dos grupos: uno, la Sección colonial que desde España dirige la política y administración de los Territorios, y otro, la administración propiamente dicha de ellos: para el desenvolvimiento y sostenimiento de esta administración, el Estado subvenciona anualmente á la Colonia con dos millones de pesetas, calculándose en quinientas mil; próximamente, los ingresos que por todos conceptos se consideran, dedicando á la Sección colonial para personal y material, sin contar el servicio de comunicaciones, 248.500 pesetas, y el resto se reparte entre los distintos ramos de la administración de aquellos territorios, puestos bajo el mando de un Gobernador general.

Este resto se divide en varias partes para el sostenimiento y entretenimiento de una Secretaría del Gobierno general, una Administración de Correos, una Curaduría colonial, una Administración de Hacienda, otra de Aduanas, un Juzgado de primera instancia é instrucción, un Juzgado municipal, un Cuerpo de policía, un Negociado de obras públicas, las Misiones, Instrucción, Sanidad, Servicio militar y Capitanías de puerto, más los sub-Gobiernos de los distritos de Bata y Elobey y las delegaciones de San Carlos en Fernando Póo, Asobla en el Muni y Annobon, sos-

teniendo además un servicio de comunicaciones en el Golfo de Guinea subvencionado con 250.000 pesetas.

A la Secretaría del Gobierno general están encomendados la multitud de asuntos á que dan lugar las funciones del Gobierno general, asuntos complejos, y no sólo de gran importancia, sino de multiplicidad de formas administrativas que hacen preciso un asiduo trabajo para que, no sólo no sufran retraso, sino para que quede constancia de los precedentes y resoluciones que deben formar la natural jurisprudencia de aquel Gobierno, que une á su representación las facultades ejecutivas que integra el Gobierno de la colonia.

Se comprende muy bien que una sola persona no pueda tener á su cargo asuntos tan importantes, y que al mismo tiempo desempeñe el destino de Registrador de la Propiedad, ya que cada uno de ellos por sí solo basta para ocupar su atención, además de que el Gobierno puede tener que intervenir en alguna acción judicial procedente de asuntos de terrenos, pareciendo natural que ambos cargos fuesen independientes y que al Registro, cargo aún más importante que el de Secretario, puesto que es la base de la propiedad en aquellas posesiones, se destinase un Registrador de la propiedad, el que después de dedicar su atención al arreglo y organización de la dependencia, anotase con los requisitos que la Ley impone, los títulos de propiedad, lo cual sería la base para toda legislación, y una garantía para aquéllos que deseen emplear sus capitales en sentido hipotecario, ayudando así á aquellos agricultores que, faltos de recursos, están en su mayoría amenazados de ruína; y tan lógica es la separación de ambos cargos, cuanto que en la Península no basta ser Abogado para ser Registrador; hay que hacer estudios y oposiciones especiales, y no todos llegan á la meta, y si esto sucede en la Península, ¿no es más natural que ocurra allí donde la propiedad empieza á nacer, y donde la impericia ó el exceso de trabajo de los encargados del Registro puede dar lugar á errores de forma y concepto que no se puedan subsanar sin la intervención de la acción judicial?

En el mismo caso se encuentra la Secretaría de la Junta de terrenos, cuyo destino ha venido recayendo siempre en un funcionario de la Secretaría del Gobierno general, sin que por ello pueda desatender su cargo, y siendo la cuestión de terrenos la más importante quizás de todas las que se ventilan en aquellos territorios, sin que se despachen los numerosos expedientes que



**Annex 58**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter from the Minister of State Concerning the Borders of Congo and Spanish Guinea* (20 April 1907)



**TRANSLATION**

Signed

**40**

April 20, 1907

Letters from the Minister of State  
Concerning  
the Delimitation of the Congo and of  
Spanish Guinea

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## TRANSLATION

Ministry of State

Madrid, April 20, 1907

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In response to your communication of last March 21, I have the honor of informing you that this Ministry has not yet sent a definitive response to the notes that it received from the Embassy of the Republic, on the topic of the delimitation between French Congo and Continental Spanish Guinea, for the following reasons:

Soon after this department received the documents and maps referring to the said delimitation carried out by the French and Spanish representatives, it was decided that a map of Continental Spanish Guinea would be prepared using all of the data, details, and information that had been collected.

To this end, information was requested from the French and German governments, and, in creating this map, the geographer Don Enrique d'Almonte noted considerable differences between that information and the information provided by the Franco-Spanish Commission.

Locations, that, according to the work of that Commission, appeared to be located quite close to the 9th meridian east of Paris appear, in the itinerary of the German representative Mr. Foerster, of the Franco-German Commission of

## TRANSLATION

delimitation between French Congo and Cameroon done in 1901, were located much closer to the Atlantic Ocean coast.

Additionally, the work done by [illegible], a French Missionary from the St. Esprit congregation, also shows a shift to the west, meaning toward the Atlantic, much more [illegible] than the itinerary of the aforementioned Franco-Spanish commission noted as close to the 9<sup>th</sup> meridian east of Paris.

To clarify these discrepancies that consequently prevent this Ministry from definitively approving the work of the aforementioned Franco-Spanish Commission, we have called on Messrs. [illegible] and Nieve, members of the commission, and on Mr. d'Almonte, who drew the map of Continental Spanish Guinea.

These gentlemen wrote the attached report, which did not provide us with any notable clarification to alleviate the doubts that the aforementioned discrepancies raised.

Therefore, this Ministry, wishing to clarify this issue before responding as suggested in the notes from the Embassy of the Republic, has decided to explore the hinterlands of Continental Spanish Guinea.

The authorities in the Bata district have [illegible] the expedition that did not reach the locations whose

**TRANSLATION**

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[illegible] has been astronomically established by the Franco-Spanish Commission of 1901, due to the bitter war that the [illegible] tribes were involved in, with the result being that there was such a significant food shortage that it was no longer possible to feed the porters or the soldiers. It was necessary to intervene: [illegible] and with perseverance, to stop the war and wait for the necessary time to pass, so that with new harvests obtained, the indigenous tribes were able to provide food to the explorers.

It was thus that the Spanish and German Commission which delimited the boundaries between Cameroon and Spanish Guinea, and also most of the representatives from the French delimitation mission commanded by Captain Cottés, who crossed the aforementioned Spanish colony during their recent travels to return to the coast, were able to obtain food.

In June 1906, the Ministry decided that Don Enrique d'Almonte would go to Spanish Guinea on a special study mission, which was completed following proposals from the German Government so that the delimitation between Cameroon and Spanish Guinea could proceed.

When beginning the work, it was found that the itineraries that were supposed to be followed crossed those of the 1901 Franco-Spanish Commission.

## TRANSLATION

Thus, from [illegible] on, the situation can be considered exact going toward the interior, the itineraries were measured, instead of evaluating them using a [illegible], to do the astronomical observations [illegible] to establish the location of the important points.

The result was that the German and Spanish representatives encountered various localities much closer to the coast than the 1901 Franco-Spanish mission had considered as being close to the 9<sup>th</sup> meridian east of Paris, and whose distance to the coast was reduced by almost half as the attached sketches show.

We must also note that, near the [illegible] as on the boundaries of French Congo, Cameroon, and Continental Spanish Guinea, meaning where the 9<sup>th</sup> meridian east of Paris crosses the 2<sup>nd</sup> parallel 10' 20" north latitude, [illegible] the French Commission commanded by Captain Cottés and the German and Spanish representatives encountered an area irrigated by the Kié and its tributaries (the Kié is a tributary of the Rio [illegible] or Campo) where the 1901 Franco-Spanish Commission placed [illegible] island in the said Rio Campo, which today is located much closer to the [illegible].

In light of the above, the Ministry has decided, in order to better clarify the question,

## TRANSLATION

43

to do the following:

Using the information provided by the Franco-German Delimitation Commission and the Franco-Spanish Commission of 1901, the work done by French missionary Mr. P. [illegible], and the itineraries and report concerning Continental Spanish Guinea and the surrounding region relative to French Congo and Cameroon, [illegible] the French, German, and Spanish delimitation commissions that worked from 1906 to 1907, an overview map will be prepared, which will include the results of the well-reasoned discussion of the above-mentioned [illegible] documents.

To this map will be attached a detailed report of the discussions and a comparison of the aforementioned documents.

As soon as the said report and map are completed, we will send your embassy a copy, along with a study in which the government of [illegible], relying on the said report and map, will propose to the Republic a tracing of the natural boundary that runs as close as possible to the 9<sup>th</sup> meridian east of Paris and the 1<sup>st</sup> parallel north latitude.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS



## TRANSLATION

There is no doubt that due to what has been presented above, the Embassy of the Republic [illegible] account of the impossible situation in which the department finds itself, in terms of giving a definitive response to the notes that have been kindly sent to it on this topic.

It was not possible, in essence, to treat a question of this importance lightly, to approve or reject the work of the Franco-Spanish Commission of 1901, [illegible] an [illegible] of the value of the work that it completed.

Additionally, in-depth reviews and studies are necessarily slow, and the Spanish representatives have had to [illegible] for the past 9 years, to [illegible] arrive at the conclusion of the border line [illegible], and in addition, to safeguard the interests of both France and Spain.

The department, additionally, would be very pleased if the French representative could produce a [illegible] work, and could devote all of the [illegible] necessary time to this.

Signed: Manuel Allende Salazar



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/13/21

Date



Autographié

H

40

- 20 avril 1907 -

Lettes du Ministère d'Etat  
au sujet de  
la Délimitation du Congo et de la  
Guinée Espagnole.

Ministère d'Etat.Madrid. Le Avril 1907.

41

En réponse à votre communication du 21 mars dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que ce Ministère n'a pas encore adressé de réponse définitive aux notes qu'il a reçues de l'Ambassade de la République au sujet de la délimitation entre le Congo français et la Guinée continentale Espagnole pour les caudales suivantes:

Peu après la réception par ce Département de documents et plans se référant à ladite délimitation effectuée par les délégués français et espagnols, il fut décidé qu'une carte de la Guinée continentale Espagnole serait dressée avec toutes les données, tous les renseignements et les informations qui auraient pu être réunis.

A cet effet, des renseignements furent sollicités des Gouvernements français et allemand et, en examinant cette carte, le Géographe Don Enrique d'Almouzo remarqua de différences considérables entre ceux-ci et ceux apportés par la Commission franco-espagnole.

Des localités qui, suivant le travail de cette Commission, devaient se trouver très-proches du Méridien 9° Est de Paris, apparaissent, dans l'itinéraire du délégué allemand M<sup>r</sup> Foerster, de la Commission franco-allemande de

délimitation entre le Congo français et le Cameroun effectuée en 1904. Située beaucoup plus près du littoral, à l'Océan Atlantique.

D'autre part, les travaux effectués dans ce sens par le R. P. Triller, Missionnaire français de la Congrégation du S<sup>t</sup> Esprit, indiquent aussi une déviation à l'Ouest, soit vers l'Atlantique, pour beaucoup en localité que l'itinéraire de ladite Commission franco-espagnole signalait comme proches dudit méridien 9<sup>e</sup> Est de Paris.

Pour éclaircir ces divergences qui empêchent conséquemment, le Ministère d'adopter définitivement les travaux de ladite Commission franco-espagnole, il a fait appel à M. F. Lhéry et M. de Mours, membres de la Commission et à M. d'Almeida qui a tracé la carte de la Guinée continentale espagnole.

Ces messieurs ont rédigé le rapport, ci-joint, qui nous apporte avant éclaircissement notable aux doutes et aux divergences susdites ont soulevés.

En conséquence, ce Ministère désire éclaircir question avant de répondre dans le sens indiqué par le note de l'Ambassade de la République, a décidé de faire explorer l'intérieur de la Guinée continentale espagnole.

Les autorités du district de Bata ont fait des expéditions qui n'ont pas atteint la localité dans la

action a été prise arbitrairement par la Commission franco-espagnole de 1905 en raison de la Guerre arabo-égyptienne qu'ont soulevée les Vichis Camero, Hamarou et Ipatou, et dont le résultat avait été de provoquer une si grande rareté des vivres qu'il n'était plus possible d'alimenter ni le porteur ni le soldat. Il a fallu intervenir amicalement et avec persévérance pour faire cesser l'état de guerre et attendre que le temps nécessaire s'écoulât pour qu'avec de nouvelles récoltes obtenues, les Vichis indigènes pussent fournir de vivres aux explorateurs.

C'est ainsi qu'ont pu être conciliées la Commission espagnole et allemande qui ont délimité la frontière entre le Cameroun et la Guinée espagnole et aussi la plus grande partie des délégués de la Mission de délimitation française commandée par le Capitaine Cottet qui ont traversé ladite colonie espagnole lors de leur récent voyage de retour à la côte.

En Juin 1906, le ministre de l'Intérieur que Don Enrique d'Almona a rendu à la Guinée espagnole au missionnaire d'études, mission qui fut remplie à la suite de propositions formulées par le Gouverneur allemand pour qu'il fut procédé à la délimitation entre le Cameroun et la Guinée espagnole.

En commençant le travail, il se trouva que les itinéraires qui devaient être suivis croisaient ceux de la Commission franco-espagnole de 1905.

En conséquence, à partir de Gougis (dont la situation peut être considérée comme exacte) en allant à l'intérieur, on a mesuré les itinéraires au lieu de s'en tenir au périmètre, non sans faire les observations astronomiques nécessaires pour fixer la situation de points importants.

L' résultat a été que le délégué allemand et l'espagnol ont rencontré beaucoup plus près de la côte des localités que la mission franco-espagnole de 1902 a considérées comme proches du méridien 9° Est de Paris dont l'éloignement du littoral se trouve réduit presque à moitié ainsi qu'il apparaît dans le croquis ci-joint.

On doit également noter que près du point commun aux frontières du Congo français, du Cameroun et de Guinée Continentale Espagnole, soit au croisement du méridien 9° Est de Paris avec le parallèle 2° 10' 20" de latitude nord, soit la Commission française commandée par le Capitaine Cottet et le délégué allemand et l'espagnol, ont rencontré une contrée irriguée par le Kie et ses affluents (le Kie est un affluent du Rio N'ou ou Campo) là où la Commission franco-espagnole de 1902 plaçait l'île M'Douman dudit Rio Campo, laquelle se trouve aujourd'hui située beaucoup plus près du littoral.

En conséquence de ce qui précède, le Ministre a décidé, pour mieux éclaircir la question, d'adjoindre

les mêmes raisons:

43  
 L'aide des renseignements fournis par les  
 Commissions de délimitation franco-allemande  
 et franco-espagnole de 1902, le Traité de Mission  
 naire Français R. P. Fülle, et les itinéraires et rapport  
 relatifs à la Frontière Continentale Espagnole et région  
 limitrophe, de ceux relatifs au Congo français et au  
 Cameroun, émanant des Commissions de délimitation  
 française, allemande et espagnole qui ont travaillé de  
 1906 à 1907,

il sera dressée une carte d'ensemble sur  
 laquelle sera reporté le résultat de la discussion raisonnée  
 des documents techniques précités;

il sera joint à cette carte un rapport détaillant  
 la discussion et la comparaison des documents dont il  
 s'agit.

Dès que ledit rapport et carte auront été faits,  
 on en remettra copie à Votre Ambassade au même  
 temps qu'une étude dans laquelle le Gouvernement  
 de S. M. s'appuyant sur lesdits rapport et carte, pro-  
 posera à celui de la République, un tracé de  
 frontière naturelle le plus rapproché possible du  
 méridien 9° Est de Paris et du parallèle 1° de  
 latitude Nord.



Je ne doute pas qu'en raison de ce qui vient  
d'être exposé l'Ambassade de la Républ. que ne  
rende compte de l'impossibilité dans laquelle se  
trouve le Département pour donner une réponse  
catégorique aux notes qu'elle a bien voulu  
lui adresser au sujet de cette affaire.

Il n'était pas possible, en effet, de tracer  
à la légère une question de l'importance  
celle-ci, d'approuver ou de rejeter le Traité  
la Commission franco-espagnole de 1901 sans  
rendre un compte exact de la valeur de travaux  
qu'elle a réalisés.

De là l'examen et l'étude approfondie  
et nécessairement lente, à laquelle ont dû se consacrer  
les délégués espagnols depuis 3 ans et demi pour  
arriver à déterminer le Traité exact d'une frontière  
et, au surplus, sauvegarder les intérêts qui sont  
aussi bien ceux de la France que ceux de l'Espagne.

Le Département verrait, d'ailleurs, avec  
grand plaisir le délégué français à tenir au mieux  
son travail et y consacrer tout le temps qu'il croira  
nécessaire.

Signé: Manuel Allendesalazar



**Annex 59**

*Letter of the Minister of State of the Kingdom of Spain (18 May 1908)*



## TRANSLATION

[in margin: Elobey, May 18, [illegible]]

*To His Excellency the Minister of State*

*May 18, 1908*

*Dear Sir:*

*In response to the respectful message from Your Excellency number [illegible] dated March 30 advising me that the French have proceeded to occupy the islets of M'Bañe and Leva [illegible] to Corisco Island [illegible] and that I shared with Your Excellency [illegible] a cablegram dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month that it is not true that France occupied said islets of M'Bañe and Leva, which the Sub-Governor of Elobey informs me that [illegible line] the authorities of the [illegible] of Gabon sent the war ship [illegible name] with several officials on board to examine the above-mentioned islets, going as principal [illegible] of the expedition Mr. [illegible?], head of the Gabonese Government cabinet, and Mr. [illegible] of the French Navy, who performed reconnaissance and drew maps, but did not perform any possessory act over the islets.*

*Regardless, given the [illegible line]*

**TRANSLATION**

*that the French attempt to occupy said islets [illegible] today I order the following of the Sub-Governor of Elobey:*

*“Advise him of what I was notified in official document no. 134 dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month with regard to the islets of M’Bañe and Leva, over which our sovereignty is indisputable and with which so far [illegible] the territorial integrity, which I am willing to guard, whatever the cost, to proceed immediately to ensure that they be occupied and our glorious flag be raised upon them, for which purpose I send you with this steamer eight guards that will be based at the post on Corisco to serve in the occupation of said islets, with a pair or sentinel of eight individuals continuously stationed on each one, and the pairs will be relieved weekly, bringing provisions and water during the time, that will be administered from the port of Corisco.*

*Nevertheless, since these islets do not have any place to [illegible] the service partners in [illegible] at the time of making a provisional [illegible—hut] or a tent in the [illegible] build a house for this purpose [illegible]*

**TRANSLATION**

*with the necessary communication between the partners occupying said islets and the port of Corisco, [illegible] or signature necessary for this purpose, [illegible] that must be spent for these purposes, [illegible] account to this General Government. [illegible] has not yet arrived; as soon as it comes, I will send it.”*

*With regard to the military port that the French [illegible] in Mitombe, I am honored to advise Your Excellency that on April 11, 1907 [illegible] to the south of said Mitombe River, [illegible] the mouth of the [illegible–Asobla?] River, [illegible] north of the border line [illegible] but that line is not delimited well [illegible text with strikethroughs] nor is there anything that [illegible] from there [illegible] point at which the French have [illegible] said customs port [illegible] belongs [in] our territory or French territory. In the message that I sent Your Excellency on August 26 of last year regarding my expedition to the District of Elobey, I shared the reasons that I had*

**TRANSLATION**

*to arrange for opening a section from [illegible] Asobla to [illegible—Cangana?], so necessary from all points of view, political, strategic and much more so from a commercial point of view, because with this section, we will avoid the [illegible] of indigenous [illegible] engaged in rubber and ivory trade, through French customs ports in [illegible—Mitombe?], Ekado and M'Beto.*

*May God bless you.*

*[signature]*





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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/14/21

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Date





160  
78 Mayo 2009  
116  
El Excmo Sr. Ministro de Estado

En 18 de Mayo de 1867

Excmo Sr.

En contestación a la respetable comunicación de V. E. número 266 de fecha 30 de Marzo en la que me comunica que los franceses han procedido a la ocupación de los islotes de Baine y Lévea próximos a la Isla de Congo y que participé a V. E. en mi cablegrama de 1.º de Mayo, permitiendo sea conocido que Francia haya ocupado dichos islotes de Baine y Lévea sobre los cuales me participó el Subgobernador de Gabón, que por el comandante de dicho territorio, he sido informado que las autoridades de la Comandancia del Gabón enviaron el buque de guerra Mission con varios oficiales a su bordo a reconocer los mencionados islotes yendo como principales encargados de la expedición el Sr. Kosteim jefe del Gabón del Gobernador del Gabón y el Sr. Puri de Chermannes capitán de Navío de la Armada de guerra francesa, quienes hicieron reconocimientos y levantaron planos, no haciendo sin embargo acto alguno de posesión sobre ellos.

Soy muy atento que sobre las relaciones de los Comisarios

con las fuerzas judiciales como que los segundos indicaron la  
ocupación de dichos Teltos, con esta fecha dije y ordeno al Sr. D.  
Subgobernador de Eloboy lo siguiente:

El Encargo de cuanto me comunicó en su Oficio n.º 134 de  
16 del actual respecto a los Teltos de 16' 10' 50" y 1/2", sobre los cuales  
es inalienable nuestra soberanía y con los que hasta ahora no se ha  
hecho otra efectiva, y estando con seguridad a mi la integridad del  
Terminio por lo que estoy dispuesto a volver, en este lo que me este, pro-  
cederé inmediatamente a disponer sean aquellos ocupados e  
instalados en sus respectivos lugares gloriosos pabellón a cuyo efecto envío por  
este modo ocho guardias que dependen del punto de Coisco, para  
prestar servicio en la ocupación de dichos Teltos, en cada uno de  
los cuales habrá <sup>constantemente</sup> una pareja o plantón de los dichos ocho individuos,  
y cuya pareja será relevada semanalmente, llevándose provisiones  
y pagando por el tiempo que les será suministrada del punto  
de Coisco. Ahora bien, como no hay en dichos Teltos donde  
se guarden las parejas de servicio en ellos, dependiente a la vez  
que se haga un choro provisional o una banda de compañía  
en el interior de cualquiera una casa o propósito, como?



mudo para disponer la apertura de una trucha desde Acobla  
 a Cangare, han uacurua bajo todos los puntos de vista politico  
 y estrategico y mucho mas bajo el Comercial, pues con dicha  
 trucha se evita el paso de nuestros indigenas que se dedican  
 al comercio del caucho, marfil &c. por los puntos aduaneros  
 franceses de Elbitambo, Ekido y 16' Peto.

Avis C.<sup>a</sup>

*feche*

**Annex 60**

*Letter from the Sub-Governor of Elobey to the Governor of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea (12 May 1908)*





## TRANSLATION

[Illegible handwriting in top margin]

[Annotation in top margin:] May 19, 1908

[Stamp:] General Government of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea, May 15, 1908, General Registry, Entry No. 60

Subgovernment of Elobey and its Dependencies, No. [Illegible]

[Annotation in left margin:] Forwarded to the Ministry [Signature] May 15, 1908

Your Excellency,

This letter is in response to your correspondence No. 5 of April 28, which I have just received, whereby Your Excellency brought to my attention the [illegible] of His Excellency, the Minister of State, regarding confidential news about certain attempts by the French involving the [illegible] and [illegible] islets near Corisco, over which our sovereignty is [illegible].

Long before I had the honor of receiving [illegible], and driven by the same spirit that guides me in the fulfillment of the duties of the various offices I have undeservedly held—especially when it comes to this district which, as Your Excellency knows, I care so deeply about—I began to investigate on a confidential basis how much truth there was to the serious [illegible] that had been brought to my attention prior to my arrival. In this regard, I can categorically assure Your Excellency that, while it is true that, in past years, the French authorities of the Colonies of Gabon have dispatched a small warship known as “[illegible]”, with several officials on board on a reconnaissance mission to the aforesaid islands, an expedition that was primarily entrusted to Mr. [illegible], the Chief of Cabinet of the Governor of Gabon, and Mr. [illegible], the Ensign of the French War Navy, who conducted reconnaissance surveys and drew some maps, they did not engage, however, in any acts of possession whatsoever. Based on the news I was already familiar with as a result of Mr. [illegible] representations, and the news I have recently heard, I have [illegible] a plan that I cannot implement until the matter has been discussed by the Board of Authorities and Your Excellency has granted me authorization to carry out this project whereby the flag of the Spanish Nation would float on said islets on a daily basis. Given the nature of this matter, I have discussed it in confidence with the Secretary of the Government during his visit here. Thus, Your Excellency may obtain further information about it from him.

God bless Your Excellency.

[Illegible] May 12, 1908

[Illegible signature]

His Excellency, the General Governor of these Territories



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21

Date



19 Mayo 1908



Muy Señor.

Subgobierno de Elobey

aus Dependencias.

Núm. 121.

Desarrollado al Mi-  
nisterio

~~Secretaria~~

En 15-5-08

Contéstase la comunica-  
cion de T. G. n.º 56 de  
fecha 27 de Abril que  
recibo ahora mismo,  
trada dándome la R. D.  
del Excmo Sr. Mini-  
stro de Estado re-  
ferente a noticias  
confidenciales que se  
obtuvieron con inter-  
tos de los Franceses,  
relativos a los islotas  
Bona y Lora próxi-  
mos a Gambia, y sobre  
los cuales es urgente

vuestra Soberanía.

Mucho antes de  
 tener el honor de re-  
 cibir la comision de  
 V. M. y con el interés  
 que me anima en el  
 desempeño de todos  
 cuantos cargos inme-  
 recidamente he tenido,  
 y más aún con enan-  
 to se relaciona con  
 este Distrito al que  
 como sabe V. M. tanta  
 cariño tengo, impelió  
 á indagar confidenc-  
 ialmente lo que hubie-  
 ra de esos graves  
 sucesos, que hasta

señalaban llegar.  
do antes de mi veni-  
da a ésta, y puedo  
asegurar a V. E. de  
una manera rotunda  
que si bien es cierto  
que en años pasados  
las Autoridades de la  
Colonía del Gabón  
enviaron al pequeño  
bater de guerra "Al-  
eyou" con varios Ofi-  
ciales a bordo a re-  
conocer las mencio-  
nadas islas, yendo  
como principales en-  
cargados de la espe-  
dición el Sr. Costin

Jefe del Gabinete del  
Gobernador de Gabón,  
y el Sr. Pavi de Cha-  
vannes, Alférez de  
V Pavia de la Marina  
Francesa de guerra,  
quienes hicieron reco-  
nocimientos y levan-  
taron planos, no ha-  
ciendo sin embargo  
ningun acto de pro-  
cesion. Concedas no-  
ticias que yo tenia  
ya anteriormente  
por manifestaciones  
del Sr. Hostein, y con  
las que detalladamente  
he tenido, se me ha



Subgobierno de Elobey

y  
sus Dependencias.

Núm. ....

recuerdo un medio  
que no pueda ser  
ni en práctica sin  
que el asunto sea tra-  
tado en Junta de Au-  
toridades, y se me anti-  
cipe por V. E. realicen  
el proyecto que hacen  
que si diario flotara  
en esos islotes la ense-  
ña de la V. Nación Es-  
pañola. Por tratar se  
del asunto de que se  
trata, he hablado re-  
sacadamente con el  
Sr. Secretario del Gobier-  
no General si su parecer  
por esta, el cual podría  
poner a V. E. al ca-

recibe del mismo.  
Dios quien lo ha  
Cataluña 13 de Mayo  
de 1907.

Cristino Sandoval Freixas

Señor Gobernador Civil de esta Provincia



**Annex 61**

*Report from Spanish Official of the Kingdom of Spain to the Minister of State  
(18 November 1911) (excerpt)*



**TRANSLATION**

[illegible]

Your Excellency,

In order to continue my visit to the various parts of the Elobey district that I was unable to visit in August due to lack of time, on October 18 [illegible], after leaving the Clerk in charge of the office, I set off at around 4 in the afternoon in the steamboat "Corisco," taking advantage of the usual trip that day which departed Santa Isabel for Bata. I was accompanied by the chief of the Colonial Guard, to review the posts and their armaments; the chief public works engineer, to inspect public buildings; the captain of the port of Santa Isabel; and Mr. Drumen, an official from the Office of the Secretary, when

## TRANSLATION

The island's population declines rapidly due to the constant exodus of indigenous people to Gabon and Cameroon. At present, there are no more than 600 inhabitants, of whom about 200 were off the island. That is, the actual inhabitants number no greater than 400. With the exception of the Cumbes, they seem more intelligent than the rest of the inhabitants, which is influenced by their dealings with foreigners from neighboring colonies. Regrettably, they employ this advantage in their mischief rather in the service of proper customs. As for the rest, these Bengas—like their brothers, the Bapukos and the Cumbes etc.—are a savage tribe that one cannot conceive as having been able to take anyone seriously enough in order to create their own self-government, having to learn a lot from the Papuans in regard to cleaning and maintaining their villages.-

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

There are riches on the island: [illegible] yucca fields, plantains, yams, [illegible], and good [illegible] for livestock. Strangely, neither the state nor the missionaries have set up a [illegible] oven, which due to its conditions looks a lot like cement, and which would be very beneficial for the colony's works.-

There is also an [illegible] mission run by a dark-sinned pastor that has many proselytes; and it detracts from the influence of the missionaries, which continues to be harmful.

To the southwest of the island, there are the small islets of Baña [(Mbañe)] where two Coriscans live temporarily for the purpose of flying the Spanish flag at those sites. The two that do this stand in for each other frequently and receive a small salary which the deputy governor pays them from the provisions set aside to attract the indigenous.-

At seven o'clock in the morning and thereafter

## TRANSLATION

a torrential rain, that had begun falling the night before, continued to fall. We set off towards the beach, covering the island from the southeast and the east and so on until we made it all the way around and arrived at [illegible] Point around 11 o'clock. There, we set off again in the "Corisco," leaving the anchorage at 11:30 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, and heading to Mosquito Point where we dropped anchor at 1:30 in the afternoon and went ashore at 2:30.

I was thinking about travelling by land that same afternoon to Cabo San Juan and Aye, where the "Corisco" had been ordered to pick us up, but the rough sea and wind conditions at the time made unloading the equipment and supplies difficult. The unloading could not occur until about 5:30 in the afternoon, which is why I spent the night at the military post in Calatrava.-

This building is the most comfortable of [...]



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/13/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date







*Dr. Excmo. Sr. D. Juan, Comisario*

*Colombia, Rige y Buzanca*

Excmo. Señor:-

8

Nº 710

Con objeto de continuar mi visita á los distintos puntos del distrito de Elobey que por falta material de tiempo me fué imposible visitar en el mes de Agosto, el día 13 de Octubre p.º.p.º, después de dejar encargado del despacho al Secretario Letrado, y acompañado del Jefe de la Guardia Colonial, con objeto de que revistase los puestos y su armamento, del Ingeniero-Jefe de Obras Públicas, para que inspeccionase los edificios oficiales, del Capitan del puerto de Santa Isabel y del Oficial de la Secretaria Señor Drumen, embarqué á las 4 de la tarde en el vapor "Corisco", aprovechando el viaje ordinario de esa fecha, saliendo de Santa Isabel con dirección á Bsta,

8

143.

La población de la Isla decre-  
~~ce rápidamente debido al éxodo cons-~~  
 tante de los indígenas hacia el Gabón  
 y Kameroun, y en la actualidad no e-  
 xisten más de 600 habitantes, de los  
 cuales se hallaban fuera unos 200,  
~~se decía que los habitantes de hecho~~  
 no pasan de 400; parecen más inteli-  
 gentes que el resto de los habitan-  
 tes, exceptuando los Cumbes, en lo  
 que influye su trato con los extran-  
 geros de las colonias vecinas, siendo  
 de lamentar que empleen éstas ventaj-  
 as en sus travesuras y picardías en  
 lugar de hacerlo en bien de las bue-  
 nas costumbres; por lo demás, éstos  
 bengas, como los Bapukos ~~sus~~ herma-  
 nos y los Cumbes, etc., son una tribu  
 salvaje que no se concibe haya podi-  
 do tomar nadie en serio y suponerlo,  
 en estado del Self government, te-  
 niendo que aprender mucho de los pa-  
 púes en la limpieza y sostenimiento  
 de sus poblados.-

En la isla hay riqueza *en* *caña*

~~caña, plátanos, plantaciones de yuca,~~  
plátanos, ñames, cocales y buenas par-  
tes para ganado, pareciendo extraño en  
el Estado al igual que los Misioneros  
no hayan establecido un horno de cal  
que por sus condiciones se asemeja al  
cemento, y que sería muy beneficioso  
para las obras de la Colonia.-

Existe también una misión metodis-  
ta regentada por un pastor moreno, que  
tiene grandes prosélitos, restando in-  
fluencia  
~~factor~~ a los Misioneros, lo que no  
deja de ser perjudicial.-

Al Sursueste de la isla están los  
pequeños islotes de Baña donde viven  
temporalmente ~~dos~~ *dos* ~~coronados~~ *coronados* encargados  
de izarse el pabellón español en aquellos  
lugares, haciendo éste servicio ~~dos~~,  
que se relevan con frecuencia, cobrando  
un pequeño sueldo que les entrega el  
Subgobernador con cargo a lo consignado  
para atracción de indígenas.-

A las 7 de la mañana y continúan-

do la lluvia torrencialmente que ha-  
~~bia desde principio de la noche anterior~~  
 emprendimos la marcha por la playa,  
~~contornando~~  
~~contornando~~ la Isla por el Sudoeste  
 y Este, concluyendo así de dar la vu-  
 elta completa, llegando á las 11 á  
 Punta Ibaño, donde embarcamos nueva-  
 mente en el "Corisco", abandonando  
 el fondeadero á las 11.30 del 23 del  
 mismo mes de Octubre, dirigiéndonos  
 á Punta Mosquitos, donde fondeamos  
 á la 1 y 1/2 de la tarde, desanbar-  
 cando á las 2.30.-  
 Pensaba <sup>salir</sup> ~~salir~~ aquella misma tar-  
 de por tierra á Cabo San Juan y Aye,  
~~punto~~  
~~punto~~ al que había ordenado se diri-  
 giese el "Corisco" para recogernos,  
 pero el estado de la mar y viento que  
 ro que reinaba, hizo difícil el de-  
 sembarco de equipajes y viveres que  
 no pudo efectuarse hasta las 5 y 1/2  
 de la tarde, por lo que pernocté en  
 el puesto militar de Calatrava.-  
 Este edificio el más cómodo de

**Annex 62**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter from the Minister of State to the Ambassador of Spain to the German Empire* (4 February 1914)



## TRANSLATION

  
 Ministry of State  
 -----  
 Colonial Section  
 -----  
 28-3-9-6

No.  
 [illegible stamp] RS No. 4

To Your Excellency's Ambassador in Berlin,  
 Madrid, February 4, 1914  
*[illegible stamp] RS No. 4*  
 Dear Sir:

As a result of the French-German Treaty dated [November] 4, 1911, the Spanish territory of the Gulf of Guinea is completely surrounded by the new territories acquired by Germany, without the borders being delimited except for parallels 1° and 2° 10' 20" north latitude, and the meridian 9° longitude east of Paris, intangible lines not established on the ground.

By 1906, our northern border was delimited with the then-southern border of the German protectorate of Cameroon adjacent to our territory, and even when six landmarks were found or placed near Mesa, Bedun, Ndjown, Bibé, Amban and N'guanban, the work performed by commissioners D'Almonte and Foester did not merit the approval of the Spanish and German governments, since it was performed following proposals that were detained because of some difficulties presented by France, whose colony of Gabon then bordered on the east and south of the Spanish colonies known by the name Muni.

Since the circumstances changed when Germany took possession of the new territories ceded by France, as a result of the above-mentioned Treaty, it would be appropriate to delimit the borders of the Spanish and German territories as quickly as possible, in the interests of both countries, which would avoid any future

## TRANSLATION

reason or friction between the authorities of those colonies, the relationships of which fortunately are very close and friendly today, due to some opinions exchanged between the governors of Spanish Guinea and Cameroon regarding the borders, who in the end both agreed to a status quo regarding our southern border and part of the eastern border that are adjacent to German territories.

Furthermore, the landmarks placed on the northern border of the Spanish territories of the Muni remain where they were placed, but when somewhat distanced from them, there is nothing to determine the intangible line of the parallel 2° 10' 20" north latitude, and in any dispute that may arise, out of view of the locations identified by the above-mentioned commissioners, both parties should establish commissions to determine whether the latitude of the disputed point may be higher or lower than that of the border parallel.

Both the Spanish Governor General and the Imperial Governor, in a document signed in Mesa in September 1912 by the former and Dr. Franz Holhausen as delegate of the Imperial Governor in Cameroon, issued opinions to the effect of reaching this type of agreement, to allow the borders of both colonies to be established by natural boundaries, preferably rivers and the most notable land features, where rivers do not exist, thereby avoiding any reason for friction, with both colonies compensating each other for land that they are compelled to cede as a result of establishing these borders.

The Spanish Government wants to delimit the borders of the Muni Colony with the German Cameroon colony, in order to then reach a customs agreement, according to indications made by the Imperial Governor of Cameroon, notifying this Ministry by the Governor General of Spanish Guinea, and *[handwritten: this government]* would like to take advantage of the months from May to October, during which time the rain subsides enough in those areas, which will facilitate the mission of the commissions that are appointed,



**TRANSLATION**

to establish, using signals, the 1° and 2° 10' 20" parallels latitude north, and meridian 9° longitude east of Paris, and for on-site study of the natural boundaries that may comprise the border, once approved by both the governments of Madrid and Berlin.

As a result, His Majesty the King (may God protect him) has arranged for Your Excellency to notify that Government as indicated according to the opinions exchanged in this respect between the governors of the Spanish and German colonies, the Imperial Governor of Cameroon informing the Government of Berlin of this matter. Royal order, etc.

May God protect, etc.

Draft  
Marqués de Lema  
[signature]

Date



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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Water Street Translations, LLC

05/21/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Ministerio de Estado.

SECCIÓN COLONIAL

Al Embajador de S.M. en Berlín,  
Madrid, 4 de febrero de 1914.

Núm.



Excmo. Señor :

A consecuencia del Tratado Franco-aleman de 4 de noviembre de 1911, el territorio español del Golfo de Guinea queda rodeado en todas sus partes por los nuevos territorios adquiridos por Alemania, sin que las fronteras estén delimitadas nada más que por los paralelos 1° y el de 2° 10' y 20'' ambos de latitud Norte, y el meridiano 9° de longitud Este de París, líneas inmateriales no fijadas sobre el terreno.

Ya el año 1906, se trató de la delimitación de nuestra frontera Norte con la entonces frontera Sur del Protectorado alemán del Kamerun que lindaba con nuestro territorio, y aun cuando llegaron ó ponerse seis hitos en las proximidades de Mesa, Bedun, Ndjdown, Bibé, Amban y N'guanban, no llegaron á merecer la sanción de ambos Gobiernos español y alemán los trabajos realizados por los comisionados señores D'Almonte y Foester, habiendo sido hecho después proposiciones que quedaron detenidas por algunas dificultades presentadas por Francia, cuya colonia de Gabón lindaba entonces por el Este y Sur con los territorios españoles conocidos con el nombre del Muni.

Habiendo variado las circunstancias al tomar Alemania posesión de los nuevos territorios cedidos por Francia, como consecuencia del Tratado antes citado, sería conveniente llegar lo más rápidamente posible á la delimitación de las fronteras de los territorios españoles y alemanes, en bien de ambos países, lo que evitará en lo sucesivo todo.

motivo de rozamiento entre las autoridades de aquellas Colonias ,  
cuyas relaciones, por fortuna , son hoy sumamente estrechas y amistosas ,  
habiendo mediado algunos cambios de opinión entre los Gobernadores de la Guinea española y de Kamerun referentes a las fronteras ,  
llegando ultimamente a convenir entre ambos un statu-quo <sup>relativo</sup> referente  
a nuestras fronteras Sur y parte de la Oriental, lindantes con los  
territorios alemanes .

Por otra parte, los hitos colocados en la frontera Norte de los territorios españoles del Muni, fijan aquella en el lugar a donde están colocados , pero tan pronto se está algo separados de ellos , nada determina la línea inmaterial del paralelo de  $2^{\circ}-10' \rightarrow 20''$  de latitud Norte , y sería preciso en cualquier litigio que pudiera presentarse, fuera de la vista de los lugares situados <sup>por</sup> con los comisionados citados, el acudir comisiones de ambas partes, para establecer, si el punto en litigio podía tener mayor ó menor latitud que la del paralelo frontera .

Tanto el Gobernador general español como el Gobernador Imperial , en documento firmado en Mesa en septiembre de 1912, por el primero, y el Doctor Franz <sup>OK</sup> Hohnhausen como Delegado del Gobernador Imperial del Kamerun , han emitido opiniones en el sentido de llegar á un acuerdo de tal naturaleza, que permita el que las fronteras lindantes de ambas colonias esten fijadas por limites naturales prefiriendo los ríos y los accidentes mas notables, donde no existan aquellos , con lo cual se evitará todo motivo de rozamiento , compensándose mutuamente ambas colonias los terrenos que como consecuencia de esta fijación de limites, se verian obligadas á cederse .

El Gobierno español, desea llegar a la delimitación de las fronteras de la Colonia del Muni con la alemana del Kamerun, para proceder después <sup>a un</sup> ~~un~~ convenio aduanero, según indicaciones hechas por el Gobernador Imperial del Kamerun, y comunicada á este Ministerio por el Gobernador general de la Guinea española , y quisiera <sup>este Gobierno</sup> aprovechar los meses de mayo á octubre, durante los cuales las lluvias disminuyen bastante en aquellos lugares, lo que facilitará la misión de las comisiones que se

nombren , tanto para fijar por medio de señas los paralelos de un grado , y el de 2° 10' 20'' ambos de latitud Norte, y el meridiano 9° de longitud Este de Paris , como para que estudien sobre el terreno los limites naturales que en su día deben constituir las fronteras, una vez que merezcan la sanción de ambos Gobiernos de Madrid y Berlín .

En su consecuencia Su Majestad el Rey ( q.º g. ) se ha servido disponer que V.E. lo haga saber así a ese Gobierno, por hallarse expuesto de acuerdo con las opiniones cambiadas á este fin, entre los Gobernadores de las Colonias española y alemana , debiendo hallarse informado el Gobierno de Berlín de este asunto por el Gobernador Imperial del Kamerun . ---- De Real etc....

Dios etc.....

Minuta.

Marqués de Lema.

Fecha.





### **Annex 63**

The German Empire, *Report No. 4, Imperial German Muni Expedition, Dr. Olshausen*  
(16 June 1914)





## TRANSLATION

Attachment to the report no. **1160** G. B. / *Geh* 93

Excerpt Copy of I. Geh. 93/14. 25

Imperial German Muni Expedition  
Report No. 4.

Upon the telegraphic decree  
of the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month  
Confidential. Duala, June 16, 1914

It is my honor to report to you regarding the negotiations that took place in Santa Isabel between Governor General Barrera and myself:

1) According to note A. 5520 from the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (attachment to the decree of the Imperial Colonial Office to me of May 6 of this year, a copy of which the Government should have received), the Spanish Government proposed to resume the negotiations that had been conducted a while ago regarding the Spanish-Muni border. At that time, this was exclusively about the contemplated northern border of the Spanish territory, which Barrera seems to have considered visiting this time as well. However, since I already visited the northern border in 1912, and since the creation of a natural border poses relatively few difficulties because of the Campo River, and also because the instructions given to me in Berlin primarily allow for the exploration of the southeast corner of Spanish Muni that is to be ceded to us, I suggested to Mr. Barrera that we deal with the southern border first for now. Barrera agreed.

2) Accordingly, we agreed to start out in the Bay of Muni. Barrera does not have any suitable access on Spanish territory and would like to set out on the expedition from Ukoko, maybe by boat (he has

*AIV 1805/[initials]*

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## TRANSLATION

26

3) In anticipation of the authorization, which I have in the meantime received by way of the decree from the Government of the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month - l. 1434/14 -, I further agreed with the Governor General to consider the situation of the two commissions corresponding to the pattern of the German-French agreements at that time, and to thus treat them like extraterritorial bodies; i.e., to grant them as much freedom to hunt, exemption from customs, etc., as possible. Accordingly, during my stay in Buea, I have requested that the post in Ukoko be instructed in accordance with this. The Spaniards should be granted custom-free import and transit, particularly for their personal equipment, provisions, etc., and not just for official expedition equipment. Barrera guarantees mutuality.

Finally, Mr. Barrera and I agreed that the two commissions should abstain from exercising state sovereign rights, in particular of administrative acts and jurisdiction, in the respective foreign territory; in this respect, the agreement entered into in July of last year is still valid, according to which the theoretical border should be binding as drawn on Moisel's map until the new borders have been determined. I shall report in due course about any possible agreements I may yet enter into in deviation from that basic rule in the event of a conflict with the natives to overcome active or passive resistance in accordance with the decree of the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month.

4.) Barrera asked what officials in Berlin thought about the customs agreement (customs union) proposed by us back then. I responded that I was not aware of any details; however, I assume that we will get back to the proposals once the border has been decided upon on our side. According to instructions from His Excellency the Governor in response to my oral presentation in Duala, I am to keep the matter in mind during further discussions

foldable boats with him), initially upstream on the Temboni River, and then another part of the way by marching on land over our territory; I told him that in my opinion there are no objections to this; since Barrera does not expect his Surveying Officer in Santa Isabel until the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, when the latter arrives with the Spanish steamship from Europe but cannot be in Ukoko prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, I intend to march ahead and await Barrera approximately at the intersection of our current theoretical border and the Temboni River at Elum. I will then probably be able to take a look at the lower course of the Temboni River and possibly a stretch of the river upstream of Elum before I meet up with Barrera for the first time.

Barrera also tentatively described his further proposals, i.e., to march from the intersection mentioned to the Abanga River, preferably along the current theoretical border, and only take a shortcut across the corner at the level of the Abanga River. I will not be able to draw conclusions until I am there in terms of whether I might cut across already earlier, consistent with our interests, either upstream along the Temboni River, or at least at the watershed between the Temboni and Abanga Rivers. I have therefore not yet made a determination in this regard.

Also, it will only become clear during the expedition to what extent it might make sense to me personally to temporarily march together with Barrera, for example while the topographers are taking their measurements and recordings/images together (- as suggested by Barrera-) or to what extent it might be better for the German and the Spanish commission to march separately, either parallel, or zigzag, and to only meet occasionally. Barrera also agreed that we could discuss this then and there.

TRANSLATION

with Barrera and to try to prepare a treaty between the two Governments first; a treaty between the government at home would be considered only later.

pp .....

Signed: Dr. Olshausen

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/25/21

Date



Abzug zum Bericht *W. B. I. B. 1914* 25

Ausgangssache Abschrift von I. Geh. 93/14.

Kaiserlich Deutsche Muni - Expedition

Bericht Nr. 4.

Auf den telegraphischen Erlasse D u a l a , den 16. Juni 1914.  
von 13. d. Mts.

Geheim.

Ueber die in Santa Jabel zwischen Generalgouverneur Barrera und mir geflogenen Verhandlungen beschreibe ich mich geordnet zu berichten :

1/ Nach der dem Auswärtigen Amt zugegangenen Aufzeichnung A. 5220 des Spanischen Botschafters in Berlin / Anlage zum Erlasse des Reichs-Kolonialrats an mich vom 6. Mai d. Jts., der dem Gouvernement in Abschrift vorliegen dürfte / ging der Vorschlag der Spanischen Regierung dahin, die s. Zt. wegen der Grenze von Spanisch - Muni geflogenen Verhandlungen wieder aufzunehmen. Es handelte sich damals um die allein in Betracht kommende Nordgrenze des spanischen Gebiets, deren Bereinigung Barrera auch dieses M. I mit ins Auge gefasst zu haben scheint. Da die Nordgrenze aber bereits 1912 von mir bereinigt worden ist und die Schaffung einer natürlichen Grenze durch den Kanalfloss verhältnismäßig wenig Schwierigkeiten bietet, auch die mir in Berlin erteilte Instruktion vor allem die Erforschung der an uns abzutretenden Südoestecke von Spanisch-Muni vorsieht, habe ich Herrn Barrera vorgeschlagen, was zunächst mit der Südgrenze zu befassen. Barrera war einverstanden.

2/ Dementsprechend ist verabredet worden, von Muni-Becken auszugehen. Barrera hat auf Spanischem Gebiet keinen geeigneten Zugang und möchte von Utko aus die Expedition antreten, vielleicht in der Art, dass er mit Boot / er hat

*16. Juni/14*

Rat Faltboote mit 7 erst den Temboni aufwärts führt und dann noch ein Stück auf dem Lande je über unser Gebiet marschiert; ich erklärte ihm, es bestünde ein Missverständnis keine Bedenken dagegen; da Barrera, der mit dem erst am 23. oder 24. in Sta. Isabel eintraffenden spanischen Dampfer aus Europa seinen Vermessungssoffizier ersartete, aber nicht vor dem 1. Juli in Utho sein kann, heabsichtige ich, voran zu marschieren und Barrera etwa am Schnittpunkt unserer derzeitigen theoretischen Grenze und des Temboniflusses bei Eim zu erwarten. Ich werde mir dann vornehmlich den Unterlauf des Temboni und eventuell eine Strecke oberhalb von Eim anschauen können, ehe ich das erste Mal mit Barrera zusammentreffe.

Barrera skizzierte nun seine weiteren Vorschläge dahin, von dem genannten Schnittpunkt ab möglichst an der derzeitigen theoretischen Grenze entlang bis zur Abwaga zu marschieren und erst beim Abwaga die Ecke abzuschneiden. Wie ich demgegenüber, unserem Interesse entsprechend schon vorher abschnitte, entweder den Temboni hinauf oder wenigstens auf der Wasserscheide zwischen Temboni und Abwaga, darüber werde ich erst an Ort und Stelle mich schlüssig machen können. Ich habe mich daher in dieser Hinsicht noch nicht festgelegt.

Enso wird sich erst im Laufe der Expedition ergeben, inwieweit es zweckmäßig ist, dass ich persönlich zeitweise mit Barrera zusammenmarschiere, während etwa die Fotogrammen zusammen ihre Messungen und Aufnahmen ausführen. So von Barrera vorgeschlagen - / oder inwieweit besser die deutsche und die spanische Kommission getrennt marschieren, sei es parallel, sei es rückwärts, sich gelegentlich treffend. Auch Barrera gab zu, dass wir uns hierüber erst an Ort und Stelle verständigigen können.

31

31 Unter Vorbehalt der mir inzwischen durch Erlaß des Gouvernements vom 11. ds. Mts. - I. 1434/14 - erteilten Ermächtigung habe ich weiter mit dem Herrn Generalgouverneur verhandelt, dem Muster der seinerzeitigen deutsch-französischen Abmachungen entsprechend die Lage der beiden Kommissionen so anzulegen, als wenn sie exterritoriale Körper seien, ihnen also in möglichst weitgehendem Masse Jagdfreiheit, Zollfreiheit und dergleichen zu gewähren. Dementsprechend habe ich bei meinem Aufenthalt in Buea gebeten, die Station Utho hiernach zu instruieren. Zollfreie Ein- und Durchfahr dürfte den Spaniern insbesondere auch für ihre persönl. Ausrüstung, Proviant etc. zu gewähren sein, nicht nur für die amtlichen Expeditionsglieder Barrera bietet Garantie für Gegenseitigkeit.

Schlüssendlich waren Herr Barrera und ich uns darüber einig, dass die beiden Kommissionen sich der Ausübung staatlicher Hoheitsrechte, insbesondere von Verwaltungsakten und der Gerichtbarkeit, auf dem jeweilig fremdstaatlichen Gebiete zu enthalten haben, in dieser Hinsicht gilt nach wie vor die im Juli v. Js. getroffene Abrede, wonach die theoretische Grenze in der auf der Meiseischen Karte eingezeichneten Weise massgebend sein soll, bis die neuen Grenzen festgelegt werden sind. Ueber etwaige Abreden, die ich in Absprechung jener Grundregel für den Fall eines Konfliktes mit den Eingeborenen zur Ueberwindung aktiver oder passiven Widerstandes gemäß Erlaß vom 11. d. Mts. noch treffen, werde ich zu gegebener Zeit berichten.

4. / Barrera fragte, wie man in Berlin über das seiner Zeit von uns vorgeschlagene Zollabkommen ( Zollunion ) denke. Ich erwiderte, mir sei nichts Näheres bekannt; doch vermute ich, dass man nach Regelung der Grenze unersetzlich wohl auf die Vorschläge zurückkommen werde. Nach Meinung seiner Exzellenz des Herrn Gouverneurs auf meinen Endlichen Vortrag in Duala soll ich die Sache bei weiteren

Besprechungen

AU 00 A4 B4 A3

Besprechungen mit Barrera in A. u. e. behalten und versuchen,  
zunächst einen Vertrag zwischen den beiden Gouvernements  
vorbereiten; erst später müße dann ein Vertrag zwischen  
den heimischen Regierungen in Frage.

27.....

gez. Dr. Orlausen.

1

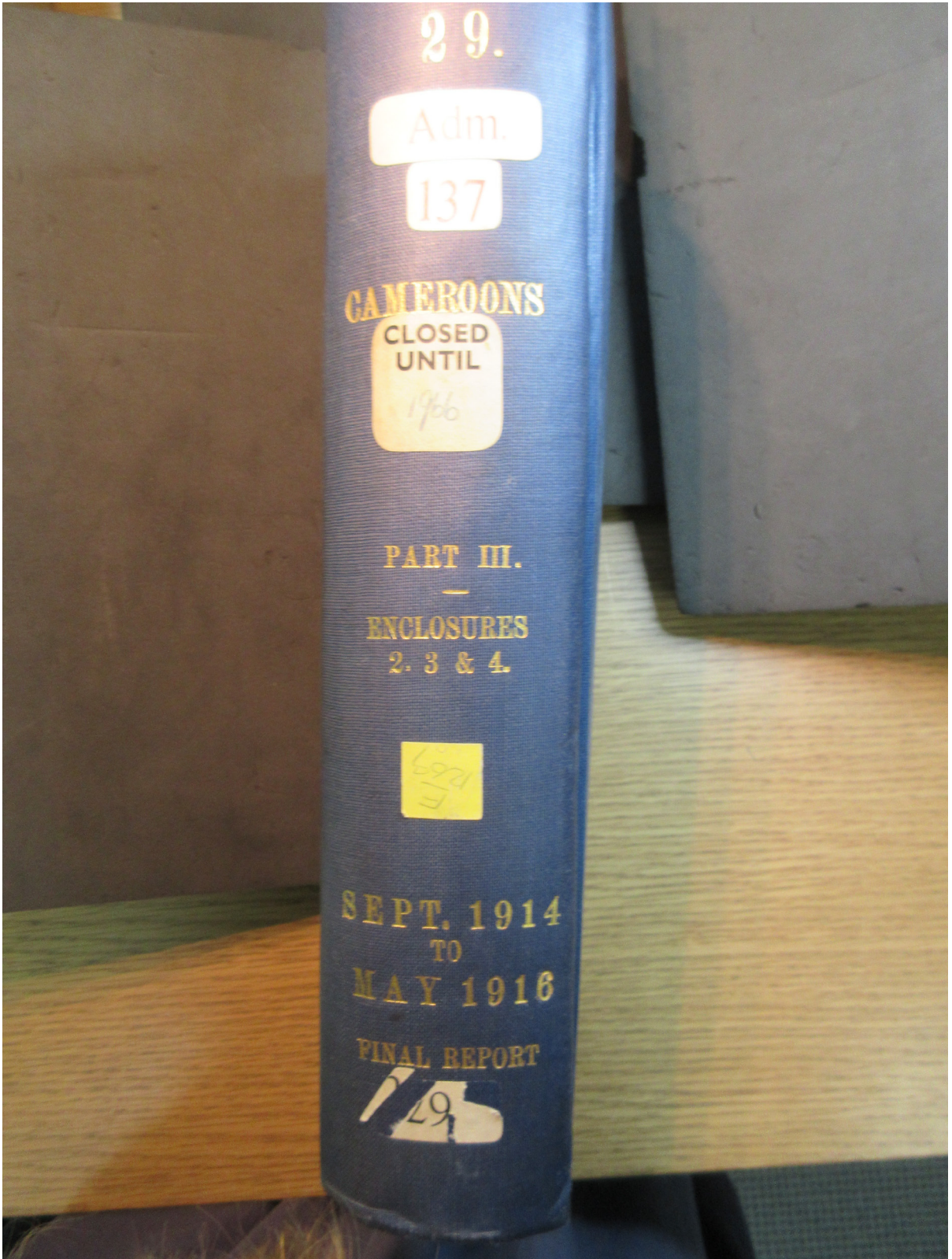




**Annex 64**

United Kingdom, *Cameroon, Final Report: Enclosures Sept 1914 to May 1916* (3 October 1915)





TNA / ADM 137/021

1350 p. 12  
(Established—May, 1900)  
(Revised—February, 1914)  
Page 7.

NAVAL SIGNAL  
Fernando Po.

P.O. of Watch  
Read by  
Reported by  
Passed by  
Logged by  
Date  
Time

To

CARGOES

All mail Steamer's cargoes are supposed to pass through the Customs House.

The Governor General of Fernando Po is very strict about letting provisions leave F.Po, as they are short themselves. He also claimed that the "Ciudad de Cadiz's" cargo of European Food was not excessive, owing to natives eating European food now !!!, and no British or German ships visiting the colony.

Governor-general admits our right to search Spanish ships and remove German goods which are contraband. He said that he would not permit any large consignments of stores to be shipped by German Firms from F.Po to BATA, and that he had instructed the Lt.Govr: to forbid the export of these stores, from the MUNI Province across the Frontier into the Cameroons.

M. M.  
(10/3/15)  
218 8/14

TNA / ADM 137/021

8133  
(Established - May, 1909)  
(Revised - February, 1911)

Page 8.

NAVAL SIGNAL.

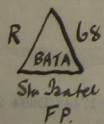
Hernando Po. Cargoes (continued)

"Villaverde" landed at St. Isabel 70 small cases, ironbound, wired and lead seals, no marks but destination marked BATA. The Guardia Colonial have taken charge of these.

(N.B. These are probably ammunition cases, and should be opened if found on board a steamer bound for BATA, BENITO, or ELOBEY etc:)

E.H. Moritz now has 500 cases of provisions here, about 25 cases are believed to have gone by the last boat; These cases are marked "A.B.C", which is the identical mark used by the AMBAS BAY TRADING COMPANY, but in this case belongs to a German firm. (22/3/15) [As the Amba Bay company do not ship to BATA, such stores consigned to BATA are for Moritz.

Supply of Provisions lying at St. Isabel, consigned to the American Mission BATA or BENITO. (10/3/15.)



Type of Cargo mark used by Moritz until recently (16/4/15)

TNA / ADM 137 / 021

BATA. Page 10. 178

BATA - Sub-Governor, and old N.C.O. promoted.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. MILITARY.

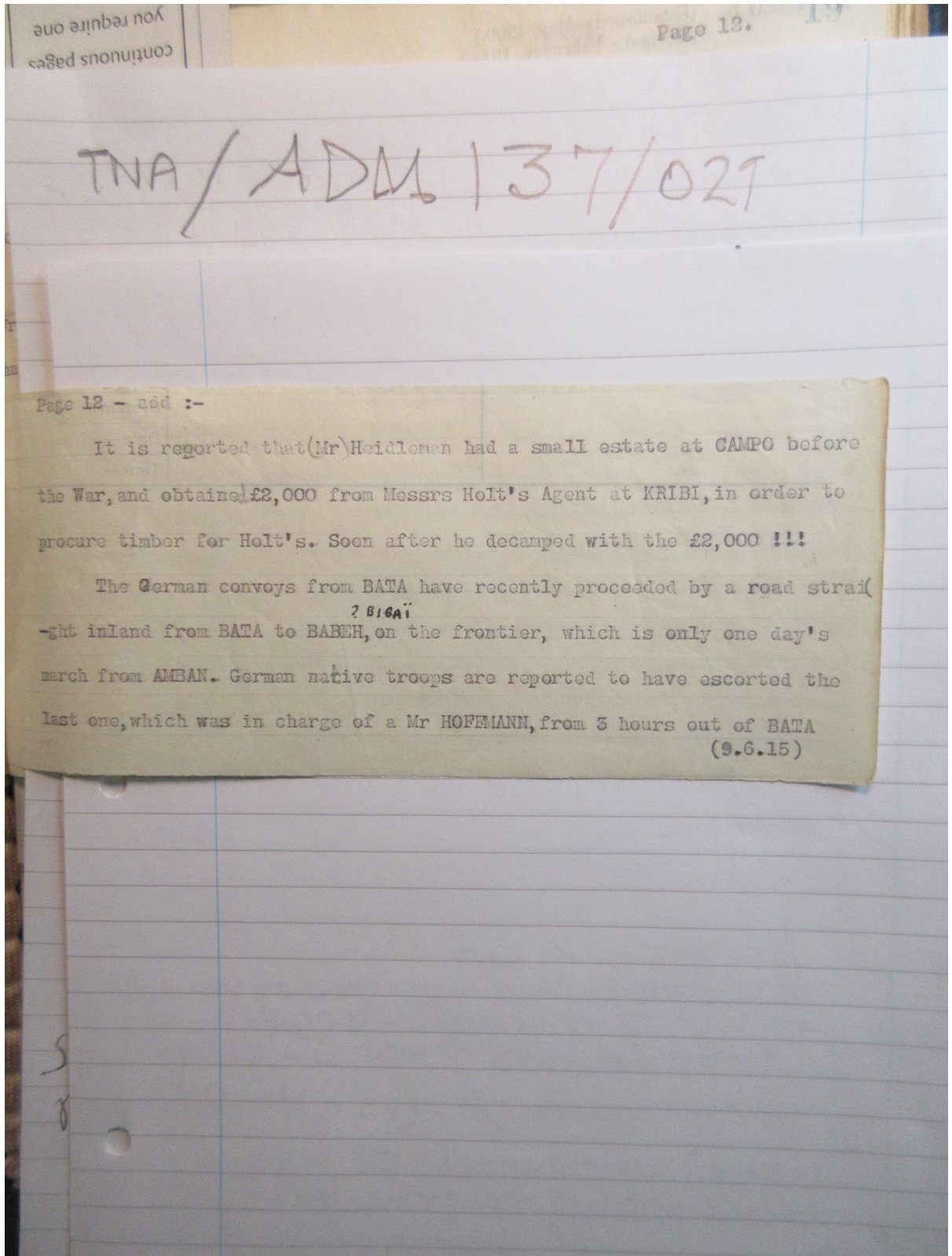
Three Officers and some soldiers (? 60) all stationed on coast.

One Officer and more soldiers <sup>will be</sup> ~~were~~ stationed along the CAMPO Frontier in April, with a large force <sup>with a large force</sup> at CAMPO, DIPIKAR, and NGUAMBANG, a little further east. [Mr Gunning, of Messrs Hatton and Cooksons, is the most reliable English man here.

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Page 120 - add.

Natives of N'GUANDA, IPOLI, YENGUE and N'KOAMAKA, just inside the border of Spanish Muni are reported to have refused to act as carriers for the Spanish on the grounds that the latter are assisting the Germans with food and ammunition. 17.6.15.





TNA / ADM 137/029

Page 12. 19

Firms and Agencies (continued).

NAVAL SIGNAL BATA.

IDLEMAN or HEIDLEMAN who was Holt's Agent at CAMPO, has been running things  
 across the boundary for the Germans and is now living at OTONDE, close to BATA.  
 There is road from ~~BELOWAR~~ <sup>JAUNDE</sup> through ~~LELODORF~~ <sup>EBOLWA</sup> to ~~BATA~~ <sup>BATA</sup>, 3 weeks to Spanish  
 Frontier and thence one week to BATA, striking the coast at OTONDE. The journey  
 has been done in less than a month, the Spanish Frontier having been reached in  
 two days from BATA, along this road.

M. 1704/00

TNA / ADM 137/021

Page 14. 22

GERMANS IN SUMBAWA

There were about 30 to 40 Germans in BATA on March 10th. A large number 100 to 150 were expected at BATA from the Cameroons, as it was understood, that all non-combatants were to leave the Cameroons, but apparently they had not crossed the Frontier up to the end of March.

A Mr SEIDER and Mrs GUEST (both Germans) are living on the Spanish Frontier. Mr Guest who is fighting, was Commissioner of CAMPO.

*Mr Seiger and Mrs Guest have since left Bata and are living near OTONDE on the Spanish coast near BATA.*

20000 2  
113 102

TNA / ADM 137 / 029

23

(Established—May, 1909)  
(Revised—February, 1914)

Page 15.

BENITO.

NAVAL SIGNAL

In the rainy season the San Benito River is navigable for some distance to a point at the back of BATA, whence it is only two days march to the CAMPO River, and the Spanish Frontier, (presumably the reported Ford 2 days above AYAMEKEN.)

It is stated that the American Missionaries use this road.

Moritz has no factories at BENITO.

AL 1704/00  
Sta. 614

G & S 3415

TNA / ADM 137/029

Page 18.  
268

NAVAL SIGNAL.

P.O. of Watch  
Read by  
Reported by  
Military

There is a French Sous Officier at the Cocoa Beach Post, who visits the various rivers in the vicinity, which are situated in the Cameroon territory. The French have also a post at AKOGA. and it is considered that the part of the Cameroons south of Spanish Guinea is clear of the enemy.

MUNI RIVER. Spanish Posts.

At Mosquito Point.....	1	Sergeant & 12	Soldiers.
At KOGO.....	1	"	12 "
At GANDI Island.....	1	"	6 "
At Kengam on the TEBONI River.....	1	"	20 "
At Assobla (40 miles up river)....	1	"	40 to 50 "
at <i>Cocoa Beach</i>	1	"	3 "

There are no posts above Assobla, or in the interior to the Northward of the river (15/4/15)  
No regular shipments of cargo have passed up the Muni River lately (15/4/15)

COCOA BEACH. FIRMS AND AGENCIES.

Mr Smith - Hatton & Cooksons Agent (Stationed at Elobey but visits Cocoa Beach.  
Mr Duncan - Agent for Thomas Brothers.  
Neither of these gentlemen are very intelligent (15/4/15)

M. 1104.00  
118.00

**Annex 65**

*Letter from the Governor-General of Spanish Territories of Africa to the Governor of French Gabon (22 November 1917)*



## TRANSLATION

[...] related due to being an isolated incident, which [he] believes is an accidental error owing to the southern border not being precisely and completely established. In these works I discovered a German Commission in progress when the war broke out in August 1914; their works were suspended when news of the war was received.

For the reasons expressed, nothing has changed in my sincere desire to maintain the friendly relationships between us, which are a living reflection of the relationships between our respective governments, and I can assure Your Excellency that I will always strive to ensure that our relationships can continue to be cordial.

I must insist on one point, and it is this: on returning the women and belongings taken, which I referred to in my letter No. 439, as well as on returning the Spanish flag taken in N'[illegible] by the French forces, or compensating the families for the deaths reported. Regarding these requests, I am sure that Your Excellency will give the appropriate orders so that they may be addressed considering how fair they are. This will prevent the indigenous peoples from holding onto the ideas of vengeance that are typical of them and their customs, and it will put the incident to rest completely.

I regret that I cannot provide Your Excellency with a letter regarding the southern and eastern regions of Spanish Guinea to provide some confidence, since, due to the suspension of border delimitation works, which I spoke of previously, any document that would be provided to Your Excellency would lead to errors and difficulties

**TRANSLATION**

that I should avoid.

Naturally, I very much agree with Your Excellency's proposal to provide the heads of the districts with the geographic situation of the regions neighboring the southern and eastern borders of the Spanish Colony, and to send the Sub-Governor of Elobey the geographic situation of the points that have been established by the Spanish-German delimitation commission. I would be very pleased to send it to Your Excellency, and I am very grateful for your offer, which I will accept, to send me the geographic situation of the border regions of Gabon with respect to the southern and eastern borders of Spanish Guinea.

When the current European war was declared, the Imperial Governor of Kamerun had proposed to me that the part between the Benito River and the 2°10'20"N line of latitude, the Kié River, be temporarily considered the eastern border of Spanish Guinea and the western border of the Kamerun River territories, which I could not accept at that time. Because the campaign in Kamerun had started, I did not believe it was a good time to accept the proposal since it was the opposite of neutrality, and accepting the proposal would have allowed the Germans to withdraw the forces that defended the passage of the aforementioned river. However, since the circumstances have now changed, and there is no fighting in Kamerun, and the territory located to the East of the Spanish Colony is occupied by French forces, being joined as before to the French Colony of Gabon, I submit for Your Excellency's



**TRANSLATION**

Annex to Official Letter No.

Copy No. 29.

consideration the fact that in the eastern part of the Spanish territory, between the 2°10'20"N line of latitude and the source of the Kié River, we could consider the temporary border to be that river while there is no exact border delimitation. This would remove any motive for an incident in almost the northern half of the eastern border of Spanish Guinea, and I would be very grateful to Your Excellency if you would inform me of your opinion on this matter.

I ask Your Excellency to be assured of my great esteem. I remain your most obedient servant.

Governor-General

This is a copy.

Secretary General

[signature]

[stamp:] SPANISH POSSESSIONS OF AFRICA

[coat of arms]

SECRETARIAT

THE GOVERNOR OF FRENCH GABON.

BRAZZAVILLE.



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Victoria Chávez-Kruse, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/12/21

Date



relativa por tratarse de un hecho aislado, que creo involuntario debido á un error por falta de una fijación exacta y completa de la frontera Sur, en cuyos trabajos me hallaba con una misión alemana, al estallar la guerra en Agosto de 1914, trabajos que fueron suspendidos al recibirse la noticia de ella.

Por las razones expresadas en nada ha alterado en mí el deseo sincero de mantener las amistosas relaciones que nos unen aquí, vivo reflejo de las que mantiene nuestros Gobiernos respectivos, pudiendo asegurar á Vuestra Excelencia que siempre me esforzaré en hacer que nuestras relaciones puedan seguir manteniéndose en el mismo pie de cordialidades.

En un punto he de insistir, y es, en la devolución de las mujeres y efectos quitados, á los que me refería en mi carta nº 439, así como en la devolución de la bandera española cogida en N'vanaga por las fuerzas francesas, é indemnizar á las familias por los muertos causados, peticiones sobre las cuales no dudo que Vuestra Excelencia dará las ordenes oportunas para que sean atendidas dado lo justas que son, evitando así el que conserven los indígenas ideas de venganza propias de ellos y de sus costumbres, y que pueda darse así el incidente completamente por terminado.

Lamento no poder proveer á V.E. de una carta de las regiones Sur y Este de la Guinea Española que puedan merecer alguna confianza, yá que debido á la suspensión de los trabajos de delimitación de fronteras, de que antes hablo, cualquier documento que facilitase á Vuestra Excelencia podía dar lugar á errores y dificultades.

tados que debo evitar.

Dado luego me parece muy acertada la medida propuesta por Vuestra Excelencia de poner á disposición de los jefes de circunscripción la situación geográfica de las regiones próximas á las fronteras Sur y Este de la Colonia Española, y al remitir al Subgobernador de Elobey la situación geográfica de los puntos que han sido fijados por la misión hispano-alemana de delimitación, tendré sumo placer en remitirle también á Vuestra Excelencia, quedándole muy reconocido por su ofrecimiento, que me permite aceptar, de enviarme la situación geográfica de las regiones fronterizas del Gabón con el Sur y Este de la Guinea Española.

Al declararse la actual guerra europea el Gobernador Imperial de Camerun había propuesto á éste Gobierno General, el considerar provisionalmente como frontera Este de la Guinea española y Oeste de los territorios del Rio Camerun, la parte comprendida entre el Benito y el paralelo de 29 - 19' - 20" de latitud Norte, el rio Kio, lo que no pudo aceptar en aquellos momentos éste Gobierno general, debido á que empezada la lucha en Camerun, no consideré oportuno aceptar la proposición por considerarla opuesta á la neutralidad, y á que de aceptarla hubiera permitido á los alemanes retirar las fuerzas que pudieran defender el paso del mencionado rio, pero habiendo hoy variado las circunstancias, no habiendo lucha en Camerun, y ocupado el territorio situado al Este de la Colonia Española por fuerzas francesas, quedando unido como antiguamente á la Colonia francesa del Gabón, me permito someter á la consideración de Vuestra

Anejo al oficio nº  
Copia nº 29.

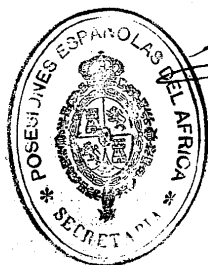
Excelencia el que en la parte Este del territorio español, entre el paralelo de 2º - 10' - 20" de latitud Norte y el lugar donde nace el río Kie, podamos considerar como frontera provisional dicho río, en tanto no se llegue á una delimitación exacta de frontera, con lo cual se alejará todo motivo de incidente en casi la mitad Norte de la frontera Este de la Guinea Española, y quedaria muy reconocido á Vuestra Excelencia si me hiciera conocer su opinión sobre este particular.

Ruego á Vuestra Excelencia se sirva aceptar las seguridades de mi mayor consideración, en la que tengo el honor de ser de Vuestra Excelencia su más seguro servidor.

Gobernador General.

Es Copia.

El Secretario general.



BU EXCELENCIA EL GOBERNADOR DEL GABÓN FRANCÉS. BRAZAVILLE.



## **Annex 66**

*Letter No. [J3 from the Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa to the Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea (24 January 1919)*





General Government  
of  
French Equatorial Africa  
:/  
Political Affairs

---

No. [illegible]

**TRANSLATION**

FRENCH REPUBLIC

-----&-----

LIBERTY = EQUALITY = FRATERNITY

-----&-----

Brazzaville, January 24, 1919

The Governor General of French Equatorial Africa to the Governor General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea.

Excellency.

I have the honor of making you aware that I have just received approval from the Department of Foreign Businesses for the propositions that Your Excellency was so good as to communicate to me in your letter no. 790 dated November 22, 1917, regarding recognition of the N'KYE stream as the provisional border between your colony and the occupied territories of New Cameroon in the hopes that a definitive, exact delimitation may be made.

It is now agreed that the new border provisionally adopted for the eastern part of Spanish territory adjacent to the New Cameroon occupied territories shall be determined by the course of the N'KYE stream from 2° 10' 20" north latitude up to the stream's origin.

I will be very grateful to Your Excellency should you communicate to me whether we are in complete agreement regarding the provisional adoption of these new borders and, if so, to transmit such instructions as you deem necessary to your personnel...

**TRANSLATION**

[Illegible]

006991

No. 63. French Equatorial Africa.

Brazzaville, January 24, 1919

---

to your occupation personnel.

I ask that Your Excellency please accept the assurance of my highest consideration./.

[Seal of the  
General Administration Archive  
Alcala de Henares (Spain)]

The Governor Secretary General  
in charge of business matters

Estébe (signed).

P.S. For my part, I will alert the local French authorities, but I also recommend that you all not guarantee the execution of these new provisions until such time as you all are notified that your representatives in the region have received all necessary instructions from Your Excellency./.

[Signature - illegible]



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"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/12/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Document 11  
Gobierno General  
del  
Africa Ecuatorial Francesa

REPUBLICA FRANCESA.

LIBERTAD = IGUALDAD = FRATERNIDAD.

Asuntos: Politicos

Brazzaville 24 de Enero del 1919.

Nº 63.

al Gobernador General del Africa Ecuatorial Francesa,  
al Sr. Gobernador General de los Territorios Espano-  
les de Golfo de Guinea.

7

Excelencia.

Tengo el honor de poner en su conocimiento que acabo de recibir del Departamento de Negocios Extranjeros la aprobacion a las proposiciones que V.E. se dignó comunicarme por medio de su carta nº 790 del 22 Noviembre 1917, relativa al reconocimiento del riachuelo N'KIE como frontera provisional entre vuestra Colonia y los Territorios ocupados del Nuevo-Cameroun, en espera que se efectue una delimitacion exacta definitiva.

Queda pues convenido que la nueva frontera adoptada provisionalmente para la parte Este del Territorio espanol limitrofe a los Territorios ocupados del Nuevo-Cameroun estará determinada por el curso del riachuelo N'KIE desde el 2º10'20" de latitud norte hasta el nacimiento de este riachuelo.

Estaré muy reconocido a su Excelencia si se digna comunicarme si estamos en un completo acuerdo sobre la adopcion provisional de estos nuevos limites y en este ultimo caso, comunique las instrucciones que juzgue necesarias a su personal...

006991

( 2 )

Nº 63. A. Ecuatorial Francesa.

Brazzaville 24 Enero 1919.

su personal de ocupacion.

Ruego a Su Excelencia se digne aceptar la seguridad de mi  
mas alta consideracion./.



El Gobernador Secretario  
General encargado de la  
expedicion de los Negocios.

Estébe (rubricado).

P.S. Aviso por mi parte a las autoridades francesas locales, pero  
les recomiendo que no aseguran la ejecucion de estas nuevas dispo-  
siciones hasta tanto se les avise de que vuestros representantes  
en la region hayan recibido de V.E. las instrucciones necesarias./.

*E. Pérez López*  
*oficinas 2: Intérieur*

**Annex 67**

*Letter from* Spanish Governor General of Spanish Guinea *to* His Excellency the French Governor General of French Equatorial Africa (1 May 1919)





**TRANSLATION**

[Translator's note: Handwritten text is indicated in italics.]

*Annex to official letter no. 574*  
*Copy no. 4*

Santa Isabel, May 1, 1919

[R.L.] No. 619

The Governor General of Spanish Guinea  
To His Excellency the Governor General of French Equatorial Africa

Your Excellency:

Upon arriving from Spain this past March 31, after *an* eleven-month stay on the peninsula, the Secretary General who acted as interim Governor General during my absence gave me your letters no. 316 dated November 10, 1917, and no. 6 [illegible] dated January 24 of this year; I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of these to Your Excellency. I am sorry to say that special circumstances prevented the Secretary General from responding to them in a timely manner, so I send my regrets to Your Excellency.

Regarding your letter no. 316 dated November 10, 1917, given how much time has passed and the condition of the indigenous people, it would be difficult to clear up the facts, especially when the natural ones have been reported in such a different manner to the Spanish and French officials who made the reports at different times, and by accepting what Your Excellency states regarding the French forces believing they are in part of the occupied territories of the Germans, the potential seriousness of these incidents disappears.

It is not surprising that the Sub-Governor of Elobey, in his

## TRANSLATION

letter dated May 20, 1917, made the statements Your Excellency referenced regarding the towns of N'Kolanvan and N'Volensok, since initially not being aware of where the events they were reporting took place, and there being several towns with the same name, especially that of N'kolamban, some being located in Spanish territory and another in territory occupied by the French; while the situation was not cleared up, it was very risky to make a claim about events that could have happened south of the first parallel north, in which case there would not have been grounds for any claim; furthermore, the situation fell to one of the towns called N'Kolamban, whose location we were unable to establish during the delimitation work, since it was so close to the first parallel north that both commissions agreed to check the chronometers before definitively specifying its location, but once the Spanish official had verified that the towns in question were those located north of N'Venayon and Itsan, and since these were located in Spanish territory, there was no longer any doubt as to their location in said territory, much less could there be any doubt for the Sub-Governor, who, accompanying me, had been in the towns of N'Volensok and N'Kolamban more than two times; they are located north of N'Benayon at 1°7' north, 12 ½ and 13 kilometers from said town, respectively.

As Your Excellency states in your letter, some of these towns were under German rule and were included in the Von Moisel plan to the south of the first parallel north, which the Germans explained by saying that since they belonged to the

## TRANSLATION

land assigned to Germany in the Treaty of 1911, they had been given to the French; but in 1914, regarding the land for the Spanish-German delimitation mission, the geographical location of some of these places was verified; it was seen that several of them were located north of the first parallel north and therefore, were in Spanish territory. When the war was declared and the news arrived at the two missions, this border delimitation work was suspended and an agreement on the work completed and verifications made was created. The agreement was signed by me as head of the Spanish mission and by Dr. Olshausen as head of the German mission in Akurinan, on the banks of the river Mia, on August 19 of that year. I am copying the following paragraphs from said agreement: "The Spanish and German section of the Hispano-German Delimitation Commission between Spanish Guinea (continental land) and the Protectorate of Cameroon met on July 5 and 6, 1914, in Asobela and Mebonde. From there, the two sections traveled in the area of the first parallel north following the Temboui river, on the one hand, and the land located between this river and the 1° parallel, on the other hand, and followed this parallel to the sites named Assok-Keigne and Abenayon, near Abenilan-Fula (from the Moisel map, 1914 edition). In Assok-Keigne and Abenayon, the two sections met for the second time, and then separated in order to research bodies of water and mountain ranges by walking along different columns, up to the region of the Komo River, the M Mwu River, or the Abanga River. They met for the third time in Akurinan. The commission regrets that as a result of the events in Europe, i.e., the hostilities that broke out between

## TRANSLATION

Germany and various other countries, it had to suspend its work at the time of the meeting in Akurinan. From the astronomical observations made by the two sections, and the routes identified, it can be deduced that the villages of Asobela, N'Sogodan, Anguma, Mebé, Edjan (Itsan), N'Benayon, Assok-Keigne, N'Kumutun, Akema, Ebiang, Egamayon and Akurinan are in the Spanish Territory. On the other hand, the villages of Mitombe, Assok-Nweing and Assok-Mencia are in the German Territory. With regard to the village of N'Kolamban, it is so close to the 1° parallel that chronometers must be verified before specifying the status."

The verbatim copy of the paragraphs above fully justify the reason that, in my letter no. 439 dated June 23, 1917, the towns referenced were cited as belonging to Spanish territory, having delivered a Spanish flag and a provisional appointment to the chiefs of those towns in person, while the head of the German mission was gathering the appointments and flags that the German authorities had provided; it could have been that some of these chiefs had saved the German documents due to the brief cessation of work, but this does not indicate anything against the situation of said towns in Spanish territory, and we do not know why the then-Sub-governor of Elobey did not provide this information to the representatives of Your Excellency, being unable to take into account what the chief of Asogo Keigne said to the representative of Your Excellency, denied by the Spanish official, believing that Your Excellency, being knowledgeable about these indigenous peoples, would agree with me when stating that if the Spanish official had made the report after the one made by the French official, it is likely that

## TRANSLATION

he would have told him something similar to what was expressed to the representative of Your Excellency regarding the Spanish official; and these indigenous chiefs were so convinced of being Spanish subjects that as soon as the events giving rise to my letter no. 439 of 1917 occurred, they sent their complaints to the nearest Spanish detachment, ~~and~~ asking them to establish a military post in those places, which special circumstances had prevented from being established, the same as in other places on the border, which I hope to do in some time.

From the work completed, routes made by the Spanish-German mission in 1914, and from the geographical locations of the towns listed in the agreement created when separating the two missions, we could deduce that in the Moisel plan of May 1, 1911 [illegible], the southern border of Spanish territory runs north about three kilometers, having placed N'benayon in this location 1°-2'-40", 7 latitude north and 10°-18'-52", 5 longitude east of Greenwich, and so for Mitombe we got 0°-59'-48" latitude north and 9°-55'-55" longitude east of Greenwich.

In light of how much I have stated, and since until the impact on the occupied territories is normalized, it will not be possible to continue the border delimitation work, I submit to Your Excellency that we consider as towns belonging to Spanish territory those whose geographical location was obtained by the Spanish-German mission and which are included in the agreement, a copy of which I am transcribing in this letter, as well as all those in the von Moisel plan which are located north of those, such as

## TRANSLATION

N'sogodan, Anguma Mabé, Esong, Akonike, Ebang, Itsan, Efó, Adyen, Nvanayon, Len, [illegible]sogo-Kene, Ebiane, Akulenso, where Avelinang and Fula were, Keneyu [illegible]lamayon, Tñiang, Fegnebur, Akoga, Osen or Oven, Nkumutum, Nvinayon, Nsogobut Akema, Akogonven or Akema Ngon, N'koniki, Ebiang, Akok, Aboga (should be Anwora from the plan), Ebane, Nyon, Akulinsok, Ngon or Ayan, Mamyengue, Asogonfen, Akolo, Afagna, Nsogolen, Akua, Nyemayon, Mansenga and Akurinan. Double underlines were drawn under the towns located by astronomical observations, and single underlines were drawn under those that are not included in the plan and turned out to be in Spanish territory; likewise we propose to Your Excellency that starting with the meridian of Akurinan, to the east, given, as I've expressed, that it runs along the border to the north which also, whereas a delimitation was not arrived at, we consider the southern limit of the lightest pink line as the southern border, of the two drawn by von Moisel on his plan to make the border more visible, which goes through Ayang, Nkumasa, Nsua, Jinamessogo, and a little south of Bissobinan, and arriving at this modus vivendi, we could then have set grounds, even if they are potential, to avoid all those small border incidents.

Regarding the attacks by the indigenous people as an organized force, although this may exist, I would consider them difficult if something motivating these attacks did not occur first; it is true that the indigenous people always flee when forces approach their towns, but this depends on their lifestyle, since they were obligated to abandon the places in Africa where they lived at first, and the battle, during that exodus, until they came to establish themselves, has

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made them distrusting; but in my many expeditions inland, I have been able to see that as soon as they are convinced of the visitors' peaceful intentions, they return to their towns and offer up everything they have, and just based on some motive or due to some injustice committed against them is when they rise up; and it is in the very places where the events giving rise to this correspondence took place I have been for a few months. My soldiers have gone everywhere in pairs to carry out commissions they were entrusted with, and not even the smallest incident ever occurred; on the contrary, the [illegible] received and they gave all parties food in excess.

Regarding your letter no. 63 dated January 24, I wish to tell you that I am completely in agreement with Your Excellency regarding the provisional adoption of considering as part of the eastern border of Spanish territory the course of the river N'kye from the parallel 2°-10'-20" north to the source of said river. I permit myself to send you a copy exactly equal to that which I am providing to my officials on the northern border so they keep in mind this new limit, and given the positive reception Your Excellency has given to the proposal I had the honor of making about this new limit, I allow myself today, in my desire to avoid any incident, to make a proposal to Your Excellency that we could consider that limit to where the river N'kye crosses the road from Ovang in Spanish territory to Mangume on the right banks of the N'kye, which follows the limit, along the road that goes past Nmemayon to Makai, located on the left bank of the river Bingueia; this river forms the rest of the border to its confluence with the river Benito or Volo, and south of the Benito we could adopt as a provisional border the river Dua to

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its confluence with the Mwor, then the border follows this until it crosses the road that goes past Mwen, Ngo, Asombe, Abama, and Asork until this road crosses the river Nse-N'koi-N'kan, whose right banks could constitute the limit of Spanish territory until it crosses the ninth meridian east of Paris by Aninsork, from which point the left bank could form the French limit from Aninsork to Bisobinan; this way as long as the borders are not definitively established, these I have indicated could provisionally be the limits of Spanish territory; these are more tangible limits than the meridian, and this would dispel any incidents. I ask that if Your Excellency accepts this proposal, please contact ~~them~~ *me* by cable to allow for the orders on the specifics to be given in a timely manner, with the understanding that these limits would only be provisional and we hope that a definitive delimitation can be established specifically; we believe we should let Your Excellency know that this proposal is made in light of the plan of von Moisel of 1914, and this proposal is accompanied by a sketch.

For my part, I can assure Your Excellency that I consider the incident giving rise to my letter no. 439 dated January 23, 1917, as completely finished; I apologize that my absence caused a delayed response to Your Excellency, and I can assure Your Excellency that all my efforts will always be inclined toward avoiding any friction, as slight as it may be, and I will always make an effort to keep the good relations that have always existed between our two colonies in the same spirit of cordiality.

I ask that Your Excellency please be assured



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of my great esteem.

[signature]  
Governor General

To His Excellency the Governor General of French Equatorial Africa

BRAZAVILLE

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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Jamie Hartz, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English, and Karen Brovey, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from French into English, both being certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the French and Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

February 23, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



*Anexo al oficio n° 574.  
Copia n° 4*

Santa Isabel, 1° de Mayo de 1919

*R. S. M. 619*

El Gobernador General de la Guinea Española  
A Su Excelencia el Gobernador General del Africa  
Cuatorial Francesa.

Excelencia:

Al llegar de España en 31 de marzo último después de <sup>una</sup> ~~una~~ estancia en la Península de once meses, me fueron entregadas por el Secretario General, que interinamente desempeñó el cargo de Gobernador General durante mi ausencia, sus cartas n° 316 de 10 de noviembre de 1917 y n° 68 de 24 de enero del año corriente, de las cuales tengo el honor de acusar recibo á vuestra Excelencia, lamentando, que circunstancias especiales hayan impedido al Secretario General el contestarlas oportunamente, por lo que presento á vuestra Excelencia mis excusas.

Refiriendome á sus cartas n° 316 de 10 de noviembre de 1917, dado el tiempo que ha transcurrido, y la condición de los indígenas, difícilmente podrían esclarecerse los hechos, sobre todo, cuando los naturales los han referido de tan distinta manera á los oficiales español y frances que en épocas distintas hicieron la información, y admitiendo lo que manifiesta vuestra Excelencia de que la fuerza francesa creyera estar en parte de los territorios ocupados á los alemanes, desaparece el carácter de gravedad que pudieron revestir aquellos incidentes.

no es de extrañar el que el subgobernador de Mlobey en su

carta del 20 de mayo de 1917 acerca las manifestaciones que su Excelencia hacia referencia respecto á los poblados de M'kolamban y M'volensok, pues ignorando en un principio el lugar donde habian ocurrido los sucesos que le denunciaban, y existiendo varios poblados con el mismo nombre, especialmente el de M'kolamban, unos situados en territorio español y otro en los territorios ocupados por los franceses, en tanto no se aclarase su situacion, era muy arriesgado el reclamar sobre unos hechos que podian haber sucedido al sur del paralelo de un grado de latitud norte, en cuyo caso no hubiera habido lugar á reclamacion alguna; ademas, recaia la circunstancia en uno de los poblados llamados M'kolamban, de que, durante los trabajos de delimitacion, no llegamos á fijar su situacion, pues estaba tan cerca del paralelo de 1° de latitud norte, que convinimos ambas comisiones hacer una comprobacion de los cronometros antes de precisar definitivamente su situacion, pero comprobado por el oficial español que los poblados en cuestion eran los situados al norte de los de M'venayon é Itean, y estando estos situados en territorio español, ya no habia duda alguna acerca de su situacion en dicho territorio, y menos podia caber esa duda para aquel Subgobernador, que acompañandome á mi, habia estado mas de dos veces en los poblados de M'volensok y M'kolamban situados al norte de M'venayon en latitud norte de 1° 7', á una distancia del último de 12½ y 13 kilometros respectivamente.

Como vuestra Excelencia manifiesta en su carta, algunos de esos poblados estuvieron bajo la dominacion alemana y figuraban en el plano Von Moisel al sur del paralelo de 1° de latitud norte, lo que los alemanes explicaban diciendo, que como pertenecientes á los

terrenos cedidos á Alemania por el Tratado de 1911, se los habia entregado los franceses; pero comprobada en 1914, sobre el terreno por la mision hispano-alemana de delimitacion, la situacion geografica de algunos de aquellos lugares, se vió, que bastantes de entre ellos estaban emplazados al norte del paralelo de un grado de latitud Norte y por lo tanto, en territorio español; al declararse la guerra, y llegar la noticia á las dos misiones, se suspendieron aquellos trabajos de delimitacion de fronteras, levantandose un acta de los trabajos realizados y de las comprobaciones hechas, acta que fué firmada por mi como Jefe de la mision española, y por el Dr. Olshausen como Jefe de la mision alemana en Akurinan, á orilla del rio Mia, el 19 de Agosto de dicho año, de cuya acta copio los siguientes parrafos: "La Section Espagnole et la Allemande de la Commission de delimitation Hispano-Allemande entre la Guinée Espagnole (contrée continentale) et le Protectorat de Kamerun, se sont réunis le 5 et 6 Juillet 1914 à Asobela et Nebonde. = De là, les deux sections ont parcouru les alentours du premier parallele de latitude Nord suivant d'une part, la riviere Temboni et la contrée située entre ce fleuve et le premier degré, d'autre part longeant ce degré jusqu'à l'hauteur des lieux nommés Assok-Keigne et "benayon près de "benilan-ua (du plan de Moisel, edition 1914) = " à Assok-Keigne et "benayon les deux sections se sont réunis pour la deuxième fois, pour se separer après en vue de chercher en marchant en colonnes diverses, les cours des fleuves et des cordilleres de montagnes jusqu'à la region de la riviere Komo, de riviere à Mwu, ou de Ka " riviere de Abanga, où elles se sont réunies pour la troisième fois à Akufi- " nan = La Commission regrette que en consequence des evenements de l'Europe, à savoir, les hostilités qui ont éclatées entre l'Allemagne et "

"divers autres pays, elle a du suspendre ses travaux au moment de la  
 "reunion a Akurinan. Par les observations astronomiques faites par les  
 "deux sections, ainsi comme par les itineraires levees, on deduit que  
 "les villages de Asobela, N°Sogodan, Anguma, Mebe, Edjan (Itan) N°ba-  
 "nayan, Assok~~neigne~~, N°kumutun, Akema, Ebiang, Egamayon et Akurinan se  
 "dans le Territoire Espagnole. Au contraire les villages Mitombe, Assok  
 "Aweing et Assok~~neigne~~ se trouvent dans le territoire d'Allemagne,  
 "quant au village de N°olamban, celui-ci, est si pres de le parallele  
 "premiere degre qu'il faut faire la comprobation des chronometres avant  
 "de preciser leur situation".

La copia literal de los parrafos anteriores, justifican plena-  
 mente el porque en mi carta n° 439 de 23 de Junio de 1917, fueron cita-  
 dos como pertenecientes al territorio espanol los poblados á que hacia  
 referencia, habiendo entregado en persona á los jefes de esos poblados  
 una bandera española y un nombramiento provisional, en tanto que por el  
 Jefe de la mision Alemana se les fué recogiendo los nombramientos y ban-  
 deras de que las autoridades alemanas les habian provisto; pudiendo ha-  
 ber sucedido, que alguno de esos jefes hayan conservado los documentos  
 alemanes por la brusca cesacion de los trabajos; pero ello no indica  
 nada en contra de la situacion de dichos poblados en territorio espa-  
 nol, ignorando el porque el entonces Subgobernador de Elobey no faci-  
 litó estos datos á los representantes de Vuestra Excelencia; no pudien-  
 do tomar en consideracion el dicho del Jefe <sup>de</sup> Asoko ~~neigne~~ al represen-  
 te de Vuestra Excelencia, negado por el oficial español, creyendo que  
 Vuestra Excelencia, conecedor de estos indigenas, estará conforme co-  
 migo, al manifestar, que, si el oficial español hubiera hecho la info-  
 macion despues de la fecha por el oficial frances, es probable que la

hubiera dicho algo parecido á lo expresado al representante de Vuestra Excelencia sobre el oficial español; y tan convencidos estaban estos jefes indigenas de ser subditos españoles, que tan pronto ocurrieron los sucesos que motivaron mi carta n° 439 de 1917, enviaron sus quejas al destacamento español mas próximo, / pidiendo se estableciera en aquellos lugares un puesto militar, que circunstancias especiales han impedido sea establecido, lo mismo que en otros lugares de la frontera, lo que espero hacer en algun tiempo.

De los trabajos realizados, itinerarios hechos por la mision hispano-alemana en 1914, y de las situaciones geograficas de los blados que se citan en el acta levantada al separarse las dos misiones, pudimos deducir, que en el plano de Moisel de 1° de Mayo de 1914, la frontera sur del territorio español, está corrida hacia el Norte alrededor de tres kilometros, habiendo obtenido para N'benayon la siguiente situacion  $1^{\circ} - 2^{\circ} - 40''$ , 7 de Latitud Norte y  $10^{\circ} - 18' - 52''$ , 5 de longitud Este de Greenwich asi como obtuvimos para Mitombe  $0^{\circ} - 59' - 46''$  de latitud Norte y  $9^{\circ} - 55' - 55''$  de longitud Este de Greenwich.

En vista de cuanto llevo manifestado, y como hasta que quede normalizado cuanto afecta á los territorios ocupados no será posible proceder á continuar los trabajos de delimitacion de fronteras, me permito someter á Vuestra Excelencia el que se considere como poblados pertenecientes al territorio español aquellos que obtenida su situacion geografica por la mision Hispano-Alemana figuran en el acta cuya copia le transcribo en esta carta, asi como todos los que en el plano de von Moisel figuran situados al Norte de ellos tales como

A'sozodan, Ancuma Nabé, Esong, Akonike, Ebang, Itsan, Efó, Agyen,  
Avanayon, Len, Asofo-Kahe, Ebiane, Akulenso, lugar donde estuvieron  
Avelinang y Fula, Kensyu, Tamayon, Tiang, Regnebur, Akoga, Osen ú Oven  
Akumutum, Mvinayon, Naogobut Akema, Akogonvem ó Akema Ngon, M'koniki,  
Ebiang, Akok, Aboga (debe ser anwora del plano) Ebane, Nyon, Akulinsok,  
Ngon ó Ayan, Manyengue, Asogonfen, Akolo, Afagna, Asogolen, Akua, Nye-  
mayon, Mansenga y Akurinan, habiendo subrayado con dos rayas los po-  
 blados situados por observaciones astronómicas, y con una sola aque-  
 llos que no figuran en el plano y que resulta estar en territorio es-  
 pañol; proponiendo así mismo á Vuestra Excelencia el que á partir del  
 meridiano de Akurinan, hacia el Este, en vista como antes he expresá-  
 do de estar corrida la frontera hacia el Norte el que, también en tan-  
 to no se llega á una delimitación, consideremos como frontera el li-  
 mite Sur de la línea rosa mas palido de los dos que pinta von Moissel  
 en su plano para hacer mas visible la frontera, y que pasa por Ayang,  
 Akumasa, Asua, Jinamessogo y un poco al Sur de Bissobinan, y llega-  
 dos á este modus vivendi, podriamos desde luego tener una base fija,  
 aun cuando eventual, para evitar todos esos pequeños incidentes de  
 frontera.

Respecto á los ataques de los indigenas á fuerza organi-  
 zada, si bien puede existir, los considero dificiles si antes no ha  
 ocurrido algo que motive esos ataques; es cierto que los indigenas  
 nuyen siempre á la aproximación de fuerza á sus poblados, pero esto  
 depende de su genero de vida desde que se vieron obligados á abando-  
 nar los lugares del Africa donde primitivamente habitaban, y la lu-  
 cha, durante ese exodo, hasta que han llegado á establecerse, les ha



hecho recelosos; pero en mis muchas expediciones al interior, he podido apreciar que tan pronto como se convencen de las intenciones pacificas de los visitantes, vuelven á sus poblados, y facilitan todo cuanto tienen, y que solo con un motivo fundado ó por alguna injusticia cometida con ellos, es cuando se revuelven; y precisamente en los lugares donde ocurrieron los sucesos que motivan esta correspondencia he estado algunos meses, mis soldados han ido á todas partes en parejas para desempeñar comisiones que se les confiaban, y jamas ocurrió el mas pequeno incidente, al contrario, en ~~comparaciones~~ ~~comparaciones~~ recibidos y en todas partes le facilitaron comida con exceso.

Refiriendome á su carta n° 63 de 24 de Enero, he de manifestarle que estoy completamente de acuerdo con Vuestra Excelencia sobre la adopcion provisional de considerar como parte de la frontera este del territorio español, el curso del rio M'kye desde el paralelo de 2° - 10' - 20" de latitud norte hasta el nacimiento de dicho rio, permitiendome enviarle una copia exactamente igual a la que facilito á mis oficiales de la frontera norte para que tengan en cuenta este nuevo limite, y dada la buena acogida que en Vuestra Excelencia ha tenido la proposicion que tuve el honor de hacerle sobre este nuevo limite, me permito hoy, en mi deseo de evitar todo incidente el proponer á Vuestra Excelencia, que podiamos considerar ese limite hasta el cruce del rio M'kye con el camino que desde Ovang en territorio español vá á mangume situado en la orilla derecha de M'kye, que siga el limite, por el camino que pasa por Mmemayon hasta Makai situado en la orilla izquierda del rio Bingueia constituyendo este rio el resto de la frontera hasta su confluencia con el Rio Benito ó Velo; y al Sur del Benito podiamos adoptar como frontera provisional el rio Uua has-

ta su confluencia con el Awor, siguiendo la frontera despues por este hasta que cruza el camino que pasa por Mwen, Mgo, Asombe, Abama y Asork hasta que dicho camino cruza el rio Mse-M'koi-M'kan, cuyas orillas derechas pueden constituir el limite del territorio español hasta su cruce con el meridiano 9° de longitud Este de Paris por Aninsork, desde cuyo punto puede la orilla izquierda formar el limite frances desde Aninsork hasta Bisobinan; de este modo y en tanto no se fijen definitivamente las fronteras, estas que indico podria ser provisionalmente los limites del territorio español, limites mas tangibles que el meridiano, y esto alejaria todo incidente, rogando á Vuestra Excelencia que de aceptar esta proposicion se sirva comunicarme por cable para poder dar las ordenes oportunas sobre el particular, en el bien entendido que únicamente tendran estos limites un caracter provisional, esperando que una delimitacion definitiva pueda fijarlas exactamente; creyendo deber hacer saber á Vuestra Excelencia que esta proposicion está hecha teniendo á la vista el plano de von Moisel de 1914, acompañando un croquis de esta proposicion.

Por mi parte puedo asegurar á Vuestra Excelencia que he considerado terminado por completo el incidente que motivó mi carta nº 439 de 23 de Enero de 1917, lamentando que mi ausencia haya sido motivo del retardo en contestar á Vuestra Excelencia, á quien puedo asegurar que todos mis esfuerzos tenderan siempre á evitar cualquier rozamiento por ligero que sea y que me esforzaré siempre en mantener bajo el mismo pié de cordialidad las buenas relaciones que siempre han existido entre nuestras dos Colonias.

Ruego á Vuestra Excelencia se sirva aceptar la seguri-

ridad de mi mayor consideracion

*J. J. Barrera*

Gobernador General.

A Su Excelencia el Gobernador General del Africa Ecuatorial francesa

B R A Z A V I L L E.



**Annex 68**

*Letter from French Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs (24 November 1919)*



## TRANSLATION

Year CCLXVIII. – Tome IV. Wednesday, December 11, 1929

No. 345 – Page 1593

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## GAZETTE OF MADRID

DIGEST	Ministry of Interior	education. – Pages 1602 and 1603.
----- Official part.		
<b>Presidency and External Affairs.</b>	<i>Royal order resolving proceedings involving José Rojas Reina in the manner set forth. – Pages 1596 and 1597.</i>	<i>Other ordering that a tender process be opened for the purchase of paper to be used in the Official Bulletin and other publications issued by this Ministry. – Page 1603.</i>
<i>Royal decree promoting the legation in Budapest, Manuel García de Acilu y Benito, to Minister Plenipotentiary, Second Class. – Page 1594.</i>	<i>Other designating the persons listed to form the interim board of the Central Panel of the Secretariat. – Pages 1597 and 1598.</i>	<b>Ministry of Development</b>
<i>Other to Juan Francisco de Cárdenas y Rodríguez de Rivas, and ordering that he continue providing services with that designation in Bucharest. – Page 1594.</i>	<i>Other granting licenses to nurses and an extension to the named Mail and Telegraph officials. – Pages 1598 and 1599.</i>	<i>Royal order mandating the formation in the terms specified of the Union of Coal Storage and Import Workers of the Vigo, Marín, and Arosa estuaries. – Page 1603.</i>
<i>Other promoting the legation in Guatemala, Rafael de Ureua y Sanz, to Minister Plenipotentiary, Third Class. – Page 1594.</i>	<i>Other awarding to Ramón Nuño Arbesu de Oviedo the tender for devices for the building housing the Association of Children of Security and Government Officials. – Page 1599.</i>	<b>Ministry of Labor and Welfare</b>
<i>Other promoting the legation in Rio de Janeiro, José María Estrada y Acebal, to Secretary, First Class. – Page 1594.</i>	<b>Ministry of Public Education and Fine Arts</b>	<i>Royal orders resolving complaints brought by Carmen de Vizcarondo Martínez and Antonio García Valladares regarding payment of interest and repayment of a state loan for [illegible]. – Pages 1603 and 1604.</i>
<b>Ministry of Treasury</b>	<i>Royal order mandating hiring for the vacant position of drawing and modeling instructor in the Central School for Deviants. – Page 1600.</i>	<i>Other regarding the consultation by the local professional development trust in Jaen. – Page 1604.</i>
<i>Royal decree granting a building that was the Convent of the Benedictines in Plaza Leon XIII, in the village of Celanova, Province of Orense, free of charge to that village. – Page 1594 and 1595.</i>	<i>Other organizing a rehearsal for a winter school class subject to the conditions listed. – Page 1600.</i>	<i>Other ordering that the division of the Valencia Joint Committee on Steel working, Metallurgy, and Alloys that will represent the Sagunto steel working industry be comprised in the manner indicated. – Page 1604.</i>
<b>Presidency of the Council of Ministers</b>	<i>Other assigning 1,000 pesetas for the 1929 fiscal year to each of the directors of the agricultural fields annexed to the national schools listed. – Pages 1600 and 1601.</i>	<i>Other ordering that the joint committees referred to be comprised in the manner indicated. – Page 1604 and 1605.</i>
<i>Royal order granting to Amparo Aguilar 150 hectares of land in Basajil, Island of Fernando Póo, under the conditions stated. – Page 1595.</i>	<i>Other mandating the acquisition of one hundred units of sericulture material for such national schools as are deemed appropriate. – Pages 1601 and 1602.</i>	<b>Ministry of National Economy</b>
<i>Other to Aurora Cobo de Guzmán y Moreno, 150 hectares of land in Basajil, Island of Fernando Póo, under the conditions stated. – Page 1595.</i>	<i>Other authorizing the holding of a meeting of teachers in the normal schools in this court from December 18-20. – Page 1602.</i>	<i>Royal order granting the authorizations listed in order to make substitutions or amendments to the machinery industries listed. – Page 1605.</i>
<i>Other to Gonzalo Sbarbi Martín, 2,500 hectares of land in Continental Guinea on the Mian river, under the conditions stated. – Pages 1595 and 1596.</i>	<i>Other to Ramón Martínez López granting him the position of literature instructor in the Ibiza Institute. – Page 1602.</i>	<b>Central Administration</b>
<i>Other to Francisco Padrón y Mallán, 100 hectares of land on the banks of the Utonde river, next to the Mikomesen highway, under the conditions stated. – Page 1596.</i>	<i>Other to Matías Agüero Ortega so that he may assume his position in the National Institute of Secondary Education in Valladolid – Page 1602.</i>	<b>PRESIDENCY.</b> – Qualifying Board for Applicants to the Public Service – Special competition held this past November. – List of names of armed forces personnel who have been detailed to the division of traffic light ordinances within the General Directorate of Navigation, process announced on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of
	<i>Other granting a month of sick leave to Jesús de la Peña Seiquer, literature instructor at the Requena local institute of secondary</i>	

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

1594

December 11, 1929

Gazette of Madrid – No. 345

<p>every month, and complaints dismissed for the reasons listed. – Page 1605.</p> <p>General Directorate of Morocco and the Colonies. – Civil Section of Colonial Affairs. – <i>List of conditions for the auction of 99 hectares of land for special crops, located in the Niefan, Spanish Continental Guinea.</i> – Page 1606.</p> <p>General Secretariat for Foreign Affairs. – Central Division. – Adversarial Matters. – <i>Announcing the deaths of various Spanish subjects abroad.</i> – Page 1607.</p> <p>JUSTICE AND WORSHIP. – General Directorate of Legal and Ecclesiastical Matters. – <i>Granting one month of sick leave to Eduardo Gómez de Baquero, Chief of Section, Second Class, of the</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Corps of Advocates.</i> – Page 1607.</p> <p>General Directorate of Registries and Notaries. – <i>Announcing vacancies in the property registries indicated.</i> – Page 1607.</p> <p>GOVERNANCE. – General Directorate of Security. – <i>List of officials from the security services who, by virtue of Royal orders dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month, have been promoted to the positions set forth, noting their level and date of seniority in detail.</i> – Page 1607.</p> <p>General Directorate of Health. – <i>Authorizing the provincial institutes of hygiene and the city councils of the places listed to engage in the health-focused activities of disinfection, and insect and rodent removal.</i> – Page 1608.</p>	<p><i>Ordering that Ramón Grosso Portillo be included on the list of persons from the Civil Marine medical corps published in the GAZETTE on December 7, 1926.</i> – Page 1608.</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT. – General Directorate of Mines and Fuels. – Personnel. – <i>Announcing a vacancy for an engineer in the Practical School of Miners, Smelters, and Machinists in Belmez.</i> – Page 1608.</p> <p>SINGLE ANNEX. – MARKET. – AUCTIONS. – PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION. – ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PRIOR PAYMENT. – EDICTS.</p>
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## OFFICIAL PART

## No. 2589.

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His Majesty King Alfonso XIII (May God Keep Him), Her Majesty Victoria Eugenia, His Royal Highness the Prince of Asturias and Infantes, and other august members of the Royal Family continue to live in good health and without any news to report.

## THE PRESIDENCY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## ROYAL DECREES

## No. 2588

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In view of the circumstances affecting Manuel García de Acilu y Benito, my Minister Plenipotentiary, Third Class, in Guatemala; upon proposal of the President of My Council of Ministers and in accordance therewith,

I do hereby promote him to Minister Plenipotentiary, Second Class, to assume the vacancy in this category caused by the promotion of Viscount Francisco Martínez de Galinsoga y de la Serna, and to assign him to my legation in Budapest, on the understanding that this appointment corresponds to the third level which Article 37 of the Regulations on Career Diplomats provides for promotions via selection from among active officials in the immediately preceding class.

Given in the Palace, on December 9, 1929. ALFONSO

The President of the Council of Ministers  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA Y OBRANEJA

In view of the circumstances affecting Juan Francisco de Cárdenas y Rodríguez de Rivas, my Minister Plenipotentiary, Third Class, in Bucharest; upon proposal of the President of My Council of Ministers and in accordance therewith,

I do hereby promote him to Minister Plenipotentiary, Second Class, to assume the vacancy in this category caused by the retirement of Angel de Ranero y Rivas, and to order that he continue providing services to this Legation, on the understanding that this appointment corresponds to the second level which Article 37 of the Regulations on Career Diplomats provides for promotions via seniority from among officials in the immediately preceding class.

Given in the Palace on December 9, 1929.

ALFONSO

The President of the Council of Ministers  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA Y OBRANEJA

## No. 2580.

In view of the circumstances affecting Rafael de Ureña y Sanz, Secretary First Class, in my legation in Rio de Janeiro; upon proposal of the President of my Council of Ministers and in accordance therewith,

I do hereby promote him to Minister Plenipotentiary, Third Class, to assume the vacancy caused by the promotion of Manuel García de Acilu y Benito, and to assign him to my legation in Guatemala, on the

understanding that this appointment corresponds to the second level which Article 37 of the Regulations on Career Diplomats provides for promotions via seniority from among officials in the immediately preceding class.

Given in the Palace on December 9, 1929. ALFONSO

The President of the Council of Ministers  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA Y OBRANEJA

## No. 2591.

In view of the circumstances affecting José María Estrada y Acebal, Secretary Second Class, in my legation in Mexico,

I do hereby promote him to Secretary First Class and assign him to serve in this capacity in my legation in Rio de Janeiro to assume the vacancy caused by the promotion of Rafael de Ureña y Sanz, on the understanding that this appointment corresponds to the second level which Article 27 of the Regulations on Career Diplomats provides for promotions via seniority from among officials in the immediately preceding class.

Given in the Palace on December 9, 1929.

ALFONSO

The President of the Council of Ministers  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA Y OBRANEJA

## MINISTRY OF TREASURY

## WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS



## TRANSLATION

Gazette of Madrid – No. 345

December 11, 1929

1595

## ROYAL DECREE

## No. 2592

In accordance with my Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Ministry of Treasury,

I hereby decree the following:

Single Article. The town council of Celanova, in the province of Orense, is granted rights to the building that served as the Benedictine convent in plaza Leon XIII in that town, free of charge.

Such concession shall be understood as occurring subject to the provisions of the Royal Decree-Law dated October 2, 1927, and for the purposes of permitting that town council to install its City Hall in that building, as well as city schools and other departments.

The Ministry of Treasury shall adopt all necessary provisions in order to execute this Royal Decree.

Given in the Palace on December 10, 1929.

ALFONSO

The Minister of the Treasury  
JOSE CALVO SOTELO

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PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL  
OF MINISTERS

## ROYAL ORDERS

## No. 466

Honorable Sir: Having seen the proceeding commenced as a result of the request filed on April 29 with the General Government of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea by Amparo Aguilar, in which she seeks to be granted 150 hectares of land in Basajil on the island of Fernando Póo in the form of a redeemable leasehold for special crops on land having defined limits:

It being the case that following the announcement of the auction of such marked-off land in the GAZETTE OF MADRID and the *Official Bulletin*, no bidder has materialized:

Whereas, pursuant to the provisions of Article 24 of the regulations governing the property regime in that colony, when no bidder shows up to an auction, the auctioned property shall be awarded to the person who requested it:

Whereas, this concession is being made by virtue of the authorization granted under Article 21 of the Royal

Decree dated July 11, 1904, pertaining to the property regime in the Spanish Possessions of the Gulf of Guinea; Chapter VII of those regulations; and the Royal Decrees dated May 7, 1926 and May 5, 1926 and all other concordant provisions,

His Majesty the King (May God Keep Him) sees fit to order the following:

1. Amparo Aguilar is granted a redeemable leasehold for a duration of 50 years subject to payment of three pesetas per hectare per year on 150 hectares of land in Basajil on the island of Fernando Póo, consisting in the private property of the Spanish government, for the cultivation of special crops, as referred to in the list of auction conditions published in the GAZETTE OF MADRID dated September 4, 1929, within the following limits: to the north, big river; to the south, government-owned forest; to the east, lands requested by Dionisio Redondo; and to the west, the limit of the Alenya concession.

2. Within this concession, it will be necessary to break up the area that may correspond to discrete, communal, or indigenous property as of the date of the award.

3. This concession is to be carried out pursuant to Article 21 of the Royal Decree dated July 11, 1904, and all other aforementioned and concordant provisions on this issue.

I do hereby communicate news of this Royal Order to Your Excellency for your knowledge and such purposes as you deem fit. May God Keep Your Excellency Many Years. Madrid, December 6, 1929.

P.D.

The Director-General  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA

The Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea.

## No. 467

Honorable Sir: Having seen the proceeding commenced as a result of the request filed on April 29 with the General Government of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea by Federico Arriaga y Estrada, in the name of his wife, Aurora Cobo de Guzmán y Moreno, in which he seeks to be granted 150 hectares of land in Basajil on the island of Fernando Póo for the cultivation of special crops on land having defined limits:

It being the case that following the announcement of the auction of such

marked off land in the GAZETTE OF MADRID and the *Official Bulletin*, no bidder has materialized:

Whereas, pursuant to the provisions of Article 24 of the regulations governing the property regime in that colony, when no bidder shows up to an auction, the auctioned property shall be awarded to the person who requested it:

Whereas, this concession is being made by virtue of the authorization granted under Article 21 of the Royal Decree dated July 11, 1904, pertaining to the property regime in the Spanish Possessions of the Gulf of Guinea; Chapter VII of those regulations; and the Royal Decrees dated May 7, 1926 and May 5, 1926 and all other concordant provisions,

His Majesty the King (May God Keep Him) sees fit to order the following:

1. Aurora Cobo de Guzmán y Moreno is granted a redeemable leasehold for a duration of 50 years subject to an annual payment of three pesetas per hectare on 150 hectares of land in Basajil on the island of Fernando Póo, consisting in the private property of the Spanish government, for the cultivation of special crops, as referred to in the list of auction conditions published in the GAZETTE OF MADRID dated September 4, 1929, within the following limits: to the north, the concession granted to Amparo Aguilar; to the south, government-owned forest; to the east, lands requested by José Maria Arriaga; and to the west, the limit of the Alenya concession.

2. Within this concession, it will be necessary to break up the area that may correspond to discrete, communal, or indigenous property as of the date of the award.

3. This concession is to be carried out pursuant to Article 21 of the Royal Decree dated July 11, 1904, and all other aforementioned and concordant provisions on this issue.

I do hereby communicate news of this Royal Order to Your Excellency for your knowledge and such purposes as you deem fit. May God Keep Your Excellency Many Years. Madrid, December 7, 1929.

P.D.

The Director-General  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA

The Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

1596

December 11, 1929

Gazette of Madrid – No. 345

**No. 468**

Honorable Sir: Having seen the proceeding commenced as a result of the request filed on February 12, 1928, and provided to this Office of the Directorate-General for Morocco and the Colonies by Gonzalo Sbarbi Martín, in which he seeks to be granted 2,500 hectares of land for forestry exploitation in the Muni territory within determined boundaries:

It being the case that no bidder appeared during the auction of this marked-off land:

Whereas, pursuant to the provisions of the auction, Article 24 of the regulations governing the property regime in that colony, when no bidder shows up to an auction, the auctioned property shall be awarded to the person who requested it:

Whereas, this concession is being made pursuant to the provisions of Articles 20 and 21 of the Royal Decree dated July 11, 1904; the Royal Decree dated May 5, 1926; the Royal Order dated August 1, 1928; and all other concordant provisions, and concerning such private, communal, or indigenous property existing in the concession as of the date of this award,

His Majesty the King (May God Keep Him) sees fit to order the following:

1. Gonzalo Sbarbi Martín is granted such land for a period of 20 years subject to payment of one peseta per hectare per year on 2,500 hectares of land consisting in the private property of the Spanish government on the Guinean continent on the Mian river near Mebonde, within the following limits: to the north, government-owned forest via parallel line to the Mian river; to the south, government-owned forest via another line, parallel to the one comprising the northern limit, having equal length and 1,000 meters from the Mian river; to the east, government-owned forest via a line which connects the end of the northern line to the southern line covering 2,000 meters and being bisected by the Mian river; and to the west, government-owned forest via another line parallel to the eastern one that runs from north to south of equal length, at the center of which is River Mian.

2. Within this concession, it will be necessary to break up the area that may correspond to discrete,

communal, or indigenous property as of the date of the award.

3. This concession is to be carried out pursuant to the aforementioned legal provisions as well as those contained in the list of auction conditions and all other legislatively applicable rules,

I do hereby communicate news of this Royal Order to Your Excellency for your knowledge and such purposes as you deem fit. May God Keep Your Excellency Many Years. Madrid, December 10, 1929.

P.D.

**The Director-General  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA**

The Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea.

**No. 469**

Honorable Sir: Having seen the proceeding commenced as a result of the requests filed on February 15 and December 28, 1928, and submitted to this General Government by Francisco Padroa y Melian, in which he seeks to be granted 100 hectares of land for the special cultivation of coffee in continental Guinea, adjacent to the Mikomesen highway, bordering the Utonde river, and within determined boundaries:

It being the case that no bidder appeared during the auction of this marked-off land:

Whereas, pursuant to the provisions of the auction, Article 24 of the regulations governing the property regime in that colony, when no bidder shows up to an auction, the auctioned property shall be awarded to the person who requested it:

Whereas, this concession is being made pursuant to the provisions of Article 21, paragraph (b) of the Royal Decree dated July 11, 1904; the Royal Decrees dated May 5 and May 7, 1926; and all other concordant provisions, and concerning such private, communal, or indigenous property existing in the concession as of the date of this award,

His Majesty the King (May God Keep Him) sees fit to order the following:

1. Francisco Padrón y Melian is granted a redeemable leasehold for a duration of 50 years subject to an annual payment of two pesetas per hectare on 100 hectares of land consisting in the private property of the Spanish government, for the cultivation of coffee, along the banks

of the Utonde river, next to the Mikomesen highway, and within the following limits: to the north, government-owned forest; to the south, the route to Mikomesen; to the east, the Utonde river; and to the west, government-owned forest.

2. Within this concession, it will be necessary to break up the area that may correspond to discrete, communal, or indigenous property as of the date of the award.

3. This concession is to be carried out pursuant to the aforementioned legal provisions, the provisions contained in the list of auction conditions, and all other legislatively applicable rules.

I do hereby communicate news of this Royal Order to Your Excellency for your knowledge and such purposes as you deem fit. May God Keep Your Excellency Many Years. Madrid, December 10, 1929.

P.D.

**The Director-General  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA**

The Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea.

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR****ROYAL ORDERS****No. 1463**

Honorable Sir: Having examined the proceedings heard as the result of two refunds having been illegally accepted at the post office in Fuensalida, it is the case that:

In May of this year, Cayetana Galán Díaz Guerra delivered to that office two Series I passbooks bearing nos. 27151 and 24436, the first one being registered to Ricardo Ballesteros Aragón and the second to María Ballesteros Aragón, Ms. Díaz Guerra's nephew and niece, respectively, so that interest accrued as of the year 1924 could be calculated and noted therein. When the passbooks were returned to her, she noticed that, in addition to the interest amounts, a note had been made in book no. 27151, saying: "According to proof kept in this general administration, 300 pesetas are deducted for a refund paid by the Office of Fuensalida on August 25, 1924, having been authorized on August 19 of the same year." In book no. 24436, there was another note which stated that, "300 pesetas are deducted for a refund authorized on August 28, 1924 and paid by the Office of Fuensalida on September 22 of that same year, according to proof kept in this general administration." Ms. Díaz Guerra was surprised by these transactions as she knew nothing about them and was certain that the holders of the documents had not made them due to the documents always having remained in the possession of her deceased husband, Alvaro Ballesteros, who passed away on May 16. After that date, the documents had remained in Ms. Díaz Guerra's possession. Moreover, since her nephew, Richard, attends the Salesian school in Madrid and [illegible] is kept under her purview, it is clear that it would have been impossible for them to have made the transactions, which is why [text cut off]



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Matthew Bouillon, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K G Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/26/21

Date





## DIRECCION-ADMINISTRACION.

Calle del Carmen, núm. 29, entresuelo.

Teléfono núm. 12.522.



## VENTA DE EJEMPLARES:

Ministerio de la Gobernación, planta baja.

Número suelto, 0,50

## GACETA DE MADRID

## SUMARIO

## Parte oficial.

## Presidencia y Asuntos Exteriores.

Real decreto ascendiendo a Ministro Plenipotenciario de segunda clase y destinándole con dicha categoría a la Legación en Budapest a D. Manuel García de Acilu y Benito.—Página 1594.

Otro ídem íd. íd. a D. Juan Francisco de Cárdenas y Rodríguez de Rivas, y disponiendo continúe prestando sus servicios, con dicha categoría, en Bucarest.—Página 1594.

Otro ídem a Ministro Plenipotenciario de tercera clase y destinándole con dicha categoría a la Legación en Guatemala, a D. Rafael de Ureua y Sanz.—Página 1594.

Otro ídem a Secretario de primera clase y destinándole con esta categoría a la Legación en Río de Janeiro, a D. José María Estrada y Acebal.—Página 1594.

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Otra ídem a D. Gonzalo Sbarbi Martín, en las condiciones que se insertan, 2.500 hectáreas de terreno en la Guinea continental y paraje del río Mian.—Páginas 1595 y 1596.

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Otra adjudicando a D. Ramón Nuño Arbesu, de Oviedo, el concurso de los aparatos que se mencionan, con destino al edificio para Colegio de Hijos de Funcionarios de los Cuerpos de Vigilancia, Seguridad y Gobernación.—Página 1599.

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Otra ídem se asignen a cada uno de los Directores de los Campos agrícolas anejos a las Escuelas Nacionales que se indican la cantidad de 1.000 pesetas, correspondiente al año económico de 1929.—Páginas 1600 y 1601.

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Otra concediendo autorización para

celebrar en esta Corte, durante los días 18 al 20 de Diciembre, una Asamblea del Profesorado de Escuelas Normales.—Página 1602.

Otra ídem a D. Ramón Martínez López la plaza de Profesor de Literatura del Instituto de Ibiza.—Página 1602.

Otra autorizando a D. Matías Agüero Ortega para que pueda tomar posesión de su cargo en el Instituto Nacional de Segunda Enseñanza de Valladolid.—Página 1602.

Otra concediendo un mes de licencia por enfermo a D. Jesús de la Peña Seiquer, Profesor de Literatura del Instituto local de Segunda Enseñanza de Requena.—Páginas 1602 y 1603.

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**Guinea continental española.**—Página 1606.

**Secretaría general de Asuntos Exteriores.**—Sección Central.—Asuntos Contenciosos.—Anunciando el fallecimiento en el extranjero de los súbditos españoles que se mencionan.—Página 1607.

**JUSTICIA Y CULTO.**—Dirección general de Asuntos judiciales y Eclesiásticos.—Concediendo un mes de licencia por enfermo a D. Eduardo Gómez de Baquero, Oficial, Jefe de Sección de segunda clase del Cuerpo técnico de Letrados de este Ministerio.—Página 1607.

**Dirección general de los Registros y del Notariado.**—Anunciando hallarse vacantes los Registros de la Propiedad que se indican.—Página 1607.

**GOBERNACIÓN.**—Dirección general de Seguridad.—Relación de los funcionarios del Cuerpo de Vigilancia que, por Reales órdenes de 5 del actual, han sido promovidos para los car-

gos que se indican, con expresión del turno y fecha de antigüedad que se detallan.—Página 1607.

**Dirección general de Sanidad.**—Autorizando a los Institutos provinciales de Higiene y Ayuntamientos de los puntos que se mencionan para la práctica de las operaciones sanitarias de desinfección, desinsectación y desratización.—Página 1608.

**Disponiendo que D. Ramón Grosso Portillo sea incluido en la relación de los individuos del Cuerpo Médico de la Marina civil que publicó la GACETA de 7 de Diciembre de 1926.**—Página 1608.

**FOMENTO.**—Dirección general de Minas y Combustibles.—Personal.—Anunciando hallarse vacante una plaza de Ingeniero en la Escuela Práctica de Obreros Mineros, Fundidores y Maquinistas de Balmes.—Página 1608.

**ANEXO ÚNICO.**—BOLSA.—SUBASTAS.—ADMINISTRACIÓN PROVINCIAL.—ANUNCIOS DE PREVIO PAGO.—EDICTOS.

## PARTE OFICIAL

S. M. el Rey Don Alfonso XIII (q. D. g.), S. M. la Reina Doña Victoria Eugenia, S. A. R. el Príncipe de Asturias e Infantes y demás personas de la Augusta Real Familia, continúan sin novedad en su importante salud.

### PRESIDENCIA Y ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

#### REALES DECRETOS

Núm. 2588.

En atención a las circunstancias que concurren en D. Manuel García de Acilu y Benito, Mi Ministro Plenipotenciario de tercera clase en Guatemala; a propuesta del Presidente de Mi Consejo de Ministros y de acuerdo con éste,

Vengo en ascenderle a Ministro Plenipotenciario de segunda clase, en la vacante producida en esta categoría por ascenso de D. Francisco Martínez de Galinsoga y de la Serna, Vizconde de Gracia Real, y destinarle a Mi Legación en Budapest; en la inteligencia de que este nombramiento corresponde al tercer turno que el artículo 37 del Reglamento de la Carrera Diplomática señala al ascenso por elección entre los funcionarios en activo de la clase inferior inmediata.

Dado en Palacio a nueve de Diciembre de mil novecientos veintinueve.

ALFONSO

El Presidente del Consejo de Ministros,  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA y ORBANEJA.

Núm. 2589.

En atención a las circunstancias que concurren en D. Juan Francisco de Cárdenas y Rodríguez de Rivas, Mi Ministro Plenipotenciario de tercera clase en Bucarest; a propuesta del Presidente del Mi Consejo de Ministros y de acuerdo con éste,

Vengo en ascenderle a Ministro Plenipotenciario de segunda clase, en la vacante producida en esta categoría por jubilación de D. Angel de Rarero y Rivas, y en disponer que continúe prestando sus servicios en la mencionada Legación; en la inteligencia de que este nombramiento corresponde al segundo turno que el artículo 37 del Reglamento de la Carrera Diplomática señala al ascenso por antigüedad de los funcionarios de la clase inferior inmediata.

Dado en Palacio a nueve de Diciembre de mil novecientos veintinueve.

ALFONSO

El Presidente del Consejo de Ministros,  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA y ORBANEJA.

Núm. 2590.

En atención a las circunstancias que concurren en D. Rafael de Ureña y Sanz, Secretario de primera clase en Mi Legación en Río de Janeiro; a propuesta del Presidente de Mi Consejo de Ministros y de acuerdo con éste,

Vengo en ascenderle a Ministro Plenipotenciario de tercera clase, en la vacante producida por ascenso de D. Manuel García de Acilu y Benito, y en destinarle a Mi Legación en Guatemala; en la inteligencia de que este nombramiento corresponde al segun-

do turno que el artículo 37 del Reglamento de la Carrera Diplomática señala al ascenso por antigüedad de los funcionarios de la clase inferior inmediata.

Dado en Palacio a nueve de Diciembre de mil novecientos veintinueve.

ALFONSO

El Presidente del Consejo de Ministros,  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA y ORBANEJA.

Núm. 2591.

En atención a las circunstancias que concurren en D. José María Estrada y Acebal, Secretario de segunda clase en Mi Legación en Méjico,

Vengo en ascenderle a Secretario de primera clase y destinarle, con esta categoría, a Mi Legación en Río de Janeiro, en la vacante producida por ascenso de D. Rafael de Ureña y Sanz; en la inteligencia de que este nombramiento corresponde al segundo turno que el artículo 37 del Reglamento de la Carrera Diplomática señala al ascenso por antigüedad de los funcionarios de la clase inferior inmediata.

Dado en Palacio a nueve de Diciembre de mil novecientos veintinueve.

ALFONSO

El Presidente del Consejo de Ministros,  
MIGUEL PRIMO DE RIVERA y ORBANEJA.

### MINISTERIO DE HACIENDA

#### REAL DECRETO

Núm. 2592.

De acuerdo con Mi Consejo de Ministros, a propuesta del de Hacienda,

Vengo en decretar lo siguiente:

Artículo único. Se cede gratuitamente y en propiedad al Ayuntamiento de Celanova, en la provincia de Orense, un edificio que fué Convento de Benedictinos, situado en la plaza de León XIII, de aquella villa.

La cesión se entenderá otorgada con sujeción a las prescripciones del Real decreto-ley de 2 de Octubre de 1927, y a fin de que el mencionado Ayuntamiento instale en el dicho edificio la Casa Consistorial, Escuelas municipales y otras dependencias.

Por el Ministerio de Hacienda se adoptarán las disposiciones necesarias para la ejecución de este Real decreto.

Dado en Palacio a diez de Diciembre de mil novecientos veintinueve.

ALFONSO

El Ministro de Hacienda,  
JOSÉ CALVO SOTELLO.

## PRESIDENCIA DEL CONSEJO DE MINISTROS

### REALES ORDENES

Núm. 466.

Excmo. Sr.: Visto el expediente incoado con motivo de la instancia presentada en 29 de Abril último en el Gobierno general de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea por doña Amparo Aguilar, en la que pedía se le concedieran 150 hectáreas de terreno en la isla de Fernando Poo, al sitio de Basajil, a censo redimible, para cultivos especiales, en terreno de límites determinados:

Resultando que, anunciada la subasta del deslindado terreno en la GACETA DE MADRID y en el *Boletín Oficial* de la Colonia, no se ha presentado ningún postor:

Considerando que, a tenor de lo dispuesto en el artículo 24 del Reglamento sobre régimen de la propiedad en aquella Colonia, cuando en las subastas no se presente ningún postor se hará la adjudicación del terreno subastado a quien lo solicitó:

Considerando que se hace esta cesión en virtud de la autorización concedida en el artículo 21 del Real decreto de 11 de Julio de 1904, sobre régimen de la propiedad en las Posesiones españolas del Golfo de Guinea, en relación con el capítulo VII del mismo, y Real decreto de 7 de Mayo de 1926, Real decreto de 5 del

mismo mes y año y demás disposiciones concordantes,

S. M. el REY (q. D. g.) ha tenido a bien disponer lo siguiente:

1.º Se concedan a doña Amparo Aguilar, a censo redimible por cincuenta años y pago de tres pesetas por hectárea y año, 150 hectáreas de terreno en Basajil, isla de Fernando Poo, de la propiedad privada del Estado, para cultivos especiales, a que se refiere el pliego de condiciones de subasta publicado en la GACETA DE MADRID de 4 de Septiembre de 1929, dentro de los límites siguientes: Norte, gran río; Sur, bosque del Estado; Este, terrenos solicitados por D. Dionisio Redondo, y Oeste, límite de la concesión Alenya.

2.º Dentro de esta concesión habrá que disgregar la superficie que corresponda, en la fecha de la adjudicación, a las propiedades particulares, comunales y de los poblados indígenas.

3.º Esta concesión se lleva a efecto con arreglo al artículo 21 del Real decreto de 11 de Julio de 1904 y demás disposiciones citadas y concordantes en esta materia.

De Real orden lo digo a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos oportunos. Dios guarde a V. E. muchos años. Madrid, 6 de Diciembre de 1929.

P. D.,

El Director general,  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA

Señor Gobernador general de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea.

Núm. 467.

Excmo. Sr.: Visto el expediente incoado con motivo de la instancia presentada en 29 de Abril último en el Gobierno general de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea por D. Federico Arriaga y Estrada, a nombre de su esposa, doña Aurora Cobo de Guzmán y Moreno, en la que pedía se le concedieran 150 hectáreas de terreno en el sitio de Basajil, de la isla de Fernando Póo, para cultivos especiales, en terreno de límites determinados:

Resultando que anunciada la subasta del deslindado terreno en la GACETA DE MADRID y en el *Boletín Oficial* de la Colonia, no se ha presentado ningún postor:

Considerando que a tenor de lo dispuesto en el artículo 24 del Reglamento sobre régimen de la propiedad

de aquella Colonia, cuando en las subastas no se presente ningún postor se hará la adjudicación del terreno subastado a quien lo solicitó:

Considerando que se hace esta cesión en virtud de la autorización concedida en el artículo 21 del Real decreto de 11 de Julio de 1904, sobre régimen de la propiedad en las Posesiones españolas del Golfo de Guinea, en relación con el capítulo VII del mismo y Real decreto de 7 de Mayo de 1926, Real decreto de 5 del mismo mes y año y demás disposiciones concordantes,

S. M. el REY (q. D. g.) ha tenido a bien disponer lo siguiente:

1.º Se concedan a doña Aurora Cobo de Guzmán y Moreno, a censo redimible, por cincuenta años y pago anual de tres pesetas por hectárea, 150 hectáreas de terreno en Basajil, isla de Fernando Póo, de la propiedad privada del Estado, para cultivos especiales, a que se refiere el pliego de condiciones de subasta, publicado en la GACETA DE MADRID de 4 de Septiembre último, dentro de los límites siguientes: Norte, concesión de doña Amparo Aguilar; Sur, bosque del Estado; Este, terrenos solicitados por D. José María Arriaga, y Oeste, límite de la concesión Alenya.

2.º Dentro de esta concesión habrá que disgregar la superficie que corresponda, en la fecha de la adjudicación, a las propiedades particulares, comunales y de los poblados indígenas.

3.º Esta concesión se lleva a efecto con arreglo al artículo 21 del Real decreto de 11 de Julio de 1904 y demás disposiciones citadas y concordantes en esta materia.

De Real orden lo digo a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos oportunos. Dios guarde a V. E. muchos años. Madrid, 7 de Diciembre de 1929.

P. D.,

El Director general,  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA

Señor Gobernador general de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea.

Núm. 468.

Excmo. Sr.: Visto el expediente incoado con motivo de la instancia de fecha 12 de Febrero de 1928, elevada a esta Dirección general de Marruecos y Colonias por D. Gonzalo Sbarbi Martín, en la que pedía se le concedieran 2.500 hectáreas de terreno para explotación forestal

tal en el territorio del Muni, dentro de linderos determinados:

Resultando que sacado a subasta el deslindado terreno, no se presentó a la misma ningún postor:

Considerando que, conforme a lo dispuesto en materia de subasta; en el artículo 24 del Reglamento sobre régimen de la propiedad en aquella Colonia, cuando no se presente ningún postor se hará la adjudicación del terreno subastado a quien lo solicitó:

Considerando que esta concesión ha de llevarse a efecto con arreglo a lo dispuesto en los artículos 20 y 21 del Real decreto de 11 de Julio de 1904, Real decreto de 5 de Mayo de 1926, Real orden de 1.º de Agosto de 1928 y demás disposiciones concordantes en la materia y con respecto a la propiedad privada, comunal e indígena que exista en el terreno concedido, en la fecha de su adjudicación,

S. M. el REY (q. D. g.) ha tenido bien disponer:

1.º Se conceda a D. Gonzalo Sbarbi Martín, por el plazo de veinte años y pago de una peseta por hectárea y año, 2.500 hectáreas de terreno, del de la propiedad privada del Estado en la Guinea continental y paraje del río Mian, junto a Mebonde, dentro de los límites siguientes: Al Norte, con bosque del Estado, por una línea paralela al río Mian; al Sur, con bosque del Estado, por otra línea paralela a la del Norte, de igual longitud y 4.000 metros distante del río Mian; al Este, con bosque del Estado, por una línea que, partiendo del final de la del Norte, se une con la del Sur en una longitud de 2.000 metros, siendo cortada ésta en su centro por el río Mian, y al Oeste, con bosque del Estado, por otra línea, paralela a la del Este, de Norte a Sur, de igual longitud, siendo el centro de la misma el río Mian.

2.º Dentro de la anterior delimitación, habrá que disgregar la superficie que corresponda, en la fecha de la adjudicación, a las propiedades particulares, comunales o de indígenas.

3.º Esta concesión se lleva a efecto con arreglo a las disposiciones legales citadas, a las del pliego de condiciones de subasta y demás preceptos legislativos concordantes,

De Real orden lo digo a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos oportunos. Dios guarde a V. E. muchos

años. Madrid, 10 de Diciembre de 1929.

P. D.,  
El Director general,  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA

Señor Gobernador general de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea.

#### Núm. 469.

Excmo. Sr.: Visto el expediente incoado con motivo de las instancias de 15 de Febrero y 28 de Diciembre de 1928, presentadas en ese Gobierno general por D. Francisco Padrón y Melián, en las que se pedía la concesión de 100 hectáreas de terreno, para el cultivo especial del café, en la Guinea continental, junto a la carretera de Mikomesen, lindantes al río Utonde, bajo linderos determinados:

Resultando que sacado a subasta dicho terreno, no se presentó a la misma ningún postor:

Considerando que, conforme a lo dispuesto en materia de subasta, en el artículo 24 del Reglamento sobre régimen de la propiedad en aquella Colonia, cuando no se presente ningún postor se hará la adjudicación del terreno subastado a quien lo solicitó:

Considerando que esta concesión ha de llevarse a efecto con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el inciso b) del artículo 21 del Real decreto de 11 de Julio de 1904, Reales decretos de 5 y 7 de Mayo de 1926 y demás disposiciones concordantes en la materia, y con respecto de la propiedad comunal, privada e indígena,

S. M. el REY (q. D. g.) ha tenido bien disponer:

1.º Se conceda a D. Francisco Padrón y Melián, a censo redimible por cincuenta años y canon de dos pesetas por hectárea y año, para el cultivo especial del café, 100 hectáreas de terreno, del de propiedad privada del Estado, a la orilla del río Utonde, junto a la carretera de Mikomesen, dentro de los linderos siguientes: Norte, bosque del Estado; Sur, ruta a Mikomesen; Este, río Utonde; Oeste, bosque del Estado.

2.º Dentro de la anterior delimitación, habrá que disgregar la superficie que corresponda, en la fecha de la adjudicación, a las propiedades comunales, particulares o de indígenas.

3.º Esta concesión se lleva a efecto con arreglo a las citadas disposiciones, a las del pliego de condicio-

nes de subasta y demás preceptos legislativos concordantes.

De Real orden lo traslado a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos oportunos. Dios guarde a V. E. muchos años. Madrid, 10 de Diciembre de 1929.

P. D.,  
El Director general,  
DIEGO SAAVEDRA

Señor Gobernador general de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea.

## MINISTERIO DE LA GOBERNACION

### REALES ORDENES Núm. 1.463.

Excmo. Sr.: Examinadas las diligencias instruidas por haberse abonado ilegalmente dos reintegros en la Estafeta de Fuensalida, resulta:

Que doña Cayetana Galán Díaz Guerra entregó en dicha Oficina en el mes de Mayo último, para que se anotaran los intereses que hubieran devengado a partir del año 1924, dos cartillas de la serie I, números 27.151 y 24.436, figurando como titular de la primera Ricardo Ballesteros Aragón y, de la segunda María Ballesteros Aragón, ambos sobrinos suyos, y como al devolvérselas observó que además de los intereses se había consignado una nota en la señalada con el número 27.151, diciendo: "Según justificante que obra en esta Administración general, se deducen 300 pesetas por reintegro pagado por la Oficina de Fuensalida en 25 de Agosto de 1924, autorizada el 19 del mismo mes y año", y en la número 24.436 otra nota haciendo constar que "Se deducen 300 pesetas por reintegro autorizado el 28 de Agosto de 1924 y pagado por la Oficina de Fuensalida el 22 de Septiembre del mismo año, según justificante que obra en esta Administración general", quedó sorprendida de estas operaciones, de las que nada sabía, y poseyendo la seguridad de que los titulares no las habían efectuado por no haber podido disponer de las cartillas, las que estuvieron siempre en poder de su difunto esposo, don Alvaro Ballesteros, fallecido el 16 de Mayo último, siendo desde esta fecha custodiadas por ella, y como, además, su sobrino Ricardo está en el Colegio de Salesianos, en Madrid, y Basilia permanece bajo su vigilancia, queda demostrada la imposibilidad de que ellos los hubiesen realizado, por lo



**Annex 69**

*Letter from Spanish Governor General Regarding the Establishment of the French-German  
Demarcation (27 January 1920)*



**TRANSLATION**

[Illegible]  
Copy No. 4

[General Government  
R.S.No 45  
Jan. 24, 1920]

Communications number 265 – 280 and 287 were received in a timely manner by this General Government, the first referring to his interview with the French Commanding Officer of [illegible] Mr. Briand; the second after the interview held with the French Commanding Officer of the District of Wolo-nten to deal with making the River Kye part of the eastern frontier of our territory, beginning with parallel 2°10' 20" N to the source of that river; and the other was a copy of a letter from the same Officer who proposed a study of the natural eastern frontier.

In the first of the two aforementioned communications you report the incidents that occurred as a result of your expedition, words straightened out, officer appointments you made, and also informed us of how you perfectly clarified

## TRANSLATION

what occurred when the French Officer in Command, Mr. Briand, passed through our territory, and the letter which you had sent to the French Commander of the Balowa District for this purpose. You have earned my endorsement for all you have done, and I must tell you how satisfied the General Government is with you for your supervision during the time you have been leading this detachment, for the passion you show towards your service, and for your love of Spain, and also laments the health issues which are hampering your continuance in the forefront of this military post.

In the second of the aforementioned communications, you include a copy of the letter you sent to the French Commander of the Wolo-nten District, in which you propose the joint study of the natural eastern frontier, beginning with the River Kye, especially towards the south, and in light of the advanced state of the rainy season, the aforementioned official should be informed that the study ought to be conducted when the dry season begins, a matter that enormously facilitates the

**TRANSLATION**

work that will be done. I am able to say that, thanks to you, there will be no problems in carrying out the joint study with him. Whatever you decide is acceptable, and in the event that takes place, you may set the date to initiate the work so that I can see to it that you are provided with what you consider necessary to generate the best results.

Based on the drawing you received from the French Officer, you can see the difference that exists between the course of the river as indicated by the French and the drawing sent to that detachment. The difference certainly reflects the fact that the Official French drawing has been taken, apparently, from von Moisel's 1911 German map, and the one I sent you is taken from the same source from May of 1914, once the territories of Gabon located to the east of our territory were occupied by the Germans. But to assume that the drawing you received from the French Officer is exact must try to insist that, rather than having the frontier follow from the source of the Kye along the River Non, that it follow the Konhon

## TRANSLATION

and Daru Rivers, because our territory is too small for us to lose a piece of it. On the other hand, the French have an immense colony and to lose a few square kilometers is not as important to them as it is to us. It's possible that the river called Buiguen in the German map is the [illegible], which I've referred to before.

When asked for information from the French Authorities from Cameroon regarding the border along our northern frontier, I responded on December 29 that there is no demarcation for that frontier. Although it is true that in 1906, two commissioners, one Spanish and the other German, carried out work trying to establish the northern frontier. It is also true that the work they were able to perform never was sanctioned by the respective governments and, because of some of the frontier incidents, I travelled the northern frontier in

**TRANSLATION**

1912, when I was in [illegible] with a representative of the German Governor, and signed the minutes of our conversation on September 9 of that year, in which it was stated that the solution to avoid border incidents was to achieve a natural northern frontier, and that there was none better than the River Campo, such that the regions located to the south of this river could give themselves over to Spain. As a result of this, we agreed to propose to the respective Governors the demarcation of the frontiers, searching for natural geographical features and, while we were working to achieve this, we would consider the northern frontier provisionally, and as a status quo situation, to be the one established by von Moisel in August of 1911. This would not mean that if a final agreement were not reached regarding the extension of our territory to the River Campo,

## TRANSLATION

the [current] situation of the settlements located in that area would be recognized as final.

It also added that, as a result of what was dealt with in that interview, during which the Kye was also considered as a marking point for eastern frontier, the frontier demarcation was initiated, beginning with the southern frontier, work which, more than anything else, led me to establish the geographical features for those frontier locations, and also to search for geographical features that could establish a natural frontier to the southern and partly eastern portion of our territory located to the south of the Bonito, since we had already begun on the basis that the northern frontier would be determined by the Campo, and the eastern frontier would be determined by the River Kye, but this work had to be interrupted because of the European war, at which point the German Governor proposed that I, of course, accept the Kye as the eastern frontier, which I was obliged to decline because of our neutrality, but once the war ceased I had already made the same proposition to the



**TRANSLATION**

Governor of French Equatorial Africa, which was accepted after consulting Paris, and later I had submitted other proposals to this Authority, which are the ones the drawing which I sent to you refers to, with the intention of provisionally defining the southern and eastern frontiers of the territory until an exact demarcation line could be reached. And, as a result of having had to interrupt the demarcation work, I had come to a *modus vivendi* with the Germans which involved provisionally accepting von Moisel's map of 1911 ([illegible] 1, 2 Kribi) where the northern frontier is set out, and where the eastern and southern frontiers are established on the May 1914 (12 Ojen) map by the same source, except for the modifications to the southern frontier which reflected the work we at the Hispanic-German commission had carried out.

As a result of all of the incidents that have occurred lately on the three frontiers, following a detailed study, I have

## TRANSLATION

written to the Minister of the State indicating the need to finally settle on a clear frontier for our territory, using the rivers in order to establish it, and I have submitted the following frontier projects to the Authorities for their consideration in the event they feel they might have to conduct diplomatic efforts in order to succeed in any of them.

**First** – Accept Rio Campo as the northern frontier, where the center of the body of water would belong to us.

**Second** – Accept the demarcation effected by the French and Germans as the southern frontier and hand over to them part of the territories of Gabon, whose demarcation is indicated in the drawing I sent you indicated with the letters C.C.C. The demarcation of this part has already been carried out by the French and Germans, where they make use of natural geographical features. With respect to the greater part of the frontier, this would avoid expenses, and nothing would harm the French, because the Mini is not as important to them as it is to us, since only half of it belonged to them, until it is

## TRANSLATION

intersected by the 1st parallel north, which is to say, where it flows into the Utamboni, and what is theirs is the only the section between Cangañe and Asobla, because the rest of the river, all the way to its source, is Spanish territory, and they have the Bay of Munda, which is perhaps more important than the Muni Estuary.

The above refers to the northern and southern frontiers.

With respect to the eastern frontier, I have submitted the following proposal to the Government:

**First** – The one indicated in the drawing containing the letters A.A.A. – B.B.B., which is the one indicated in the drawing I sent you in a timely manner.

**Second** – The land up the confluence with the Nie River, along this river until it flows into the River So, and following this river to its headwaters, and from this river to the Benito, following this until its confluence with a river that has no name on the map, and after this, the River Lora until it joins the

## TRANSLATION

French-German demarcation; the proposal regarding the above is indicated with the letters E.E.E. – G.G.G.-F.F.

**Third** – The River Kye from its confluence with the Campo, continuing along the [illegible] River, etc., a frontier that is indicated with the letters E.E.E.E.E. in the drawing.

**Fourth** – The one formed by the River Nie from its source to its confluence with the Campo, the River Mikango, the part of the Benito between its drainage into the former and the river without a name, continuing the along the Lora, all of this indicated by the letters E.E.E.

**Fifth** – The one made by the River Lora from the point where it intersects the French German demarcation until its confluence with the River N'Dum, continuing along the N'Dum to the Benito, continuing along this river to the Mikaga, and after along the River Mie and the [illegible] until its confluence with the Kye, and continuing along this river until it flows into the Campo; the proposal involving this point is indicated with the letters D.D.D – E.E.E.

These are some of the proposals I've submitted to the Minister

**TRANSLATION**

of State in the event he may consider it appropriate to carry out diplomatic efforts in order to ensure the most appropriate frontiers, established where possible by the watercourses of important rivers and, I communicate this exclusively with you, so that during the course of your conversations or work with the French Official, you will know what to follow with respect to the opinion of the General Government. As long as Madrid does not commit to anything, and in light of the agreement already reached, the River Kye must be taken as the point on the eastern frontier from its source to its intersection with 2°10'20"N which today constitutes the imaginary line that defines our northern frontier, and later when studying the rest of the eastern frontier jointly with the French Official, I make every effort to ensure that the frontier lines follow the River Kye, River [illegible] and Konhon from the drawing presented by the French Official, to the Benito, and to the south of it, the one indicated by the letters B.B.B. to the proximities of Bosobilang, or the one indicated with the letters D.D.D. to its intersection

## TRANSLATION

with latitude 1°N, without mentioning anything about the southern or northern frontiers, which is left to the authorities to follow, if they feel it is appropriate.

Understanding the many details I submit to you, I believe that, given of your passion and love for Spain, you will do an excellent job and, when the appropriate moment arrives, during your conversations with the French Official, you may test the issue of establishing the southern frontier as the French German demarcation, and may present this idea as yours, showing the French how little they will actually lose, as well as the advantages to both in having the demarcation in place.

In the first mailing I will try to send you a copy of von Moisel's 1914 German map, where the aforementioned demarcation is clearly indicated, and it could serve you as a standard during your conversations and work, as you work jointly with the French Official.

I have received the broken compass and barometer. Today I will send you a pocket compass and a pedometer [missing text] which you must record in the inventory list, as well as the drawing that is enclosed in this communication.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

I must be aware of having done so this way, as well as of all

the incidents that might occur.

May God bless you for many years.

Santa Isabel, January 27, 1920



**WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS, LLC**

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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Gary Baldy, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

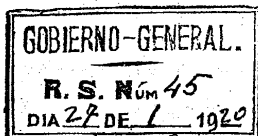
05/21/21

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Date







*Anexo al oficio  
Copia n. 4*

A su debido tiempo se recibieron en este Gobierno General sus comunicaciones números 265 - 280 y 287, referente la primera á su entrevista con el Jefe francés de Batallón <sup>Batallón</sup> Mr. Briand, la segunda á la celebrada con el jefe francés de la circunscripción Wolo-Etan para tratar del establecimiento del río Kye como parte de la frontera Este de nuestro territorio á partir del paralelo de 2° 10' 20" de Latitud Norte hasta el nacimiento de dicho río, y la otra remitiendo una copia de una carta del mismo Oficial proponiendo el estudio de una frontera natural Este.

En la primera de las dos citadas comunicaciones dá V. cuenta de los incidentes á que dio lugar su expedición, palabras que arregló, nombramientos de Jefe que dió, así como noticiaba V. el haber aclarado perfectamente lo ocurrido.

do durante el paso por nuestro territorio del Jefe francés Sr. Briand, y la carta que con este motivo había dirigido al jefe francés de la circunscripción de Eholowa, habiendo merecido mi aprobación todo lo por V. hecho, debiendo manifestarle lo muy satisfecho que se halla este Gobierno General de su gestión durante el tiempo que está al frente de ese destacamento, de su celo por el servicio y de su amor á España, lamentando que deficiencias en su salud le impidan continuar al frente de ese puesto militar.

Con la segunda de las citadas comunicaciones, acompaña V. copia de la carta que le dirigió el Jefe francés del distrito Wolo-Item proponiendo el estudio en común de una frontera natural entre á partir del río Kye especialmente hacia el Sur, y dado lo avanzado de la estación de la lluvia deberá proponer al oficial citado el que el estudio se haga al empezar la estación seca, lo que facilita enormemente los trabajos que hayan de realizarse.

pidiendo decirle que por V. no se encuentra in-  
 conveniente en hacervel estudio reunido con él,  
 lo que cree V. será conveniente, y en ese caso  
 puede fijar la fecha para empezar los trabajos  
 de modo tal que pueda dar lugar á que le envíe  
 lo que conceptue necesario para que tenga el me-  
 jor resultado.

Por el croquis entregado á V. por el Oficial  
 francés se nota la diferencia que existe entre  
 el curso de dicho río señalado por los franceses  
 y el del croquis enviado á ese destacamento, dife-  
 rencia que obedece seguramente á que el croquis  
 del Oficial francés está tomado al parecer del  
 plano alemán de von Meisel de 1911 y el enviado  
 á V. por mí está tomado del plano del mismo au-  
 tor de Mayo de 1914, una vez ya ocupados por los  
 alemanes los territorios del Gabon situados al  
 este de nuestro territorio, pero dado por sentado  
 el que el croquis entregado á V. por el Oficial  
 francés sea exacto debe procurarse el recabar el  
 que en lugar de que la frontera siga desde el  
 nacimiento del río por el río <sup>de</sup> Non, el que siga

por los rios Konhou y <sup>Dani</sup> Ben, pues nuestro territorio es bastante pequeño para que perdamos trozo de él, y en cambio los franceses tienen una colonia de una extensión inmensa el perder algunos Kilometros cuadrados no tiene para ellos la importancia que para nosotros; pudiendo suceder que el rio llamado Balguoin en el plano alemán sea el <sup>Dani</sup> Ben á que antes hago referencia.

Pedidos datos por la Autoridad francesa de Cameroun acerca de los límites de nuestra frontera Norte, contesté con fecha 29 de Diciembre que no existe una demarcación de dicha frontera pues si bien es cierto que el año 1906, dos comisionados uno español y otro alemán hicieron algunos trabajos para fijar la frontera Norte, también es verdad, que los trabajos que pudieron haber efectuado no llegaron á tener la sanción de los Gobiernos respectivos y que debido á una porción de incidentes fronterizos recorrió la frontera Norte el año 1912 avistando

deme en Híscas con un representante del  
 Gobernador alemán, firmando en 9 de Sep-  
 tiembre de dicho año una acta de mis-  
 tra concurrencia, en cuya acta se decide  
 que el camino para evitar los inci-  
 dentes fronterizos era llegar á tener  
 una frontera Norte natural y que nin-  
 guna mejor que el río Campo, de modo  
 que las regiones situadas al Sur de  
 este río podían cederse á España, y que  
 como consecuencia de aquella, acordamos  
 proponer á los Gobiernos respectivos  
 la delimitación de fronteras buscando  
 accidentes naturales y que, <sup>en</sup> tanto no  
 llegáramos á ello consideraríamos con  
 el carácter provisional y como un sta-  
 tu quo como frontera Norte la fijada  
 en el plano de von Meissel de Agosto  
 de 1911, sin que ello quisiera decir,  
 que en caso de no llegar á un acuerdo  
 definitivo acerca de ostender nuestro  
 territorio hasta el Campo, se reconociese

ria como definitiva la situación de los poblados situados en dicho plano.

Añadía también que como consecuencia de lo tratado en aquella entrevista en la que también se trató de considerar el Kye como punto de la frontera este, dió principio la demarcación de fronteras empezando por lo Sur, trabajo que mas que nada iba dirigido á fijar la situación geográfica de los lugares fronterizos, y á buscar accidentes del terreno que pudieran llegar á constituir una frontera natural al Sur y parte Este de nuestro territorio situado al Sur del <sup>pueblo</sup> Bonito, ~~para~~ que ya partíamos de la base de que la frontera Norte la constituyese el campo, y ~~de~~ la oriental el río Kye, pero que estos trabajos tuvieron que interrumpirse por causa de la guerra europea, en cuya ocasión me propuso el Gobierno alemán aceptar el Kye desde luego como frontera este, lo que entonces me vi obligado á declinar por nuestra neutralidad, pero que cesada la guerra había yo hecho la misma proposición

el Gobernador del Africa Equatorial Francesa,  
 por el que fué aceptada despues de consultar  
 á Paris, y que mas tarde habia hecho nuevas  
 proposiciones á la citada Autoridad que son  
 á las que se refiere el croquis que remite á  
 V., con objeto de dejar definidas provisional-  
 mente las fronteras Sur y Este del territorio  
 hasta que se pudiera llegar á una delimita-  
 ción exacta, y que como consecuencia de haber  
 tenido que interrumpir los trabajos de deli-  
 mitación, habia convenido un modus vivendi con  
 los alemanes de considerar provisionalmente  
 como frontera Norte la señalada en el plano  
 de von Meisel de 1911 (Eli. 2 Kribi) y como  
 frontera Este y Sur la fijada en el plano del  
 mismo autor de Mayo de 1914 (Eli. Ojan) salvo  
 en la frontera Sur las modificaciones encuen-  
 tradas en los trabajos que habiamos efectuado  
 la comisión hispano-alemana.

Como consecuencia de todos los incidentes  
 ocurridos ultimamente en las tres fronteras,  
 despues de un detenido estudio me he dirigido

al Excmo. Señor Ministro de Estado indicando la necesidad de llegar á una fijación definitiva de fronteras de nuestro territorio, buscando el curso de rios para fijarla, y he sometido á la consideración de la Superintendencia los siguientes proyectos de fronteras, por si crees deber hacer gestiones diplomaticas para conseguir cualquiera de ellas.

- 1.<sup>o</sup> Tomar como frontera Norte el rio Campeche cuya mitad de aguas nos pertenecian.
- 2.<sup>o</sup> Tomar como frontera Sur la delimitación hecha por franceses y alemanes al ceder á estos parte de los territorios del Gabon, cuya delimitación está señalada en el croquis que le remito con las letras C.C.C., pues estando ya delimitada esa parte por franceses y alemanes aprovechando accidentes naturales en la <sup>mayor</sup> parte de la frontera evitaria gastos, y nada perjudicaria á los franceses, pues el Mini no tiene la importancia para ellos, que para nosotros, ya que no los pertenecia nada mas que la mitad hasta que lo corta el paralelo de 1.<sup>o</sup> de latitud.



tud Norte, ó sea hasta el desagüe en el del Utambeni, del que únicamente les <sup>la parte entre</sup> corresponde hasta Cangane y Asobla, pues el resto del rio hasta su nacimiento, está en territorio español, y ellos tienen la bahía del Munda mas importante sea que el estuario del Muni.

Esto en cuanto se refiere á las fronteras Norte y Sur, que en cuanto á la frontera Este he hecho al Gobierno la siguientes proposiciones

- 1ª.- La señalada en el croquis con las letras A.A.A.-B.B.B. que es la señalada en el croquis que remití á V. en tiempo oportuno.
- 2ª.- El Campo hasta su confluencia con el rio Nie siguiendo por este hasta el desagüe en el del rio Se siguiendo este hasta su nacimiento y desde este al Benito, siguiendo el territorio por este hasta la confluencia con el de un rio que no tiene nombre en el plano, y después por el rio Lars hasta su union

con la delimitación franco-alemana, cuya proposición va señalada con las letras H.H.H.-G.G. G.-F.F.

3<sup>a</sup>.- El río Kye desde su confluencia con el Campo, siguiendo después por el río <sup>N'edso</sup> ~~N'edso~~ etc., frontera que está señalada con las letras H.H.H.H.H. en el croquis.

4<sup>a</sup>.- La formada por el río Nie desde su origen hasta su confluencia con el Campo, el río Mikaga, la parte del Benito comprendida entre el desague en el de aquel, y el río que no tiene nombre, siguiendo después por el Lera, todo como lo señalan las letras H.H.H. ....

5<sup>a</sup>.- La constituida por el río Lera desde que corta la delimitación franco-alemana hasta su confluencia con el río N'Dun, siguiendo por el N'Dun hasta el Benito, siguiendo por este hasta el Mikaga y después por el Nie y por el <sup>N'edso</sup> ~~N'edso~~ hasta su confluencia con el Kye y por este hasta que desagua en el Campo, cuya proposición va señalada con las letras D.D.D.- H.H.H.H.

Estas son las proposiciones que he hecho al  
Excelentísimo Señor Ministro de Estado por el

considera oportuno el hacer gestiones diplomáticas para llegar á conseguir las fronteras mas convenientes, fijadas en lo posible por los cursos de rios importantes, y que comunico á V. para su conocimiento exclusivo, y para que en sus conversaciones é trabajos con el Oficial francés sepa á que atenerse respecto á la opinion de este Gobierno General, pero entre tanto nada digan desde Madrid, deberá, dado el acuerdo ya establecido, tomar el Eje como punto de la frontera Este desde su nacimiento hasta su union con el paralelo de  $2^{\circ} 10' - 20'$  que constituye, hoy la linea inmaterial de nuestra frontera <sup>Norte</sup> y al estudiar despues en union del Oficial francés el resto de la frontera <sup>Sur</sup> ~~Sur~~, procure conseguir que la linea fronteriza siga dicho rio Eje los rios <sup>Norte</sup> ~~Norte~~ Yani y Kenhon del croquis entregado por el Oficial francés, hasta el Benito, y al Sur de él la señalada por la letra N.D.N. hasta la proximidad de Besobilang, ó la señalada con la letra N.D.N. hasta su union con el paralelo

lo de 1<sup>a</sup> de Latitud Norte, sin que hable nada de frontera Sur y Norte lo que quedará á la gestión que crea conveniente establecer la Superioridad, si así lo juzga oportuno.

Conociendo cuantos detalles le expongo, creo, que dado su celo y amor á España podrá hacer una excelente labor, y cuando llegue el momento oportuno pedirá en sus conversaciones con el Oficial francés, tantear lo de llegar á tomar como frontera Sur la delimitación franco-alemana, para exponer la idea como suya, haciendo ver lo poco que los franceses perderían, y las ventajas de tener para ambos ya hecha la delimitación.

En el primer correo procuraré enviar á V. un calco de la carta alemana de von Meisel de 1914 en la que está perfectamente señalada la demarcación citada y ella podría servirle de norma en sus conversaciones y trabajos ~~en unión~~ del Oficial francés.

He recibido la brújula y barómetro descompuestos le envío hoy una brújula de bolsillo y un pedómetro los que deberá anotar en el inventario así como el croquis que acompaña á esta comunicación.

debiendo darme cuenta de así haberlo  
efectuado, así como de todos los inci-  
dentes que ocurran.

Dios guarde á V. muchos años.

Santa Isabel, 27 de Enero de 1920

Señor Oficial Jefe del la línea de Mikonson



**Annex 70**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter No. 527 from the Spanish Governor-General* (8 December 1920)





## TRANSLATION

No. 6

*[Illegible]*

No. 527

I am including a list of the towns on the eastern border that belong to that district so that you may have detailed news of them through that detachment. Also, as an addition to my instructions for the establishment of that military post, I include the roads that must be caused to be built. One of them should follow the length of the Kye, with bridges built in the swampy places, and effort must be made to keep the roads wide and clean and the bridges in the best conditions to prevent their disappearing.

A wide road must also be built joining the source of the Kye with the source of the River Non, and another road along its right bank until its confluence with the N'Fumu, and then continuing along its right bank

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

to where it flows into the Benito. Also, as I stated in my instructions, you must extend the influence of that detachment to the south of the River Benito, requiring the natives to open roads to the south and to build bridges over the rivers, showing to them the suitability of it. To provide you with an idea of the southern portion of the eastern border I will send a sketched map of it in my next letter.

God keep Your Excellency many years.

Santa Isabel, December 8, 1920

Head Officer of the AKONANGUI line

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

[Illegible handwriting]

Towns located in the eastern portion of the territory from Akonangui to the River Benito (or

Wolo):

Akonangui,	Esandun	tribe,	5	towns
Ebibeyen:	-----	"	3	", and 1 on the left bank of the Kye
Abeng:	Essen	"	1	"
Essen:	Samangon	"	2	"
Essen:	Essen	"	1	"
Mossin:	Samangon	"	3	"
N'gono:	Essen	"	1	"
Bifei:	"	"	2	"
Oben:	"	"	3	"
Manyhi:	"	"	4	"
Makomo:	Efak	"	1	", on the Kye
Ngokuon:	Esatep	"	4	"
Belong:	"	"	1	"
[Illegible]:	"	"	1	"
Makuyó:	"	"	2	", on the Kye
Oven:	Essen	"	5	", on the Kye
Mingomo:	Esandun	"	2	"
M'Bomá:	Essen	"	6	"
Eyeguenin:	"	"	1	"
Abibú:	"	"	1	"
Beken:	Esandun	"	3	"
Asok:	Efak	"	2	"
Massia:	"	"	4	"
Alen:	"	"	4	"
Mekonis:	"	"	9	"

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

- 2 -

N'gen:	Ekak	tribe,	-	10	towns
Eyebet:	"	"	-	1	"
Alen:	Angok	"	-	6	"
Achap:	"	"	-	2	", on the Kye
Maló:	"	"	-	8	"
N'tú:	"	"	-	10	"
Alen:	"	"	-	4	"
Makak:	Mebuman	"	-	3	"
Esok:	"	"	-	3	"
Mesama:	Esabey	"	-	3	"
Anunzon:	"	"	-	3	"
Asabelon:	"	"	-	4	"
Oven:	Esatuk	"	-	1	"
M'Birolen:	"	"	-	8	"
N'Shua:	N'Kochei	"	-	4	", on the Kye
Makak:	"	"	-	6	"
Meben:	Esaguen	"	-	5	"
Edun:	Obuk	"	-	11	"
N'van:	"	"	-	1	"
Molen:	N'Kochei	"	-	5	", on the Kye
Makemo:	Esengui	"	-	2	"
Mangomo:	Obuk	"	-	4	"
Abolensok:	M'Bon	"	-	1	"
Ebá:	"	"	-	2	"
Amben:	Yefá	"	-	1	"
N'Senayon:	"	"	-	1	"
N'Koselon:	"	"	-	1	"

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

- 3 -

Leayen:	Ebá	tribe,	-	1	town
N'Sogober:	"	"	-	1	"
Oven:	"	"	-	1	"
Andek:	"	"	-	2	"
Akuleneck:	"	"	-	1	"
Ofor:	"	"	-	1	"
Alen:	"	"	-	1	"
Eruk:	"	"	-	4	", on the Kye
Beyén:	Esambira	"	-	1	"
N'Ko Assan:	"	"	-	1	"
N'Gon	"	"	-	1	"
Alun:	"	"	-	1	"
N'Kelenack:	"	"	-	4	"
EBiang (or [Illegible])	"	"	-	2	"
[Illegible]:	"	"	-	1	"
N'Fumu Ayerp	"	"	-	5	"
N'Ko-Ayap	"	"	-	1	", near the Benito (or Wolo)

Santa Isabel, December 8, 1920

[Signature]

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Laura Pohlig, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

03/19/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



11:6. Li  
 Con objeto de que por  
 ese destacamento se tenga noticia  
 detallada de los poblados de la  
 frontera Este que pertenecen á esa  
 demarcación, le incluyo relación de  
 ellos, y como ampliación á las ins-  
 trucciones que le dicté para el es-  
 tablecimiento de ese puesto militar  
 he de añadir, que entre los caminos  
 que debe obligar á que sean hechos,  
 ha de ser uno de ellos, el que siga  
 á lo largo del Kye, haciendo que  
 se construyan puentes en los luga-  
 res pantanosos, y los caminos debe  
 procurarse que se sostengan anchos  
 y limpios y los puentes en el mejor  
 estado de resistencia para evitar  
 su desaparición.

También deberá hacerse un camino  
 ancho que una el nacimiento del  
 Kye con el del río Non y otro que  
 siga por la orilla derecha de él  
 hasta su confluencia con el N'Fumu  
 que debe continuar por la orilla

Nº 527

derecha de este hasta que desagua en el Benito,  
y como le manifesté en las instrucciones que le  
he dictado debe hacer que la influencia de ese  
destacamento se extienda al Sur del Rio Benito,  
obligando á los naturales á abrir caminos hacia  
el Sur y á tender puentes sobre los rios descom-  
trandoles la conveniencia de ello, y con objeto  
de que puedan tener una idea de la parte Sur de  
la frontera Este en el próximo correo se le re-  
mitiré un croquis de ella.

Dios guarde á V. muchos años.

Santa Isabel, 8 Diciembre de 1.920

Señor Oficial Jefe de la línea de AA K O N A N G U I



*Almuerzo a la 6*

Poblados situados en la parte Este del territorio desde  
Akonangui hasta el Rio Benito ó Wolo.

Akonangui, tribu Esandun, 5 poblados.

Ebibeyen--	10, -----	3	10, y 1 sobre la orilla izquierda del Kye.
Abang ---	10, Essen	1	..
Essen ---	.. Samangon-	2	..
Essen-	.. Essen -	1	..
Mossin --	.. Samangon	3	..
N' gono--	.. Essen -	1	..
Bifai -	.. .. -	2	..
Oben -	.. .. -	3	..
Manghi -	.. .. -	4	..
Makomo.-	.. Efak -	1	.. sobre el Kye.
Hgekuan	.. Esatop-	4	..
Belong -	.. ..	1	..
<i>N'ho ofan</i> Makuye -	.. ..	2	.. sobre el Kye.
Oven -	.. Essen	5	.. sobre el Kye
Mingome -	.. Esandun	2	..
M'Bomá -	.. Essen	6	..
Eyeguenin-	.. ..	1	..
Abibá -	.. ..	1	..
Beken-	.. Esandun	3	..
Asek -	.. Efak	2	..
Massia -	.. ..	4	..
Alen -	.. ..	4	..
Mekonis.-	.. ..	9	..

- 3 -

N'gon -	tribu	Efak	-	10	poblados.
Eyebet -	..	..	-	1	id.
Alen -	..	Angok	-	6	..
Achap -	..	..	-	2	.. sobre el Kye.
Mald -	..	..	-	8	..
H'fi -	..	..	-	10	..
Alen -	..	..	-	4	..
Makak -	..	Mebunan	-	3	..
Enok -	..	..	-	3	..
Mesama -	..	Esabey	-	3	..
Arungen -	..	..	-	3	..
Asabelon -	..	..	-	4	..
Oven -	..	Estak	-	1	..
M'Birelen -	..	..	-	8	..
N'Shna -	..	N'Kochel	-	4	.. sobre el Kye.
Makak -	..	..	-	6	..
Meban -	..	Esaguan	-	5	..
Efun -	..	Obuk	-	11	..
H'van -	..	..	-	1	..
Melen -	..	N'Kpchei	-	5	.. sobre el kye.
Makomo -	..	Esengui	-	2	..
Mangomo -	..	Obuk	-	4	..
Abolensok -	..	M'Bon	-	1	..
Eba -	..	..	-	2	..
Amban -	..	Yefa	-	1	..
N'Senayan -	..	..	-	1	..
N' Kossion -	..	..	-	1	..

- 5 -

Leayen -	tribu	Hab	-	1	poblado.
N'Sogober -	..	..	-	1	..
Oven -	..	..	-	1	..
Andek -	..	..	-	2	..
Akslensok -	..	..	-	1	..
Ofor -	..	..	-	1	..
Alen -	..	..	-	1	..
Bruk -	..	..	-	4	.. sobre el Kye.
Beyén -	..	Hsanbira	-	1	..
N'Ke Assan -	..	..	-	1	..
N'Gon -	..	..	-	1	..
Alua -	..	..	-	1	..
N'Kelensok -	..	..	-	4	..
ESiang ó Dendé	..	..	-	2	..
<del>Inesen</del>	..	..	-	1	..
N' Fuma Ayerp	..	..	-	5	..
N'Ko-Ayap	..	..	-	1	.. cerca del Benito ó Wol

Santa Isabel 8 Diciembre de 1920.

*H. J. J. J.*



**Annex 71**

*Letter from French Commissioner Governor of Colonies to the Cameroon Territories to the French Minister of Colonies (27 July 1921)*



Yaoundé, le 27 Juillet 1921. 192

Territoires occupés  
de l'Ancien Cameroun.

Copie

Cabinet  
Affaires Politiques.

N° 120 M.

LE GOUVERNEUR DES COLONIES,  
COMMISSAIRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE  
DANS LES TERRITOIRES DU CAMEROUN  
A MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DES COLONIES.  
(Direction des Affaires Politiques - 2° Bureau).

PARIS.

Incident à la  
frontière du Muni.

Par lettre N° 48 du 27 Juin dernier vous avez bien voulu me faire connaître que M. DEFRANCE, Ambassadeur de la République à Madrid, a reçu du Gouvernement royal l'assurance que des ordres avaient été donnés pour que des relations "d'amitié et de bonne entente" puissent s'établir et se développer entre le Gouverneur Général de Fernando-Po et le Commissaire de la République au Cameroun.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je suis d'autant plus satisfait des heureuses dispositions manifestées par nos voisins que le besoin s'en faisait précisément sentir, tout particulièrement, à propos d'un assez grave incident dont je m proposais de vous faire le rapport.

Si l'incident me paraît assez grave, ce n'est pas tant par lui-même que par ce qu'il permet de déceler des intentions de nos voisins. Le Chef de la Circonscription d'Ebolowa m'a en effet signalé, qu'au cours d'une tournée effectuée par lui dans les régions voisines de la frontière du Muni, il constata qu'il y avait un poste.....

poste militaire espagnol avait été construit à proximité du village d'Akonangui, sur notre territoire; en outre que sur douze hameaux constituant le village, huit étaient occupés par les Espagnols et qu'un indigène figurant au carnet français comme sous-chef avait été nommé chef de la partie du village occupée par nos voisins; qu'enfin les mâts de pavillon dressés en 1919 par le commandant BRIAUD dans les villages situés dans la bouche formée par les rivières Kie et Memé avaient été abattus et que dans les villages de Massom et d'Akam les drapeaux français avaient été confisqués ainsi que les carnets français et allamands des chefs.

Bien que ces faits me paraissent davantage constituer l'exécution d'un plan sciemment conçu que revêtir le caractère d'un banal incident de frontière, je préférerais dissiper toute équivoque à cet égard plutôt que de vous saisir immédiatement d'une affaire qui pouvait n'être encore que d'une importance médiocre.

Aucun doute n'en est désormais permis. Le Gouverneur Général de la Guinée Espagnole à qui j'avais demandé quelques explications touchant seulement l'installation d'un poste militaire à Akonangui vient, par une lettre dont vous trouverez copie sous ce pli, de me faire parvenir sa réponse.

Vous estimerez sans doute que le Gouverneur de la Guinée espagnole use de procédés bien cavaliers quand, après avoir effectué, tout seul, des corrections astronomiques, il décide unilatéralement une rectification de frontière faisant passer sur son territoire des villages qu'il s'empresse de fortifier, dans une région où d'ailleurs les populations ne sont ~~auxiliaires~~ ~~animées~~ d'aucune ardeur guerrière. Il faut, sans doute, voir dans.....



dans ces agissements le début d'une campagne inspirée à nos voisins par le désir qu'ils ont déjà manifesté d'obtenir le recul de frontière jusqu'au N'Tem.

De toutes façons des pressions de ce genre ne pouvant obtenir de solution que par le moyen de négociations diplomatiques entre les Gouvernements intéressés, je prie le Gouverneur Général de Fernando Po de vouloir bien s'en tenir, pour l'instant, à la frontière telle qu'elle était déterminée jusqu'à ce jour c'est-à-dire à celle figurée sur la carte MOISSEL de 1911.

Je l'informe également de l'obligation où je suis de porter l'incident à votre connaissance pour intervention diplomatique.

Je ne manquerai pas, de toute façon, de vous tenir au courant de la réponse qui me sera faite par M. FARRERA dès que ce haut fonctionnaire espagnol me l'aura fait parvenir./.

Signé : CARDE.



**Annex 72**

*Letter from Spanish Minister of State to the French Ambassador (24 November 1921)*



## TRANSLATION

26. *[illegible]*

AM. ALBERT DEFRANCE, Ambassador of France

Madrid, November 24, 1921

*Colonial*

[stamp:] R.S. [unknown abbreviation] No. 9  
 MINISTRY OF STATE  
 24 NOV. 1921  
 OUTGOING  
 GENERAL REGISTRY

Your Excellency:

Dear Sir: In Your Excellency's letter dated October 2, pursuant to the orders of your Government, Your Excellency took on the establishment of a Spanish military post in the vicinity of the Akonandji settlement, in the northeastern corner of Spanish Guinea.

According to the account given to the Government of the French Republic, eight of the twelve sites comprising such settlement had been occupied by Spanish troops; one indigenous person, who was listed on a French card as a deputy chief, had been named chief of the portion of the settlement occupied by the Spanish authorities. The flagpoles raised in 1919 by a French officer between the Rivers Kie and Meme had been taken down, and at the Massoum and Akan sites the French flags, as well as the German or French cards of the chiefs, were confiscated.

Your Excellency added that correspondence from the interim Governor General of Spanish Guinea and the Commander of the Republic in Cameroon indicated that the reason for these acts was that in 1920, during an inspection in the Muni region, the proprietary Governor General, Mr. Angel Barrera, had made certain

**TRANSLATION**

astronomical corrections that showed that the Akonandji settlement is located on the parallel of 2 degrees, ten minutes, twenty seconds north latitude, and eleven degrees, seventeen minutes and forty-seven seconds longitude, contrary to the indications on the 1911 Von Moisel map, which had until then served as a basis for delimitation of the boundary. Therefore, in Mr. Barrera's view, this settlement should have been deemed included within Spanish territory. However, because these measurements had been taken unilaterally by the Governor General of Spanish Guinea without previously coordinating with the competent French authorities, your Government could not recognize them as being effective and Your Excellency had instructions to ask me to remind the authorities of Spanish Guinea that modifications could not be made to the boundary lines of both territories without prior agreement by the Governments in question.

In responding to Your Excellency, I am honored to send you a copy of the paragraphs sent by Mr. Barrera to Captain Rafalli, the French commander of the Wolen-N'Tem district, on October 10, 1920, in which he notified him of the establishment of the camp at the fourth site of the locations comprising the Akonandji group. This letter is the best demonstration of both the reason why the Spanish authorities consider such territory as falling within Spanish boundaries, and the absolute propriety with which they acted when establishing the post there, without, incidentally, having to take down flagpoles that did not exist or take over French or German flags or documents that no indigenous person produced or seemed to possess.

Nevertheless, the Spanish authorities have orders to relocate the post from Akonandji to Ebibeyin,

**TRANSLATION**

with the firm understanding that doing so does not recognize France's right to the other locations; rather it is fully expected that the French authorities, in turn, will refrain from acts there and that they will immediately come to an agreement with the Spanish authorities to carry out astronomical observations together that will show our full right, or will respond to the proposals put forward to them by Mr. Barrera with respect to the delimitation.

I would take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Draft*

[signature]



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---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

February 19, 2021

---

Date





A M. ALBERT DEFRANCE, Embajador de Francia.

Madrid, 24 de noviembre de 1921.

Colonial



N. S. N.º 9

Excmo. Señor:

Muy Señor mío: En la nota de V.E. fecha 2 de octubre se sirvió V.E. ocuparse, por orden de su Gobierno, del establecimiento de un puesto militar español en las proximidades del poblado de Akonandji, en el ángulo nordeste de la Guinea española.

Según la referencia que al Gobierno de la República francesa se había dado, ocho de los doce lugares que componen dicho poblado habían sido ocupados por las tropas españolas; un indígena que figuraba en el carnet francés como subjefe, había nombrado jefe de la parte del poblado ocupado por las autoridades españolas; se habían derribado las astas de pabellón levantadas en 1919 por un oficial francés entre los ríos Kie y Meme y en los lugares de Massoum y Akan se habían confiscado las banderas francesas así como los carnets alemanes o franceses de los jefes.

Añadía V.E. que ~~en~~ la correspondencia del señor Gobernador General interino de la Guinea española y el Comisario de la República en Camerun resultaba que la razón de esos hechos era que el señor Gobernador General propietario don Angel Barrera, en 1920 durante una inspección en la región del Muni había realizado correcciones astronó-

nicas que demostraban que el poblado de Akonandji se halla sobre el paralelo 2 grados, diez minutos, veinte segundos de latitud norte y once grados, diecisiete minutos y cuarenta y siete segundos de longitud, contrariamente a las indicaciones del mapa von Meisel de 1911 que había servido de base hasta entonces para la delimitación de la frontera; en consecuencia, según el parecer del señor Barrera, ese poblado debía considerarse como incluido en el territorio español. Pero, como quiera que esas medidas se habían tomado unilateralmente por el señor Gobernador General de la Guinea española sin concertarse previamente con las autoridades francesas competentes, su Gobierno no podía reconocerles eficacia y V. E. tenía instrucciones de pedirme que recordase a las autoridades de la Guinea española que no se puede introducir modificación en el trazado de los límites de ambos territorios sin previo acuerdo entre los Gobiernos interesados.

Al contestar a V. E. me heñby en remitirle copia de los párrafos dirigidos por el Señor Barrera al capitán Rafalli, comandante francés de la circunscripción de Wolon-N' Tem en 10 de octubre de 1920 en el que le prevenía del establecimiento del campamento en el cuarto de los lugares que forman el grupo de Akonandji; dicha carta es la mejor demostración, no solo de la razón con que las autoridades españolas consideran aquel territorio como comprendido en los límites españoles sino de la perfecta corrección con que procedieron al establecer allí el puesto; sin que, por cierto, al hacerlo tuvieran que derribar astas de banderas que no existían ni hacerse cargo de pabellones o documentos franceses o alemanes que ningún indígena presentó ni parecía poseer.

No obstante, las autoridades españolas tienen órdenes de trasladar al puesto de Akonandji a Ebibeyin; bñ

entendido que, no solo no se reconoce con ello el derecho de Francia a aquellos otros lugares sino que se espera con toda confianza que las autoridades francesas por su parte se abstendrán de actos allí y que se pondrán inmediatamente de acuerdo con las españolas para llevar a cabo conjuntamente las observaciones astronómicas que demostrarán nuestro pleno derecho; o contestarán a las proposiciones que el señor Barrera les tiene presentadas, en lo que concierne a la delimitación.

Aprovecho esta ocasión para reiterar a V. E. las seguridades de mi alta consideración.

*Minuta*  
*Manuel González Estrella*



**Annex 73**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter No. 884 Attachment from the Governor-General of Santa Isabel to the Office of the Secretary* (20 June 1922)



**TRANSLATION**

*Attachment to Official Letter No. 884  
Copy No. 5*

There is an ink stamp that states: "Colonial Guard. - Akonengui Line. - Spanish Guinea" – No. 85. - There is also another ink stamp that reads: "General Government, R.E. 510, 07/06/1922. - "Your Excellency.- Pursuant to the orders provided by Your Excellency's respected high authority in official letter No. 388 dated May 28 of last year, I am honored to inform Your Excellency that clearing work begins today in the village of Ebibeyin to establish the new Encampment. - May God keep Your Excellency for many years to come. - Akonenguí, June 20, 1922. - His Excellency. - Lieutenant Francisco Martinez Reyes. - (signed) - His Excellency, the Governor General of these Territories. - Santa Isabel.

(The foregoing is a copy)

Advising Secretary General

[signature]

[stamp:] [illegible]

[seal]

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

05/21/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





*Arroj. al oficio n.º 884  
Copia n.º 5.*

Hay un sello en tinta que reza: "Guardia Colonial.-Línea de Akonengui.- Guinea Española" - Num. 85. -también hay otro sello en tinta, en el que se lee: "Gobierno General, R.E. 510,-Día 6 de 7,1922 -"Excmo. Señor.- En cumplimiento a lo ordenado por la respetada y superior autoridad de V.E. en oficio num. 388 de fecha 28 del mes de Mayo próximo pasado, tengo el honor de participar a V.E. que en el día de hoy se dá principio al chapeo en el poblado de Ebooyin para establecer el nuevo Campamento.- Dios guarde a V.E. m.<sup>s</sup>. aa.<sup>s</sup>. - Akonengui 20 Junio 1922.- Excmo. Señor.- El Teniente: Francisco Martínez Reyes.- (rubricado)- Excmo. Señor Gobernador General de estos territorios.- Santa Isabel

( Es copia )

El Secretario Oral. Petrado



*Fy Ramirez*



**Annex 74**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter from the Captain of the Ebolouwa District to the Governor-General of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea* (23 September 1922)



**TRANSLATION**

There is a stamp that reads: Colonial Guard Spanish Guinea.- Akonangui Line.- No. 122.- I am honored to express to you that I have relocated to the new residence in Ebibiyin today, where, in fulfilling orders from His Excellency the Governor General of these possessions, the new Colonial Guard post has been established, with the old Akonangui detachment thus having been vacated.- The Spanish Colony's High Authority also wishes for me to communicate to you on his behalf that this relocation does not entail recognition that the Akonangui location where the detachment was belongs to Cameroon, but rather relocation is occurring in the interest of the good relations that we have always sought to maintain with the French authorities of Cameroon, and in hopes that an agreement may be reached on the boundaries in accordance with the proposals made by my Governor General of Fernando Póo to His Excellency the Governor General of French Equatorial Africa in December of 1920, or until the boundaries are delimited, thus keeping in place the status quo that has at present served to avoid incidents.- In communicating the foregoing to you, I would unconditionally offer my services both officially and personally for any matters that may arise, and, always taking the maintenance of our good relations as a given, will do all in my power to proceed with the best wisdom with you and the other Authorities you represent.- Captain, kindly accept my warm regards and be assured of my consideration.- Ebibiyin, September 23, 1922.- Lieutenant.- Francisco Martinez Reyes.- Signed. Captain of Ebolouwa District.

The foregoing is a copy.

Advising Secretary General

[signature]



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05/21/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

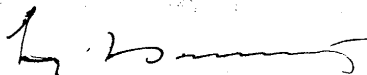




Hay un sello que dice.-Guardia Colonial Guinea Española.-Línea de Akonangui.-Nº 122.-Tengo el honor de manifestar a V. que con esta fecha me he trasladado a la nueva residencia de Ebibiyin, donde cumpliendo ordenes del Excmo Señor Gobernador General de estas posesiones, se ha instalado el nuevo puesto de la Guardia Colonial quedando por lo tanto desalojado el antiguo destacamento de Akonangui.-Es también voluntad de la Superior Autoridad de la Colonia española que en su nombre comunique a V. que este traslado no indica el reconocimiento de que el lugar de Akonangui donde estaba el destacamento pertenecía al Kamerun sino que se efectúa su traslado en pró de las buenas relaciones que siempre se ha procurado mantener con la Autoridades francesas del Kamerun y en espera de que se llegue a un acuerdo sobre las fronteras en armonía con las proposiciones hechas por mi Gobernador General de Fernando Póo a su Excia. el Gobernador General del Africa Ecuatorial francesa en Diciembre de 1920 o hasta que se delimiten las fronteras manteniendo así el estatu quo que ha servido hasta ahora para evitar incidentes.-Al comunicar a V. lo antes expuesto cumplí ofreciéndome de modo incondicional tanto oficial como personalmente para cuantos asuntos puedan surgir y que tomando siempre por norma el sostenimiento de nuestras buenas relaciones, haré de mi parte cuanto sea posible para continuar en la mejor inteligencia con V. y demás Autoridades que representa.-Tenga a bien Sr. Capitan aceptar mis saludos afectuosos y contar con todas mis consideraciones.-Ebibiyin 23 de Septiembre de 1922.-El Teniente.-Francisco Martinez Reyes.-Rubricado Sr. Capitan Jefe de la Circunscripción de Ebolouwa.

Es Copia.

El Secretario General Letrado.







**Annex 75**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter from the Governor-General of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea to the Advising Secretary-General* (24 September 1922)



## TRANSLATION

*Attachment to official letter No. 884  
Copy No. 6*

There is an ink stamp that reads.- Colonial Guard.- Spanish Guinea.- Ebibiyin Line.- No. 118.- Your Excellency.- I am honored to inform Your Excellency's High Authority that yesterday the remaining force staying in Akonangui was relocated to this [encampment] in Ebibiyin, with this new encampment established as set forth on the attached map.- In addition to the structures appearing on this map, three hen houses and one woodworking house have been built, totaling sixty-two buildings in all.- The encampment is well situated and has a drinking water source that yields five liters per minute during the dry season; when the dry season ended, the source had diminished by half, and faced with the fear of a water shortage, a well was dug beside the source, which, at the end of the dry season contained two meters of water, so the encampment has good, plentiful water.- To avoid passing through the road from Akonangui to Mesa, a path has been opened from Menan of the Esambé tribe, thus resulting in a shorter distance entirely through Spanish territory.- The villages of Akonangui, Esandú tribe, have been relocated close to Mason, Samangon tribe, with only this tribe's village remaining, which is located on the boundary marker.- The three villages of the Don tribe have formed a single group and have been located on the new road from Ebibiyin to Menan past the Manú River, and the villages of Ebibiyin 1 and 2 have been located from the latter to the Manú River, and the Ebibiyin located near the Kyé River has also been relocated to Masón.- The relocations of these villages have been carried out with no sign from the French Authorities.- Having complied with Your Excellency's order in your esteemed letter No. 269 dated March 19 of this year, today I provide notice to the Head of the Ebolonwa District of the official letter, a copy of which is attached as No. 1, and to the Head of the Amban post, No. 1 and 2.- The same official letter also orders that the workers be rewarded with tobacco leaves, which has occurred, with the undersigned having used twenty kilograms that were sent from the "La Guinea Española" trading post last May, the invoice for which is not attached given that the

**TRANSLATION**

tobacco was included in an order of provisions.- May God keep Your Excellency for many years to come.- Ebibiyin, September 24, 1922.- His Excellency.- Lieutenant Francisco Martinez Reyes.- Signed.- His Excellency, the Governor General of these Territories.- Santa Isabel.

The foregoing is a copy.  
Advising Secretary General  
[signature]

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

February 19, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





*Anexo al oficio n° 884  
Copia n° 6*

Hay un sello en tinta que dice.-Guardia Colonial.-Guinea española.-Línea de Ebibiyin.-n° 118.-Excmo Señor.-Tengo el honor de participar a la Superior Autoridad de V.E. que en el día de ayer se ha efectuado el traslado de la restante fuerza que quedó en Akonangui a esta de Ebibiyin, quedando este nuevo Campamento constituido en la forma que expresa el adjunto plano..

Ademas de las construcciones que figuran en el mismo, se han construido tres gallineros y una casa para carpintería sumando todos en total de sesenta y dos edificios.-El campamento está bien situado y cuenta con una fuente de agua potable que dá en época de seca cinco litros por minuto, al finalizar esta queda reducido a la mitad y ante el temor de que faltara agua se ha abierto un pozo al lado de la fuente que a la terminacion de la seca tenía dos metros de agua por lo tanto el campamento cuenta con buen agua y abundante.-Para evitar el paso ~~del~~ por el camino de Akonangui a Mesa se ha abierto un camino de esta <sup>á</sup> Menan de la tribu Esambé, resultando así la distancia mas corta y todo por territorio español.-Los pueblos de Akonangui tribu Esandú se han trasladado cerca de Masón, tribu Samangon quedando solamente el pueblo de esta tribu que está situada en el hito.-Los tres pueblos de la tribu Don, han formado una sola agrupacion y se han situado en el nuevo camino Ebibiyin a Menan pasado el rio Manú, y los pueblos Ebibiyin 1º y 2º se han situado desde esta hasta dicho rio Manú y el Ebibiyin situado cerca del rio Eyé tambien se ha trasladado a Masón.-Los traslados de estos pueblos se han efectuado sin que las Autoridades francesas hayan hecho la menor indicacion.-Dando cumplimiento a lo ordenado por V.E. en su respetado escrito n° 269 de fecha 19 de Marzo último, con esta fecha comunico al Jefe del Distrito de Ebolonwa, el oficio del que adjunto copia con el n° 1 y al jefe del puesto de Amban el N° 1 y 2 .- Con el mismo oficio tambien se ordena que gratifique a los trabajadores con hojas de tabaco, así se ha efectuado habiendo consumido el que suscribe veinte kilogramos que le fueron remitidos de la factoría "La Guinea Española" en Mayo último cuya factura no acompaño por venir el ta-



baco englobado con un pedido de viveres.--Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.-- Ebibiyin 24 de Septiembre de 1922.--Excmo Señor.--El Teniente.-- Francisco Martinez Reyes.--Rubricado.--Excmo Señor Gobernador General de estos Territorios.--Santa Isabel.

Es Copia.

El Secretario General Letrado.



**Annex 76**

*Letter No. 212 from the French Lieutenant Governor of Gabon to the Governor-General of Spanish Territories in the Gulf of Guinea (16 August 1927)*



## TRANSLATION

FRENCH  
EQUATORIAL AFRICA

\_\_\_\_\_  
COLONY OF GABON

CIVIL AFFAIRS

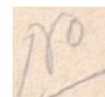
G/S

**FRENCH REPUBLIC**

LIBERTY • EQUALITY • FRATERNITY

Libreville, August 16, 1927

*Registered Mail*



Please mention the following  
stamp in your reply

No. 212

The Governor of Colonies  
Lieutenant Governor of Gabon  
To His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL OF  
Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea  
SANTA ISABELLA  
(Fernando Pó)

Your Excellency,

The head of the Médègue Subdivision, territory located south of the 1<sup>st</sup> parallel that constitutes the Southern border of Spanish Guinea with the Colony of Gabon, advised me that two officers of your Government, Captain Touchard and Lieutenant Mene, operating along the shared border, engaged in an act of authority in several villages thus far considered as being under French authority. Guards in the services of these officers, for the past few months, have in fact taken workers and requisitioned supplies in several settlements in our territory, specifically Nkouala, Akounam, Oveng, Ayong, Adjafane and Ouègne, for Bata road work and the construction of the Alloum outpost. A Spanish outpost was even built in Akounam, a French village. After protests by the French authority representative, Captain Touchard, without disputing our rights, indicated that he would tell the government that had given him the orders and that in any

## TRANSLATION

event, it was up to the French authority to prove its rights to these villages.

All of these populations, incidentally, received French flags, with no concern by your representatives as to which government they belong.

The cartographic documents in our possession show that the 1<sup>st</sup> parallel passes to the north of the settlements in question. Prior to the French-German agreement of 1911, they were administered by us and during German occupation, they were under the German outpost of Akoga. Incidentally, they appear on our censuses and always paid their taxes either to Akoga or to the former French outpost of Medouheu. Without a doubt, the borders determined in the Convention signed by France and Spain on June 29, 1900, were never determined on site. But this inaccuracy of our borders does not justify the encroachments indicated above that were indicated in the villages that are clearly dependent upon our government.

I am also compelled to request Your Excellency to kindly cease the incursions in question in the French border villages and to recommend the evacuation of the outpost constructed in Akounam in violation of our rights. Until our respective governments take the necessary measures to perform on-site delimitation work, I trust that Your Excellency believes, as do I, that it would be preferable to maintain the status quo in order to avoid any difficulties.

Your Excellency, I ask that you kindly advise me of the measures to be taken.

Sincerely,  
[signature]

## TRANSLATION



*Copy as cited*

SUB-GOVERNMENT OF ELOBEY

SPANISH GUINEA

No. ....

[from last line of letter] To the Lieutenant Commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> company of the Colonial Guard.

EBINAYON

With the greatest possible urgency, please inform me whether it is true that in the southern border settlements, due to the questionable situation, flags and names have been taken, and neighboring authorities have distributed French flags and names. Please also inform me whether, in said villages, officials of the neighboring colony exercise authority and whether any transformation has begun to be made in the existing villages, paths and trails. For any incident that may occur, you and your subordinates must comply with any instructions given by this Sub-Government, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General.

The policy of attracting natives will continue in the practical form that has been in place, but not in any official or ostensible capacity.

Under no circumstances will natives who come to our zone be returned, and in the event of any who were prosecuted by the courts and this reason was alleged to claim them, you will detain them and send them to me, advising the claimants to send their petition here.

Within the most dignified attitude and without in any way undermining the prestige of our nation, the greatest courtesy and extreme attention must be paid to the authorities of the neighboring colony, as I recommend in the instructions that should appear in this primary delimitation.

In order to not waste time, notwithstanding your informing me of what I ordered, please send a

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## **TRANSLATION**

copy of my message to His Excellency, the Governor General, so that the reports you provide can reach this higher authority sooner.

Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

May God grant you many years.

Kogo, June 18, 1928

The Sub-Governor

[signature]

## TRANSLATION

COPY AS CITED



SUB-GOVERNMENT OF ELOBEY

SPANISH GUINEA

No. ....

Colonial Guard – 5<sup>th</sup> Company – Ayeme Detachment – Pursuant to my message number 370 dated June 26 and in accordance with the orders from Your Excellency in message number 220 dated June 18, I am pleased to inform you that after reviewing the line of villages between the village called Ayafen, of the Efak tribe, on the old Alún road, up to the village called Angomlensó, of the Abé tribe, on the Akoga road, I determined that the Administrator of the jurisdiction of Medegue Ombam (French Gabon) gave the Pamue [*Pahouin*] flag and name to all of them, in other words, to those that had the Spanish flag and name, which are: In Enkogo Endí, the three villages of Enkuala, of the Oyek tribe, and the village of Ayafen (Efak), of which Endí also has the Spanish flag and name, issued in Elobey by the Sub-Governor of the District on September 28, 1926, which, given the current circumstances, I did not believe it was opportune to take these attributes from the chief, and I did tell him that the appropriate authorities were in the process of resolving the legitimacy of these villages, flying the flag of Spain and France instead of only the latter. In these villages of Enkuala, on alternating days, the French police direct the rebuilding of farm homes and chapel, and I understand that these police are assigned to the service of the French village called Medume, and it has been the case that four police from this point, with the chief of Enkuala and the chief of Enkolambam, Obama Angue, on June 24 went to the village of Ako[k], of the Oyek tribe in Spanish territory and took the woman Eyanga Obama, daughter of the chief of said village of Enkolambam; she was taken by one of the workers hired by someone named Kang, a servant of the representative of the Chamber of Agriculture of Fernando Pó and former Colonial guard lieutenant, Julian Ayala Larrazabal, in order to have this woman marry the above-mentioned worker. This clearly shows that these police are at the disposal of said chiefs to perform unconscionable acts like this. The village of Embengayon of the Oyek tribe, with its chief, Enguema Engue, fled to safe Spanish territory on the general Akurenan-Ayeme road, which I believe is proof of Spanish loyalty; Obama Oná did the same, taking the same road

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Asogombe villages, but was unable to do so from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asogombe and Enbomokú, all of the Oyek tribe, since the above-mentioned had met there and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> chief of the four villages with the Ona, Obama Endongo, gave the above-mentioned French officer the flag and name of his nation that also includes the village of Olón, of the Oyek tribe; Entutumo Eyene also has the French flag and name of the chief of the village of Akulensó; so do Ugono Obama of the village of Eyamayon; Obama Angué of the village of Enkolambam; Ebian Engongo of the two villages of Asongóngué, all of the Oyek tribe; Ugono Eyama (who was not there when I was) of the three villages of Ebian, of the Obuk tribe, and Yo Obian of the two villages of Akoga and the village of Engolensó, of the Abé tribe. In the line of villages from Eyeme to Mebonde, where the Spanish flags and names were taken, the French authorities did not give them flags or names but ordered the Commanders of the Ayeme and Abenelan outpost and some of their chiefs who spoke with me about this to be attentive and ready to advise me urgently in advance if any change is made that may change the current status by the authorities of the neighboring territory. Nevertheless, I have the demonstrable moral convention [sic— conviction] that the French officer from Medegue performed his work on the sly, using resources like giving *clotes* [native Guinean dress], tobacco and other gifts until they relented (perhaps in some cases). The foregoing is what I can relate to you regarding the matter at hand which I provide in this message, in view of the urgency, but I must note that due to my return to Ebinayon and the date of the first message, there was a delay and I failed to notify His Excellency the Governor General, since you will receive it from him on the same date, and it would be appropriate to return to the chiefs of Embengayon and Ebén, Enguema Enyue and Obama Oná the names that were taken from them, since they are today in Spanish territory and it is good policy to make a modest little gift in this manner. May God grant you many years. Ayeme, July 7, 1928. The Lieutenant. Higinio Gonzalez López – initials – Sub-Governor of this District. KOGO.

Copy

[signature]

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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/26/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





AFRIQUE ÉQUATORIALE  
FRANÇAISE

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

G/S

LIBERTÉ · ÉGALITÉ · FRATERNITÉ

COLONIE DU GABON

LIBREVILLE, LE 16 AOUT 1927 192

AFFAIRES CIVILES

*Recommandé*

*No*

LES RÉPONSES DEVRONT RAPPELER  
LE TIMBRE CROISSUS.

N° 212

*Le Gouverneur des Colonies,  
Lieutenant Gouverneur du Gabon*

à Son Excellence, le GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL DES  
Territoires Espagnols du Golf de Guinée  
SANTA ISABELLA  
(Fernando Pó)

Excellence,

Le Chef de la Subdivision de Médègue, territoire situé au Sud du parallèle 1° qui constitue la limite Sud de la Guinée espagnole avec la Colonie du Gabon, me rend compte que deux officiers de votre Gouvernement, M.M. le Capitaine TOUCHARD et le Lieutenant MENE, opérant le long de la frontière commune, auraient fait acte d'autorité dans plusieurs villages considérés jusqu'ici comme soumis à l'autorité française. Des gardes au service de ces officiers ont, en effet, pendant ces derniers mois, prélevé des travailleurs et réquisitionné des denrées vivrières dans plusieurs groupements de notre territoire, notamment à Nkouala, Akoumam, Oveng, Ayong, Adjafane et Ouègne pour les travaux de la route de Bata et la construction du poste d'Alloum. Un poste espagnol a même été construit à Akoumam, village français. A la suite des protestations du Représentant de l'autorité française, le Capitaine TOUCHARD, sans contester nos droits, a fait connaître qu'il en référerait au Gouvernement qui lui avait donné des ordres et qu'en tout cas,

.....

il appartenait à l'autorité française de prouver ses droits sur ces villages.

Toutes ces populations ont du reste reçu des drapeaux espagnols, sans que vos Représentants se soient préoccupés à quel Gouvernement ils appartenaient.

Or, il résulte des documents cartographiques en notre possession que le parallèle 1° passe au Nord des groupements en question. Avant l'accord franco-allemand de 1911, ils étaient administrés par nos soins et pendant l'occupation allemande, ils relevaient du poste allemand d'Akoga. Ils figurent du reste sur nos recensements et ont toujours payé leurs contributions soit à Akoga, soit à l'ancien poste français de Medouheu. Sans doute, les limites déterminées dans la Convention <sup>conclue</sup> entre la France et l'Espagne le 29 Juin 1900 n'ont jamais été déterminées sur le terrain. Mais cette imprécision de nos frontières ne justifie pas les empiétements ci-dessus signalés dans les villages dépendant manifestement de notre Gouvernement.

Aussi, serais-je obligé à votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire cesser les incursions en question dans les villages français de la frontière et de prescrire l'évacuation du poste construit à Akournam en violation de nos droits. En attendant que nos Gouvernements respectifs prennent les mesures utiles pour procéder aux travaux de délimitation sur le terrain, Votre Excellence, estimera sans doute avec moi qu'il serait préférable, afin d'éviter toutes difficultés, de maintenir le statu quo ante.

Je prie, Votre Excellence, de me faire connaître les mesures qu'elle aura prises et d'agréer les assurances de ma haute considération. -/



SUBGOBIERNO DE ELOBEY

GUINEA ESPAÑOLA

NOM.

*Copia que se cita*

Con la mayor urgencia posible se servirá V. informarme si es cierto que en los poblados de la frontera Sur que por su dudosa situación se les retiraron banderas y nombramientos, han distribuido las Autoridades vecinas banderas y nombramientos franceses. También me informará si en los citados pueblos ejercen Autoridad funcionarios de la vecina Colonia y si han procedido a practicar alguna transformación en los pueblos, en los caminos y trochas que existían. Para cualquier incidente que pueda ocurrir se atenderá V. y sus subordinados a las instrucciones que oportunamente se dieron por este Subgobierno con la aprobación del Excmo Señor Gobernador general.

Se reanudará la política de atracción de indígenas en la forma habil que se venía practicando, pero sin que tenga carácter alguno oficial ni ostensible.

Por ningún concepto se devolverán indígenas que se pasen a nuestra zona y en el caso de que se tratase de alguno o algunos que estuvieran perseguidos por los tribunales y fuese alegada esta razón al reclamarlos, procederá V. a su detención y me los enviará a mi disposición, manifestando a los reclamantes, que dirijan aquí su petición.

Dentro de la mas digna actitud y sin el menor menoscabo del prestigio de nuestra Nación, cabe la mayor cortesía y extremadas atenciones para las Autoridades de la Colonia vecina y así lo recomiendo en las instrucciones que deben obrar en esa cabecera de demarcación.

Con el fin de no perder tiempo y sin perjuicio de informarme sobre cuanto le ordeno, remitirá V. una

cópia del escrito que me ponga, al Excmo Señor Gobernador General por si pudieran llegar antes a conocimiento de dicha superior Autoridad, los informes que V. facilite.

Acúseme recibo de la presente comunicación.

Dios que a V. muchos años.

Kogo 18 de Junio de 1,928.

El Subgobernador.

*El copia  
E. de Riquelme*

General.

Se remite a la policía de tránsito de indígenas en la forma hábil que se venia practicando, pero sin que tenga carácter alguno oficial ni extensible.

Por ningún concepto se devolverán indígenas que se pasan a otras zonas y en el caso de que se tratase de alguno o algunos que estuvieran peregrinando por los territorios y fuese llegada esta razón al respectivo, proceda V. a su detención y se los envíe a su respectiva zona, manifestando a los respectivos, que dirijan cada su respectiva.

Dentro de la zona digna de ser visitada y sin el menor menoscabo del prestigio de nuestra Nación, debe la autoridad por conducto y extrínsecas autoridades para las autoridades de la Colonia vecina y así lo recordando en las instrucciones que debe dársele en sus respectivos.

Señor Teniente Comandante de la 5ª Compañía de la Guardia Colonial,

E B I N A Y O N .



SUBGOBIERNO DE ELOBEY

GUINEA ESPAÑOLA

NÚM. ....

COPIA QUE SE CITA.

Guardia Colonial.- 5ª Compañía.- Destacamento Ayeme.- Como continuación a mi escrito número 370 de 26 de Junio último y en cumplimiento a cuanto la digna Autoridad de V.S. tiene a bien ordenarme en el suyo número 220 de 18 de igual mes, tengo el honor de participarle, que recorrida la línea de pueblos comprendida entre el llamado Ayafen de la tribu Efak, en el antiguo camino de Alún hasta el nombrado Engomlensó, de la tribu Abé, en el camino titulado de Akoga, he comprobado que el Sr. Administrador de la jurisdicción de Medegue Omban (Gabon Francés) ha dado bandera y nombramiento pamues a todos ellos, ó sea, a los que lo tenían españoles, a saber: A Enkogo Endí, de los tres poblados de Enkuala, de la tribu Oyek y del de dicho Ayafen(Efak), cuyo Endi tiene también bandera y nombramiento de España, expedido en Elobey por el Sr. Subgobernador del Distrito el 28 de Septiembre de 1.926, a cuyo jefe no me ha parecido oportuno en las actuales circunstancias recogerle dichos atributos y sí le he dicho que interin se resuelve por las Autoridades competentes sobre la legitimidad de sus pueblos, ondeen en ellos las banderas de España y Francia, en vez de izarse esta sola. A dichos pueblos de Enkuala concurren en días alternos un policia francés que dirige los trabajos de reedificación de casas y chapeo de fincas, cuyo policia tengo entendido está afecto al servicio del poblado francés denominado Medume y se ha dado el caso de que cuatro policias de tal punto con el referido jefe de Enkuala y el de Enkolambam, Obama Angue, pasaron el 24 del pasado Junio al poblado de Akoh, de la tribu Oyek de territorio español y cogieron la mujer Eyanga Obama, hija del Jefe de dicho Enkolamban, que la llevaba un bracero de los reclutados por un tal Kang criado del representante de la Cámara Agrícola de Fernando Póo y ex-teniente de la Guardia Colonial, D. Julian Ayala Larrazabal, cuya mujer iba con objeto de casar con el bracero de referencia, de donde se desprende claramente que tales policias estan a la disposición de dichos jefes para realizar actos inconscientes como el realizado.- El pueblo de Embengayon de la tribu Oyek, con su jefe Enguema Engue, se ha corrido a seguro territorio español en el camino general Akurenan-Ayeme, cuyo acto lo juzga el que suscribe como una prueba de leal españolismo; lo propio ha hecho Obama Oná, llevándose al mismo camino lo

pueblos de Asogombe 1<sup>a</sup> y 2<sup>a</sup> y no habiendo podido hacerlo de Asogombe 3<sup>a</sup> y Embomku, todos ellos de la tribu Oyek, por haberse reunido en este el anterior y al que era 2<sup>a</sup> Jefe de los cuatro pueblos con el Ona, Obama Endongo, le ha dado el funcionario francés de referencia bandera y nombramiento de su nación que comprende también el poblado de Olón de la tribu Oyek; Entutumo Eyene, tiene igualmente bandera y nombramiento franceses de Jefe del poblado de Akulensó; así mismo los tiene Ugono Obama del de Eyamayon; Obama Angué del de Enkolambam; Ebian Engongo de los dos de Asongónué, todos de la tribu Oyek; Ugono Eyama (ausente a mi paso) de los tres pueblos de Ebian, de la tribu Obuk y Yo Obian de los dos de Akoga y del de Engolensó de la tribu Abé.- En la línea de pueblos Ayeme-Mebonde, donde se recogieron las banderas y nombramientos de España no se han dado banderas ni nombramientos por las Autoridades francesas pero encargo a los Comandantes de Puesto de Ayeme y Abenelan y a algunos jefes de ellos que han conferenciado conmigo en esta que estén atentos y prontos para comunicarme con antelación y urgencia si se tratase de hacer alguna alteración que modifique las cosas actuales por las autoridades del territorio vecino.- Sino en forma comprobable tengo la convención moral de que el funcionario francés de Medegue, ha realizado sus trabajos a hurtadillas utilizando, como resortes de ellos, desde el regalo de clotes, tabaco y otras mimicias hasta la coacción (quizá en algunos casos).- Lo expuesto es cuanto puedo comunicar a V.S. sobre el asunto que nos ocupa; que en pro de la urgencia lo hago en esta, debiendo significarle que, por mi regreso a Evinayon y fecha del primer correo me parece sufriría retraso omito dar cuenta en esta misma forma a S.E. el Gobernador General, puesto que por su conducto lo recibirá en igual fecha y que a los Jefes de Embengayon y Ebén, Enguema Enyue y Obama Oná, sería conveniente devolverles los nombramientos que les fueron recogidos, puesto que están hoy en territorio español y de buen efecto político, hacerles un modesto regalito por su conducta.- Dios gue. a V.S. ms. años.- Ayeme 7 de Julio 1.928.- El Teniente.- Higinio Gonzalez López =rubricado= Sr. Suogobernador de este Distrito. KOGO.-----

Es copia.

*Higinio Gonzalez López*



**Annex 77**

Republic of Spain, *Letter from the AT of Ebebeyin to the Governor-General of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea* (27 November 1938)



## TRANSLATION

AT Ebebiyin to SubGG, November 27, 1938, AGA 81/08179, E-5.

### TERRITORIAL DEMARCATION OF EBEBIYIN

**REPORT ON PROJECTS COMPLETED DUE TO COMPULSORY SERVICE SINCE LAST MARCH.**

#### PUBLIC WORKS

##### **Bata-Ebebiyin Trail.**

Conservation. Deforestation of ten meters on both edges of the trail. New ditches.  
Two bridges filled.  
Three large wooden bridges.

##### **Ebebiyin-Mongomo Trail.**

Conservation. Construction in wood of all bridges except the two largest ones.

##### **Trail to French Gabon.**

Conservation. New ferry on the Kie River.

##### **Trail to French Cameroon.**

Conservation.

##### **Mongomo-Asok Trail.**

Deforestation of about twenty meters width along approximately fourteen kilometers, of which about eight kilometers have been cleared of stumps and subgrade has been prepared, with no coarse gravel.

#### COLONIAL GUARD ENCAMPMENT

##### **Ebebiyin Detachment.**

One mudbrick house for Classes, plastered with clay and whitewashed. Brick floor. Nipa palm roof. Eighteen houses for Guards of the same construction, with dirt floors. Two adobe mudbrick kitchens for Classes. Eighteen bark kitchens [log buildings] for Guards. One Jail building, mudbrick construction, plastered and whitewashed. Brick floor. Nipa palm roof.

#### HEALTH-CARE ZONE

##### **Ebebiyin Hospital.**

Approximately eighty meters of retaining wall, made of stone and cement. Sixty meters of cement ditches. Eight brick houses with clay plastered with cement and floor of the same material. Nipa palm roof with wood framing, of which four are functioning and four others are awaiting carpentry work.

## TRANSLATION

### INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT

#### **Ebebiyin Settlement.**

Two brick and clay houses, awaiting carpentry work and roofs.

#### **Billabellan Settlement.**

One nipa shed for the cacao market.

#### **Brick oven.**

Approximate production, fifty thousand bricks.

### INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT

#### **Ebebiyin Settlement.**

Conservation of streets and ditches. Cleaning of State plots.

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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

05/03/21

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Date





AT Ebebiyin a SubGG, 27 Noviembre 1938, AGA 81/08179, E-

5.

### DEMARCACION TERRITORIAL DE EBEBIYIN

RELACION DE LOS TRABAJOS EFECTUADOS POR LA PRESTACION PERSONAL DESDE EL MES DE MARZO PASADO.

#### OBRAS PUBLICAS

##### **Pista Bata-Ebeiyin.-**

Conservacion. Desbosque de diez metros en ambos margenes de la pista. Nuevas cunetas.  
Dos rellenos de puentes.  
Tres Puentes grandes de madera.

##### **Pista Ebe.-Mongomo.-**

Conservacion. Construccion en madera de todos los puentes exceptuando los dos mayores.

##### **Pista al Gabon Frances.-**

Conservacion. Nueva balsa sobre el Rio Kie.

##### **Pista Camerun Frances.-**

Conservacion.

##### **Pista Mongomo-Asok.-**

Desbosque de unos veinte metros de ancho de catorce kilometros aproximadamente, de los cuales unos ocho kilometros destocados y en explanacion, y a falta de gravilla.

#### CAMPAMENTO GUARDIA COLONIAL

##### **Destacamento Ebebiyin.**

Una casa de barro para Clases, revocada con arcilla y encalada. Piso ladrillo. Techo nip. Diez y ocho casas para Guardias de la misma construccion, con piso de tierra. Dos cocinas para Clases de adobes barro. Diez y ocho cocinas para Guardias de corteza. Un edificio Carcel, construccion de barro, revocado y encalado. Piso ladrillo. Techo nip

#### ZONA SANITARIA

##### **Hospital Ebebiyin.**

Aproximadamente ochenta metros muro de contencion, de piedra y cemento. Sesenta metros de cunetas cemento. Ocho casas ladrillo con arcilla revocadas con cemento y piso del mismo. Techo de nipa con armazon de madera, de las cuales cuatro estan funcionando y otras cuatro pendientes del trabajo de carpinteria.

**POBLADO INDIGENA**

**Poblado Ebebiyin.**

Dos casas de ladrillo con arcilla, pendiente de carpintería y techo.

**Poblado Billabellan.-**

Un tinglado de nipa, para el mercado de cacao.

**Horno de ladrillos.**

Producción aproximada, cincuenta mil ladrillos

**POBLADO INDIGENA**

**Poblado Ebebiyin.-**

Conservación de calles y cunetas. Limpieza de solares del Estado.



## **Annex 78**

The Spanish State, *Letter from the Lead Engineer to the Governor-General of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea* (9 June 1939)



## TRANSLATION

Lead Engineer to GM, June 9, 1939. AGA [General Administrative File] 81/07796, E-2.  
"Furthermore, there are no maps that are even moderately precise of the Island or of Continental Guinea, and the area is topographically unknown. For these reasons, it's important to understand that, when speaking of the Work Plan, it is examined within the order of approximation such circumstances permit".

After examining the immediate Road Plan for the portion pertaining to these territories, I have the honor of informing Your Excellency of the following:

As a preceding observation, it's important to note that it is practically impossible to draw up an exact Work Plan without plans or, at least, draft plans that make it possible to even understand the approximate total cost of the various work sites. Furthermore, there are no maps that are even moderately precise of the Island or of Continental Guinea, and the area is topographically unknown. For these reasons, it's important to understand that, when speaking of the Work Plan, it is examined within the order of approximation such circumstances allow.

FERNANDO PO ISLAND.- Regarding the Island of Fernando Po, the immediate Road Plan essentially concurs with the Road Project proposal which I had the honor of submitting to Your Excellency for consideration last year in the month of March. I understand, therefore, that the Plan covers the needs of the Island, and must be accepted in its entirety. It must be noted that there is a small part of the construction project included in the Plan that is being carried out with resources from the Regular Budget.

CONTINENTAL GUINEA.- Regarding Continental Guinea, according to what we are told by the engineer from that district, who concurs with the undersigning Manager, that the general plan, as well as the overall amount, very closely reflects the needs it must meet but, with respect to certain items, some detail changes could be introduced that would allow adapting the work to the clearer understanding that has been attained both with respect to topography as well as the needs of Continental Guinea.

Items III – Raft and pier on the Benito river; VIII – Idolo-Akalayon road; X – Bata to Campo road; and XIV – Storage buildings and public works building, can be accepted without changes in concept or amounts.

Item I for improvements in the Bata to Ebebiyin road, most important both for its length as well as for the amount of traffic circulating on the road, seems rather meager, and it would make sense to increase it to 750,000 pesetas.

Item II for the completion of the Bata to the Benito river highway may be eliminated because the outstanding work is being performed with resources from the Regular Budget.

The Niefan to Evinayong, Ebebiyin-Mongomo, Benito-Idolo, Mongomo-Nsork, Evinayong-Ngolensok, and Ngolensok-Nsork roads; the first three already built, and the three remaining, under construction, are roads that see little traffic and therefore, for now, it would suffice to complete the stone and auxiliar work and help Territorial Administrations by providing them with some items, as a result of which, the respective allocations can be significantly reduced. Following are the amounts we feel are adequate: Niefang-Eninayong, 120,000.00 pesetas; Ebebiyin-Momgomo, 100,000.00 pesetas; Benito-Idolo, 150,000.00 pesetas; Mongomo-Nsork, 100,000.00 pesetas; Evinayong-Ngolensok, 50,000.00 pesetas; and Ngolensok to Nsork, 50,000 1 00 [sic] pesetas.

It would be a good idea to plan the road from Evinayong to Kogo, Item IX, in a different way, as there seems to be no doubt that, in order to ensure communications from Kogo with the rest of the territory, what is most well received is to build a road that would begin approximately at Km. 28 of the Bata to Benito river road, climbing [sic] to Sendye, and there cross the Benito river and continue to the

## TRANSLATION

highest part of the Congue river, where [sic] it will cross this river and descend from there to Kogo. This is the way to avoid crossing the Benito river on a raft, as well as crossing the Combue and Congue rivers, which are located in the [sic] proximity of Kogo, crossings that would also have to be undertaken on a small vessel. Then, in order to connect Evinayong with Kogo as well as with the Benito river, it would only be necessary to build the road from Kogo to the road described above at a location close to the Combue crossing. The road from Kogo to Evinayong is thus made up of two parts: the road from Kogo to the Bata-Rio Benito road, which would require 2,000,000.00 pesetas, and the Evinayong road to the previous road, which would require 2,680,000.00 pesetas, which amounts to 4,680,000.00 pesetas in total.

The latter road could then later be extended on the one side to the Benito-Idolo road, and on the other, from Evinayong to Asok, but both these roads as well as the Evinayong to Ebebiying road, although important for the exploration of our Continental Guinea, can be left as a second-tier plan. For this reason, we do not suggest [sic] any allocation whatsoever for this plan.

Attached is a summary of the figures indicated, and a schematic sketch of the condition of the roads specified.

May God bless Your Excellency for many years.

Santa Isabel, June 9, 1939



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Water Street Translations, LLC

04/29/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Ingeniero Jefe a GG 9 Junio 1939, AGA 81/07796, E-2 "tanto mas cuanto no existen planos medianamente exactos ni de la Isla ni de la Guinea Continental y el terreno es topográficamente desconocido. Por estos motivos hay que entender que al hablar del Plan de obra se estudia dentro del orden de aproximación que dichas circunstancias permiten"

Examinando el plan inmediato de Caminos de la parte referente a estos Territorios, tengo el honor de informar a V.E. lo que sigue:

Como observacion previa hay que hacer notar que es practicamente imposible redactar un Plan exacto de obra sin disponer de proyectos o al menos de anteproyectos que permitan conocer el importe siquiera aproximado de las diversas obras ; tanto mas cuanto no existen planos medianamente exactos ni de la Isla ni de la Guinea Continental y el terreno es topográficamente desconocido. Por estos motivos hay que entender que al hablar del Plan de obra se estudia dentro del orden de aproximación que dichas circunstancias permiten.

ISLA DE FERNANDO POO .- En lo que se refiere a la Isla de Fernando Poo el Plan inmediato de Caminos coincide en lo esencial con la propuesta de Plan de carreteras que en el mes de Marzo del año pasado tuve el honor de someter a la consideración de V. E. entiendo por tanto que el Plan cubre las necesidades de la Isla y debe ser aceptado íntegramente; únicamente hay que notar que una pequeña parte de la obra comprendida en el Plan se esta llevando

a cabo con los recursos del Presupuesto ordinario.

GUINEA CONTINENTAL.- En lo relativo a la Guinea Continental según informa el Ingeniero de aquel distrito con criterio coincidente con el del Jefe que suscribe la orientacion general del Plan asi como la cifra de su importe global responden muy exactamente a la necesidades que ha de satisfacer, pero en algunas partidas podrían introducirse algunas modificaciones de detalle que permitiera adaptar las obras al mejor conocimiento a que se ha llegado tanto de la topografía como de las necesidades de la Guinea Continental.

Las partidas III-Balsa sobre el Rio Benito y embarcadero, VIII-Pista Idolo Akalayon, X-Pista de Bata a Campo y XIV- Almacenes y edificio para Obras Públicas pueden aceptarse sin modificacion en conceptos ni en importes.

La partida I para mejoras en la Pista de Bata a Ebebiyin, la mas importante tanto por su longitud como por el importante trafico que por ella circula, resulta algo escasa y convendría aumentarla hasta 750,000 pesetas.

La partida II para terminacion de la carretera de Bata a Rio Benito puede suprimirse porque las obras pendiente es se estan ejecutando con recursos del Presupuesto ordinario.

La Pista de Niefan a Evinayong, Ebebiyin-Mongomo, Benito - Idolo, Mongomo Nsork, Evinayong-Ngolensok y Ngolensok-Nsork, construidas las 3 primeras y en construcción las tres restantes, son Pistas de poco trafico por lo que de momento bastara construir de fabrica las obras de pequeña luz y auxiliar a las Administraciones Territoriales fa-

cilitandoles algunos elementos, por lo que las consignaciones correspondientes pueden ser bastante

reducidas siendo suficientes las cantidades siguientes: Niefan Evinayong 120.000,00 pts., Ebebiyin- Momgomo 100.000,00 pts., Benito-Idolo 150.000,00 pts., Mongomo-Nsork 100.000,00 pts., Evinayong Ngolensok 50.000,00 pts., y Ngolensok a Nsork 50.000 1 00 pts.

La Pista de Evinayong a Kogo, partida IX, convendría concebirla de otra manera ya que parece indudable que para asegurar la comunicacion de Kogo con el resto del territorio lo mas aceptado es construir una pista que arrancando aproximadamente del Km 28 del camino de Bata a Rio Benito,

suba hasta Sendye para cruzar allí el Benito y vaya a buscar la parte alta del río Congue para cruzarlo y bajar desde allí a Kogo; así se evita el paso sobre balsa del río Benito y el paso de los ríos Combue y Congue en sus proximidades de Kogo que habría que hacer también con embarcación; entonces para unir Evinayong tanto con Kogo como con Río Benito bastaría construir la Pista desde Kogo hasta la Pista antes descrita en un punto próximo al paso de esta sobre el Combue. La pista de Kogo a Evinayong queda así descompuesta en dos: la de Kogo al camino de Bata a Río Benito para la que habría que consignar 2.000.000,00 pts y la de Evinayong a la anterior para lo que se necesitarían 2.680.000,00 pts o sea 4.680.000,00 pts. en total.

La última Pista citada se podría después prolongarse por un lado hasta la de Benito Idolo y por otro desde Evinayong a Asok, pero tanto estas dos pistas como la de Evinayong a Ebebiyng, aunque importantes para la explotación de nuestra Guinea Continental, pueden dejarse para un plan de segunda urgencia por lo que no prononemos

consignación alguna en el plan Inmediato.

Acompañamos un resumen de las cifras indicadas y un croquis esquemático de la situación de las pistas indicadas. Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

Santa Isabel, 9 de Junio de 1.939.



**Annex 79**

*Letter No. 223 from the Embassy of the Republic of France to the Spanish State to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (7 May 1953)*



## TRANSLATION

9-00

436 4

Madrid, May 7, 1953.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

General Department of Foreign  
Policy

Department of Political Affairs  
of the Arab World, Near and  
Middle East and Africa

D. 4

[Seal] MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
NO. 223

Subject.- Re Authorization French Boat  
"BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE"

[Illegible Seal]

2794

Your Excellency,

The French Embassy in Madrid is writing to this Department in order to inform that the Secretariat of State of the French Navy announces that the Central Hydrographic Service of the neighbor country would like to obtain the necessary authorization so that the hydrographic boat called "BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE" can visit, without prior notice, between the months of November and December of 1953 and during the months of September and December of 1954 and 1955, the different anchorages of Corisco Bay, located in Territorial Waters of Spanish Guinea. For that purpose, said Embassy would appreciate your intervention with the competent Authorities in order to obtain, for the aforementioned boat, the necessary scale authorizations during the indicated terms.

Communicated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Your Excellency, requesting you to please inform this Department about the matter of reference.

May God bless Your Excellency with many years.

DIRECTOR,

[Signature]

A/173



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Natalia Misuraca, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the Certified Translators Association of Buenos Aires, Argentina (CTPBA).

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21

Date



9-00 436 4

PL/SF



Madrid, 7 de mayo de 1953.

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

Dirección General de Política Exterior

Dirección de Asuntos Políticos del Mundo Árabe, Próximo y Medio Oriente y África

D. 4

NÚM. 223

Asunto.-S/autorización barco francés "BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE"



2794

Ilmo. Señor:



La Embajada de Francia en Madrid se dirige a este Departamento para comunicarle que la Secretaría de Estado de la Marina Francesa le anuncia que el Servicio Central Hidrográfico del vecino país, desearía obtener la necesaria autorización para que el barco hidrográfico "BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE", pueda frecuentar sin previo aviso y entre los meses de noviembre y diciembre de 1953 y durante los meses de septiembre y diciembre de 1954 y 1955, los diversos fondeaderos de la bahía de Corisco, situada en las Aguas Territoriales de la Guinea Española. A dicho efecto la mencionada Embajada agradecería se interviniese cerca de las Autoridades competentes con objeto de obtener, para el referido barco, las autorizaciones de escala necesarias durante los períodos antes indicados.

Lo que de orden comunicada por el señor Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, tengo el honor de trasladar a V.I. con el ruego de que tenga a bien informar a este Departamento sobre el asunto de referencia.

Dios guarde a V.I. muchos años.

EL DIRECTOR,

J. J. Aloues

A 173



**Annex 80**

The United Kingdom, Ministry of War Transport, *Report on Libreville and Port Gentil*  
(22 June 1943)





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C O P Y

British Consulate-General  
Leopoldville.

L.D. 16/43

I N D E X 22nd June, 1943

Ministry of War Transport Representative,  
London, W.1.

Dear Sir,

I enclose herewith my Report on Libreville and Port Gentil.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) I.E.L. MACKAY

Ministry of War Transport  
RepresentativeCopy to Liner Division M.O.W.T. London  
" " M.W.T.R. (W.A.) Accra.  
" " M.W.T.R. Lagos.

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IM supplies of goods, cloth &c. European supplies and petrol and oil for the civil aerodrome. The trade does not amount to much and 200 tons on one steamer, augmented occasionally by 200 tons or so of petrol is a large import cargo. There need never be, and in fact never is, delay in the case of vessels with import cargo provided that not more than one ship is discharged at the same time, and provided ships do not follow each other too closely, so that there has been sufficient time to discharge from lighter on to shore, all the cargo discharged from the last ship into the lighters. Cargo goes from the jetty into customs bonded warehouses from where consignees take delivery.

FOR EXPORT CARGO - The vessels shift about 10 miles up the estuary to more sheltered anchorage off the mouth of the river which is the assembly point where all logs and sawn timber arrive from the interior and the saw mills. A launch then tows a raft of logs or lighters containing the sawn lumber &c. alongside the vessel. Each log weighs from between two to seven tons and a vessel can, if all goes well, load a maximum of 300 tons logs per day.

There should be at Libreville an adequate number of launches available but owing to breakdowns and lack of spare parts they are always short and it is advisable whenever possible for a steamer to have its own launch on board: "Troilus" launch has been invaluable. Only one launch is required to tow cargo from the assembly point to the vessel. The average tow is a raft of 300 tons or, in other words, a full days work at one time, and one launch should always be standing by the ship to round up any logs that may break loose from the raft should a swell arise. There is frequently a swell 10 miles up the estuary, caused generally by the confluence of wind and tide. Another launch should always be available to take messages from the vessel to the shore.

The only means of communication between ship and shore is this launch, as the ship lies out of sight of Libreville and there is

/therefore

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I T I N E R A R Y

LIBREVILLE AND PORT GENTIL

I left Leopoldville by air on June 7th and arrived at Libreville (600 miles) the same morning. On June 8th I visited "TROIILUS" loading logs at Owendo, about 10 miles up the estuary of the Gaboon river from Libreville, at the customary anchorage for loading logs. I left Libreville for Port Gentil - 80 miles away - on the morning of the 11th by launch, and arrived at Port Gentil that evening after a 12 hours journey. This launch, which is the only means of communication between the two ports, maintains a fortnightly service and normally stays a week at each port, but special arrangements were made on this trip that it would return to Libreville on the 13th, and I arrived back in Libreville that night. I left Libreville by air on the 14th and arrived here the same afternoon. I had made arrangements that during my absence my secretary would pass on any messages contained in telegrams from Lagos or elsewhere that required attention, either to me at Libreville or to Agents at other ports.

LIBREVILLE

Libreville is situated at the mouth of the three mile wide estuary of the Gaboon river on the north bank. When discharging vessels lie off the town and cargo is discharged into lighters of which there are four owned by the Chargeurs Reunis. They are discharged at a small jetty fitted with a 5 ton crane or at a jetty which is the private property of the Chargeurs Reunis and is situated immediately in front of their import shed. Apart from these two jetties Libreville has no other port installation and is merely an open roadstead and a beach.

IMPORTS, consist mainly of cement, native trade goods, cloth &c. European supplies and petrol and oil for the civil aerodrome. The trade does not amount to much and 200 tons on one steamer, augmented occasionally by 200 tons or so of petrol is a large import cargo. There need never be, and in fact never is, delay in the case of vessels with import cargo provided that not more than one ship is discharged at the same time, and provided ships do not follow each other too closely, so that there has been sufficient time to discharge from lighter on to shore, all the cargo discharged from the last ship into the lighters. Cargo goes from the jetty into customs bonded warehouses from where consignees take delivery.

FOR EXPORT CARGO - The vessels shift about 10 miles up the estuary to more sheltered anchorage off the mouth of the river which is the assembly point where all logs and sawn timber arrive from the interior and the saw mills. A launch then tows a raft of logs or lighters containing the sawn lumber &c. alongside the vessel. Each log weighs from two to seven tons and a vessel can, if all goes well, load a maximum of 300 tons logs per day.

There should be at Libreville an adequate number of launches available but owing to breakdowns and lack of spare parts they are always short and it is advisable whenever possible for a steamer to have its own launch on board. "Troilus" launch has been invaluable. Only one launch is required to tow cargo from the assembly point to the vessel. The average tow is a raft of 300 tons or, in other words, a full days work at one time, and one launch should always be standing by the ship to round up any logs that may break loose from the raft should a swell arise. There is frequently a swell 10 miles up the estuary, caused generally by the confluence of wind and tide. Another launch should always be available to take messages from the vessel to the shore.

The only means of communication between ship and shore is this launch as the ship lies out of sight of Libreville and there is no wireless log.

/therefore

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-2-

therefore no possibility of signalling. If therefore there is trouble during loading for example a strike of labourers, the launch has to take a message to Libreville, a three hour trip, arrangements have to be made on shore to get in touch with the port authorities or the police and in due course the return journey of three hours has to be made. By that time half a day has been lost and by the time the dispute has been settled probably a whole day or more has been lost.

There are no "black-out" regulations and ships can work all night if sufficient krooboys and officers to superintend the work were available, but nowadays only 40 krooboys and tired officers result in work only at the latest until 10 p.m.

Before the War, when 200,000 tons per annum was frequently loaded here, the ships invariably had 80/100 krooboys to load and of course the ships were always regular liners and officers knew the trade inside out. Loading of heavy logs is a specialised job and is far beyond local labour and requires great care on the part of the ship's officers.

So far there have been very little delays of British ships, but various continental ships have not been so satisfactory. The "Gabon" (Norwegian) for instance arrived on May 7th. When the first raft arrived alongside the Captain of the "Gabon" complained that the rate of loading did not justify such a large quantity of logs, which were an added and unnecessary responsibility to the ship. The launch therefore towed some logs back and in future made more trips with a less number of logs each time. This naturally was more expensive to the launch company which consequently increased their rates for this loading. Further delay was incurred because the captain complained that some of the logs were too heavy, being over 5 tons, but this is quite within the normal rate and well within the capacity of "Gabon" derricks. On one morning, during the whole morning, was on board, the ship loaded only one log, during the whole morning, and then knocked off for lunch, and the latest the steamer ever worked was till 7 p.m. On 22nd May the captain asked the Consul for June recognition signals as he did not think it possible for the 2,500 logs he had commenced to load on May 7th would be finished by May 31st. Actually cargo was finished and the vessel sailed on June 2nd, having taken 26 days to load a similar cargo to what "Troilus" now loading, is estimated to complete in 10 days.

The main causes of delay were firstly a lack of enthusiasm for the work on the part of the Norwegian Officers and crew, who had just come out of internment in North Africa, secondly a shortage of krooboys, and thirdly a shortage of essential equipment in the shape of bull line blocks for stowage of the timber in the hold.

I am arranging that in future Mr. Mackenzie keeps me closely informed whilst vessels are loading of the rate of loading, or of any "snags", and if ship's captains are not amenable to Agents' or my instructions, I will then communicate with you in London and leave you to get in touch with owners or send your instructions to masters through me.

To ensure quickest possible despatch therefore it is necessary:-

- a. That Libreville have as early advice as possible in order to ensure that cargo will be ready.
- b. That vessels have adequate krooboys on board. Recently, owing to lack of accommodation, vessels have only been carrying 40. This is not enough. There should be at least 65, and it would be preferable to have between 80 and 100.
- c. That the vessel is equipped with an adequate supply of bull line blocks for stowing the timber in the holds.
- d. That if it can possibly be arranged, the chief officer has had experience of loading logs.

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-3-

- e. That the vessel carries its own power launch.
- f. That, if there are sufficient kroesboys, vessels are prepared to work daily from 6 a.m. to midnight.

The shippers at Libreville will always arrange to have an adequate number of logs alongside, so that there is never any danger of vessels work being held up from the shore.

The "Consortium", a semi-state organisation which owns timber concessions, saw mills (including the largest in all West Africa) and timber plants and installations, arranges shipment of timber at the assembly port. Their equipment there consists of a large ocean going towing tug, two smaller tugs, and 9 - 50 tons lighters. The latter are used for leading sawn planks: logs are all towed off to the steamer in the form of rafts.

Other launches available at Libreville are:-

1. Mr. Mackenzie's (Elder Dempster Agent) diesel towing launch.
2. Messrs. John Holt & Co. (Mr. Binge) have a launch that could, in an emergency, be used for towing.
- 3.) and 2 small service launches.
- 4.)
5. A local French concern have a towing launch which they hire out.
6. Messrs. Chargeurs Reunis have a towing launch.

Several other small diesel launches, but owing to lack of spare parts these are mostly out of commission.

Timber Trade. The "Gabon" in May cleared the last shipment of fresh-cut logs purchased in the Gaboon by the Timber Control. There are 70,000 tons of logs lying about in the Gaboon which have been paid for by the Timber Control, but this is all old wood and useless for present requirements at home. The position now is that the French Government purchase timber direct from the Concessionaires and saw mills and sell it to the British Government. (Ministry of Supply) F.O.B. Steamers.

Mr. Binge (The British Vice-Consul, Director of John Holt & Co. and former Timber Control Representative here) has received advice from the Ministry of Supply in England to the effect that they have no objection to his acting in an advisory capacity to the French Authorities (the Forestry Service) but that the Timber Control have no further interest in negotiations between French Government authorities and cutters. Unfortunately the Forestry Service have not as yet much experience of actual shipping procedure. As an illustration, in the case of the "Gabon" they advised the Agent here that they had 3,000 M<sup>3</sup> of veneers ready for shipment. The Agent, with his knowledge of the quantities available, questioned this figure and it ultimately transpired there were 1400 M<sup>3</sup> equivalent to 800 tons deadweight and 3,000 tons space. The Forestry Service had no idea of how many tons deadweight, and how many tons of 40 c/ft. their cargo represented. No doubt, however, they will learn by experience to give accurate estimates of quantities.

The Forestry Service are represented by a Senior official in this District, but the centre of the organisation is with the Government at Brazzaville, from whom I will ascertain quantities available for shipment and will confirm what they tell me with Mr. Binge here, who is in a position to know exactly what the situation is.

Present arrangements are that 2,000 tons will be ready for loading at the end of June, a further 1,500 tons at the end of July, and thereafter monthly loadings at the rate of about 2,000 tons per month until the contract with the British Government has been fulfilled. Including the June and July shipments, some 15,000 tons are outstanding on the contract.

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**Arrangements and Repairs.** No repairs are possible at Libreville. No plates are available. The large tug employed in towing rafts to the ships might be able to assist vessels in distress, and lighters are available, but that is all. The lighters are all overdue for overhaul and plates are badly required.

**Personalities.**

**D.E. Mackenzie** - Elder Dempster's Agent is a man of 58 who has been 35 years in Libreville. He has suffered from ill-health recently, and though well enough now is hardly vigorous, but his experience is extremely valuable and he does his utmost, whenever possible, to expedite loading. He is at present kept extremely busy over the maintenance of the officers and crew on board "Pierre Lotti" and with salvage arrangements. The "Pierre Lotti" is lying 36 miles away and there are constant problems with regard to the despatch of launches to and from the vessel, and continual difficulties over the purchase of food and provisions for the crew.

**B.E. Binge.** Agent for John Holt & Co., British Vice-Consul, Admiralty Reporting Officer and former Timber Control Representative, was most helpful to me. He arranged interviews with the Governor of the Gabon, other officials and timber people. He has been John Holt's timber representative in the Gabon for many years and is thoroughly conversant with the trade. He accompanied me to Port Gentil, where he was again most helpful, and I cannot express too highly my appreciation of the assistance he gave me.

As suggested in my report on Matadi, I would like to arrange that he should be provided with the Ministry Code so that I could communicate direct with Libreville, and thus save the time lag and delay, as a result of frequent mutilations which is at present experienced over communications through the French Government.

**The Governor, Mr. Assier de Pomignon,** had apparently received from the Governor General instructions to investigate complaints about slow working of ships in his territory, and I found evidence in various quarters of enquiries he had been making. As I have explained above, however, the fault lies more in circumstances on board the ship than in anything that can be done from the shore.

**The Chief of the Forestry Service, M. Franzini,** is in charge of the Government Organisation which purchases timber from the cutters and ships it. I was not impressed with his efficiency, but he has only recently taken over the job and it is rather early to make a judgement.

He certainly did his utmost to co-operate and also accompanied me to Port Gentil, where a conference was held with the Government officials and the Vaneer Mill Directors with regard to prospects of vaneer and log shipments from Port Gentil.

**Chargeur Reunis' Agent - Monsieur Buhot** - has little to do except with regard to impertation of cargo in his Company's lighters, two of which are now being used to supply coal and provisions to "Pierre LOTTI".

**Communications.** I can communicate with Libreville by Air Mail, and can telegraph secret messages with regard to shipping either through the French Government at Brazzaville, or by Naval Shore Code through the Leopoldville Consulate to Vice-Consul at Libreville, but the latter code is ill adapted to the sort of messages we have to send, and as mentioned above, it would be very much quicker and more reliable if I could communicate with the Vice-Consul by Ministry code.

**"PIERRE LOTTI".** I regret that I was unable to visit the "Pierre Lotti". On the only day during my visit that I might have gone there was no launch available. The smaller launches in the port are unable to make the 36 mile journey, and the larger launches were either busy at the "Troilus" or were already at the "Pierre Lotti".

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The opinion of the people on the spot (Mackenzie and Binge) at Libreville, backed up by the opinion given by various "Empire" tug masters who have recently visited the ship, and who have had considerable salvage experience, is that there is no possibility of getting the ship off, and that it is inadvisable to risk other vessels standing by in those waters which are adjacent to a Spanish colony.

I hope, however that by the time this report reaches you, their opinions will have been proved pessimistic, and that the ship will have been refloated. Captain Bristow of Messrs. Elder Dempsters' Lines, and Lieut. Com. Emersan, Salvage Agent from Freetown, were on board the vessel when I was at Libreville.

#### PORT GENTIL

Port Gentil is situated 80 miles south of Libreville. It is an open roadstead at the mouth of the Ogoe river. As a port it has an advantage over Libreville in that ships can lie within a mile of the shore.

It possesses the only two veneer mills in West Africa, mills containing modern machinery and set up as a result of considerable enterprise on the part of the promoters only shortly before the outbreak of war.

Main exports are therefore okume veneers, and, from November to March only, okume logs. A small export trade is also done in rubber and palm kernels.

Imports are, similarly to Libreville, small quantities, seldom exceeding 200 tons per steamer, of European supplies, native trade goods, petrol and oils for the mills.

#### Port Working.

Messrs. Chargeurs Reunis own the following lighters:-

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Capable of lifting 120 tons deadweight. |
| 5. | " " " 80 " " each                       |
| 2. | " " " 30 " " "                          |

(N.B.) The 120 tons lighter badly requires new plates, and unless shipment of these can be arranged soon, the lighter will be out of action.)

Two of these, (one 80 ton, and one 30 ton) are used for work in the Ogoe river, and are not available for harbour work.

The other six are adequate for all purposes in peace time when numerous ships call at the port loading and discharging small cargoes; export cargo used to be all ready loaded on the lighters when the vessel entered the port enabling her to load immediately and when steamers arrived with import cargo empty lighters used to be ready for them, and they were therefore able to ~~quickly~~ discharge their cargo quickly and sail without delay.

By this means vessels were able to work quickly at Port Gentil although there was no wharf installation at the port.

New conditions are completely different because few steamers call and always for large cargoes.

Import cargo can be discharged at the rate of 175 to 200 tons per day when the cargo does not exceed 400 to 500 tons.

**Annex 81**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 87 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Morocco and Colonies* (24 February 1954)





## TRANSLATION

436

9



MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AFRICA

NO. 87

Madrid, February 24, 1954.

Subject: French Hydrographic Boat BEAUTEMPS-  
BEAUPRE.

[Seal] EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Principal Registry

MARCH 1, 1954

DEPARTMENT OF MOROCCO AND COLONIES

1051

Your Excellency,

By order of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in reference to order number 38 of January 20, I hereby respectfully request that you communicate to this Department the resolution issued by this General Department in relation to the petition submitted by the French Embassy in Madrid about the intended visit of the French hydrographic boat BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE to Corisco Bay in the years 1954, 55 and 56. The Staff Officer of the Army has already answered the inquiry, stating that there is no reason not to admit the French petition, and that in the event that such visit is authorized, the Spanish Navy officers in charge of the hydrographic survey of the Spanish coast in those waters would assist if necessary, so as to facilitate the French boat's mission.

May God bless Your Excellency for many years.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY

[Signature]

[Illegible]



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Natalia Misuraca, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the Certified Translators Association of Buenos Aires, Argentina (CTPBA).

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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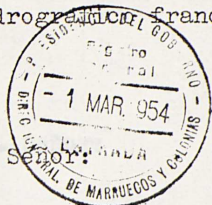
MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

Madrid, 24 de febrero de 1954.

A F R I C A

Asunto: Barco hidrográfico francés BEAUTEMPS-  
BEAUPRE.

Núm. 87.



1051

Ilmo. Señor:

De orden del señor Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, y con referencia a la orden nº 38 de 20 de enero último, ruego a V.I. tenga a bien comunicar a este Departamento la resolución que haya merecido por parte de esa Dirección General de su digno cargo la petición formulada por la Embajada de Francia en Madrid sobre la proyectada visita del barco hidrográfico francés BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE a la Bahía de Corisco en los años 1954, 55 y 56, cumpliéndome manifestarle que el Estado Mayor de la Armada ha contestado ya a la consulta, participando que no existe inconveniente en que se acceda a la petición francesa, y que, en el caso de autorizarse dicha visita, el personal de la Marina española encargado del levantamiento hidrográfico de la costa española en aquellas aguas colaboraría si fuese preciso en lo que de él se interesase, a fin de facilitar la misión del buque francés.

Dios guarde a V.I. muchos años.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE  
POLÍTICA EXTERIOR,

Ilmo. Sr. Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

Director General de Mares y Colonias

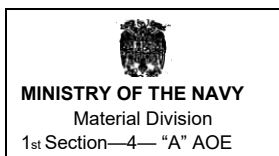


**Annex 82**

The Spanish State, *Telegram No. 1001-2 from the Ministry of the Navy to the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies* (4 September 1954)



## TRANSLATION



/[handwritten] 1001-2/

**MINISTRY OF THE NAVY**  
MATERIAL DIVISION  
1ST SECTION  
AUG. 6, 1954  
SENT  
No. 1001 D. 2 F 636/54

/[handwritten] 5/

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OF [illegible]  
— SEPT. 7, 1954 —  
RECEIVED  
- GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF  
MOROCCO AND COLONIES -

/[handwritten] 4556/

SUBJECT: DISMANTLING THE "PIERRE LOTI" STEAMSHIP.

REFERENCE: Case commenced with letter No. 1698, file 85, Colonies Section 5, General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies, dated 02-22-52.

TEXT: In connection with the matter of interest to this Division regarding the dismantling of the French steamship "PIERRE LOTI," submerged in Cogo's waters, His Excellency the Minister has approved this Ministry's General Audit report. A complete copy of that report is enclosed. Due to the situation of the aforesaid ship, which is considered to be located within national jurisdictional waters, it is necessary to determine the remedies that may be brought against the decisions of the Maritime Authority of the Spanish Territories in the Gulf of Guinea, insofar as its extraction implicates said Maritime Authority and the Governor-General of such Territory. The inter-ministerial provisions on the recovery of scraps and the intervention of the Official Delegation of the State in the Iron and Steel Industries to that effect, should be kept in mind.

May God protect Your Excellency for many years to come.

MADRID, September 4, 1954

THE CHIEF ADMIRAL OF THE MATERIAL DIVISION

[illegible signature]

Felipe Abarzuza

MINISTRY OF THE  
NAVY  
\*DEPUTY CHIEF ADMIRAL\*  
MATERIAL DIVISION

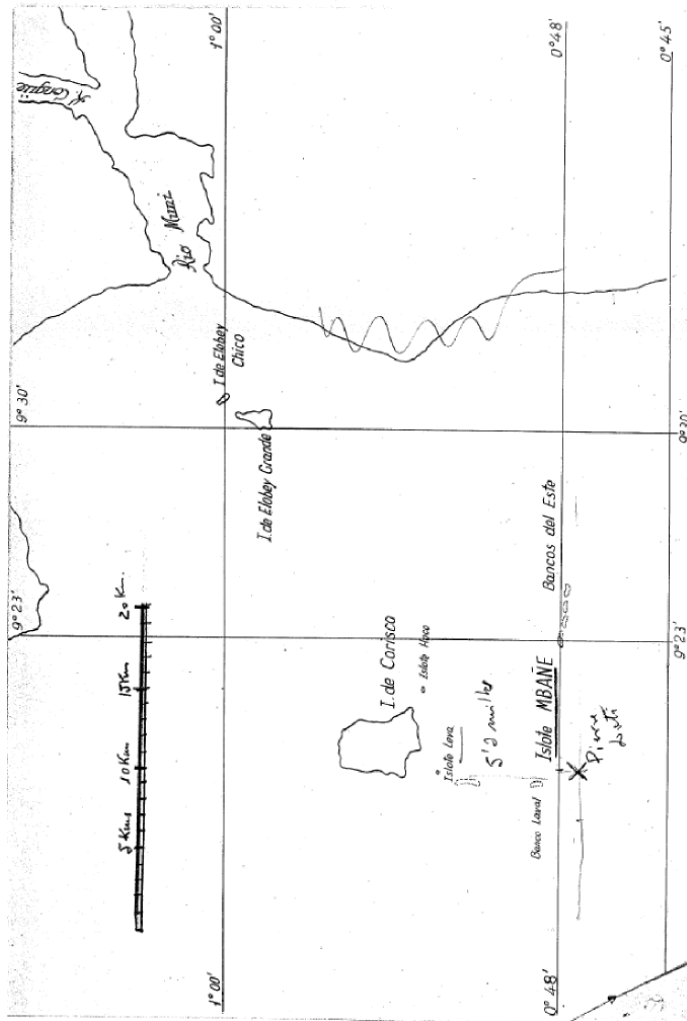
MINISTRY OF THE NAVY  
MATERIAL DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY  
SEPT. 6, 1954  
No. 2074 [illegible]

His Excellency Director-General of Morocco and Colonies.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

- R. Congüe = Congue River
- Río Muni = Muni River
- I. de Elobey Chico = Elobey Chico Island
- I. de Elobey Grande = Elobey Grande Island
- I. de Corisco = Corsico Island
- Islote Hoco = Hoco Islet
- Islote Leva = Leva Islet
- 5'2 millas = 5.2 miles
- Banco Laval: Laval Reef
- Islote MBAÑE = MBAÑE Islet
- Bancos del Este = Eastern Shoal
- \* Pierre Loti



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Jamie Mullin, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date







MINISTERIO DE MARINA

Dirección de Material

1ª Sección-4º-"A"-AOE.

1001-2

MINISTERIO DE MARINA  
DIRECCION DE MATERIAL  
1ª SECCION  
- 6 AGO. 1954  
SALIDA  
N.º 10112-1456

5  
DIRECCION DEL GOBIERNO DE MARRUECOS Y COLONIAS  
- 7 SEP 1954 -  
4556

ASUNTO: DESGUACE DEL VAPOR "PIERRE LOTI".

REFERENCIA: Expediente iniciado con comunicación nº 1698, expediente 85, Sección Colonias 5º, Dirección General de Marruecos y Colonias de 22-02-52.

TEXTO: En relación con lo interesado por esta Dirección, respecto al desguace del vapor francés "PIERRE LOTI", hundido en aguas de Kogo, el Excmo. Sr. Ministro ha dado su conformidad con el informe de la Auditoría General de este Ministerio, cuya copia íntegra se acompaña, y en el que, por la situación del citado buque, considerado dentro de aguas jurisdiccionales nacionales, corresponde resolver cuanto con la extracción se relaciona a la Autoridad Marítima de los Territorios Españoles del Golfo de Guinea y al Gobernador General de aquel Territorio, los recursos que, contra las resoluciones de dicha Autoridad Marítima, puedan entablar-se, teniendo en cuenta siempre, las disposiciones interministeriales de recuperación de chatarra e intervención de la Delegación Oficial del Estado en las Industrias Siderúrgicas, con este objeto.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

MADRID, 4 de septiembre de 1954

EL ALMIRANTE JEFE DE LA DIRECCION DE MATERIAL

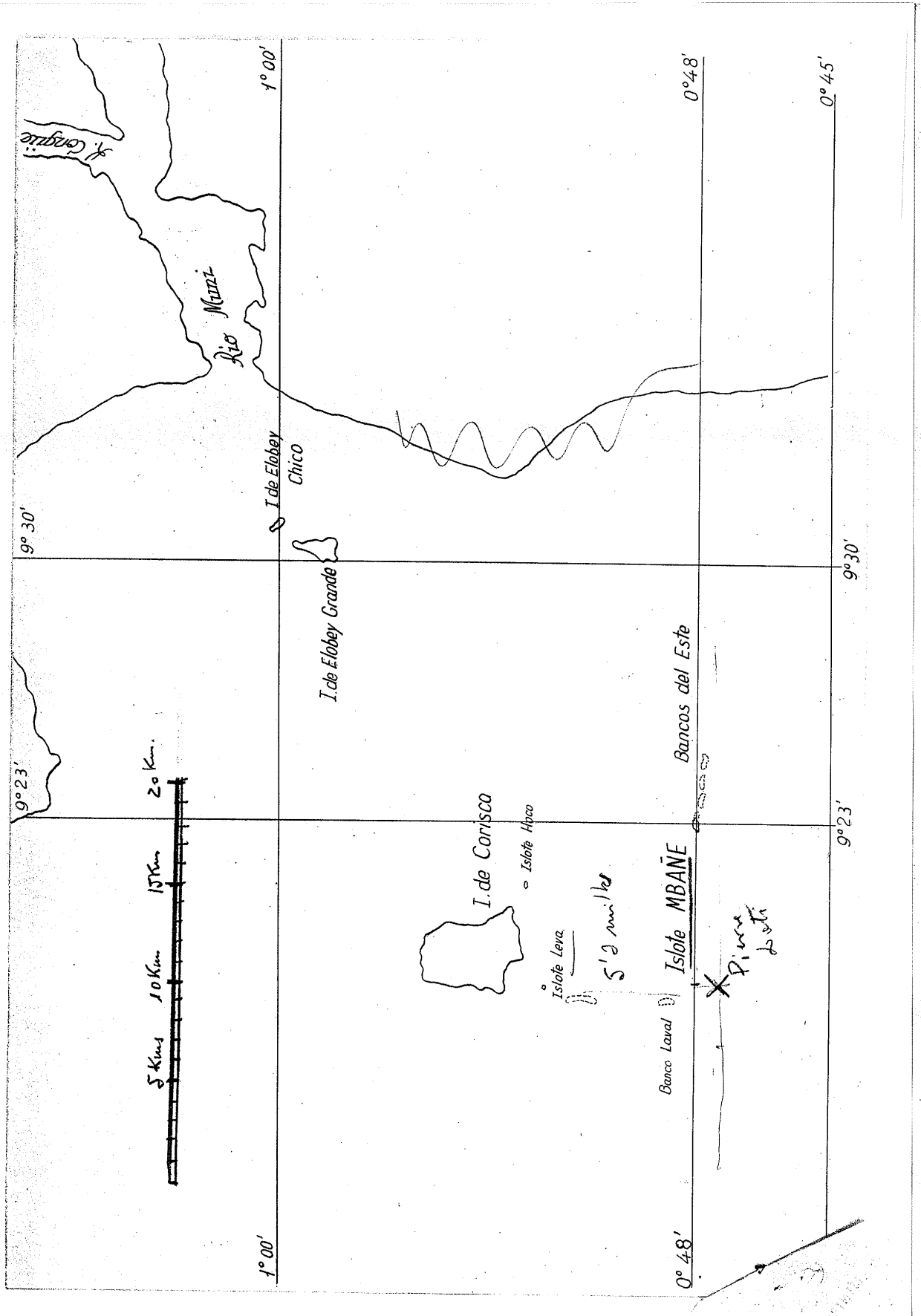
MINISTERIO DE MARINA  
EL ALMIRANTE JEFE  
DIRECCION DE MATERIAL

*[Handwritten signature]*

MINISTERIO DE MARINA  
DIRECCION DE MATERIAL  
SECRETARIA  
6. SEP 1954  
2074

Pe Abarzuza-

Excmo. Sr. Director General de Marruecos y Colonias.



**Annex 83**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 20-R* from the Governor General of Santa Isabel to the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies (17 February 1955)



## TRANSLATION



GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
OF  
SPANISH TERRITORIES  
IN THE  
GULF OF GUINEA

[illegible]  
**MILITARY [illegible]**  
*Outgoing Record*  
**[illegible] 20 - R**  
*February 17, 1955*

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency:

NO. 20-R.[Illegible] AM.-AB.

FILE \_\_\_\_\_

Today, H.E. the Deputy Governor of the Continental District, in CONFIDENTIAL communication No. 53, informed me of the following:

“Report No. 53-R.- CONFIDENTIAL.- From the Cogo Territorial Administration.- SUBJECT.- NEIGHBORING COLONIES. -----  
TEXT: The Territorial Administrator of the Puerto Iradier area; upon receiving news from indigenous sources that work was being carried out on the sandbank closest to the French coast, from the Eastern chain near islet of MBAÑE, he sent the Instructor of the Colonial Maritime Guard to confirm the accuracy of these facts. The Instructor stated as follows: -----

In fact, one European and ten indigenous people are engaged in what seems to be the construction of a lighthouse. They have completed the foundation and constructed a wooden frame on top of it, to that end. Various materials (stone and some 200 bags of cement) are gathered at the site. A camp site has been set up on the aforementioned bank with two tents—where they live. In addition, according to indigenous sources, the materials were transported by a tugboat and barge. According to news that deserves some credence, the French apparently believe that the islet of MBAÑE and the adjacent sandbanks belong to the neighboring territory of Gabon.”

I am honored to inform Your Excellency of the above and note that it might concern a visual signal placed by the French hydrographic personnel preparing the map of Munda Bay. However, during November of last year's meeting between the commander of the “Canovas del Castillo” gunboat and the commander of the French hydrographic ship “BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRE” in Corisco Bay, the latter stated that given Spain's assistance, they would likely need to install a visual signal this year at the astronomical point of Gobe on Corisco Island. Because the work site is not where indicated, today I am ordering the “Canovas del Castillo” gunboat to be dispatched to the islet of MBAÑE,

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

instructing them to inform me of the matter in detail by telegram, so that I may inform Your Excellency by the same means.

May God keep Your Excellency for many years to come.

Santa Isabel, February 17, 1955

GOVERNOR GENERAL

[stamp: SPANISH TERRITORIES IN THE GULF OF GUINEA / [illegible]]

[signature]

H.E., the Director General of Morocco and Colonies.- M A D R I D

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"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

---

Date







GOBIERNO GENERAL  
DE LOS  
TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES  
DEL  
GOLFO DE GUINEA

REPÚBLICA DEL GOLFO DE GUINEA  
SUBDIRECCIÓN MILITAR  
Registro de Salida  
20-R  
17 de Febrero de 1955

RESERVADO

Ilmo. Señor

REC. 20-R  
EXP. AM.-AB.

Con esta fecha, el Ilmo. Señor Subgobernador del Distrito Continental, en escrito RESERVADO nº 53, me comunica lo siguiente:

"Información Nº 53-R.- RESERVADO.- Procedencia Administración Territorial de Cogo.-ASUNTO.- COLONIAS VECINAS.-  
-----  
TEXTO: Informa el Administrador Territorial de la Demarcación de Puerto Iradier, que teniendo noticias de procedencia indígena, sobre obras que se están llevando a cabo el en banco de arena mas cercano a la costa francesa, de la serie del Este proximos al Islote MBANE, por aquel Administrador Territorial se dispuso lo necesario para que se desplazara el Instructor de la Guardia Marítima Colonial para comprobar la veracidad de éstos hechos, dando cuenta de lo siguiente: -----  
Que, efectivamente, en dicho banco de arena se encuentran un europeo y diez indigenas los cuales se dedican al parecer a la construcción de un faro, estando ya terminada la cimentación y sobre ésta levantando un caballete de palo con los mismos fines. En dicho lugar hay acumulados varios materiales (piedra y cemento, unos 200 sacos) y en el mismo citado banco tienen establecido un campamento con dos tiendas de camapaña, en las que habitan. Asimismo y por noticias de procedencia indígena se sabe que dichos materiales han sido transportados por un remolcador y una gabarra. Por noticias recogidas y que merecen cierto crédito, parece ser que existe entre los franceses la creencia de que el mencionado Islote de MBANE y bancos de arena inmediatos pertenecen al vecino territorio del Gabón."

Lo que tengo el honor de comunicar a V.I. signifi-  
fin'andole que puede tratarse de una señal visual colocada por el personal Hidrográfico francés que levanta la carta de bahía Munda, pero, no obstante, teniendo en cuenta que en la entrevista celebrada por el Comandante del Cañonero "Canovas del Castillo", en noviembre del pasado año, en la bahía de Corisco, con el del buque Hidrógrafo francés "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRE", comunicó el Comandante de éste último buque que, de acuerdo con las facilidades dadas por el Gobierno Español, probablemente necesitarían en el presente año colocar una señal visual en el punto astronómico de Gobe, en la Isla de Corisco, y como quiera que el sitio en el cual están efectuando sus trabajos no es el indicado, con esta fecha ordeno el desplazamiento del Cañonero "Canovas del Castillo" al Islote MBANE dandole ins-

tracciones para que me informe del asunto con todo detalle por via telegrafica, para poder informar a V.I. por la misma via.

Dios guarde a V.I. muchos años.

Santa Isabel, 17 de febrero de 1.955

EL GOBERNADOR GENERAL



*Faustino Ruiz*

Ilmo. Señor Director General de Marruecos y Colonias.- M A D R I D

## **Annex 84**

The Spanish State, *Telegram No. 3 from the Governor of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea to the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies* (19 February 1955)



TRANSLATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE GOVERNMENT

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF  
MOROCCO AND COLONIES

SECTION Colonies

IV Centenary of Leo Africanus  
TELEGRAM ENCRYPTED

Transmitted to the

Madrid, February 18, 1955

GUARD OFFICER,

**ENCRYPTED**

From Dircol

To Gorgui

                     in Santisabel

number 6

**AND**

**TRANSMITTED**

I confirm receipt of your confidential dispatch number twenty dated 17 of this month PERIOD I ask that you advise via telegram of outcome of Gunboat visit to such islet. Regards.

For encryption:

**TRANSLATION**

**Official Telegram**

Received on FEBRUARY 20, 1955  
SANTA ISABEL, FEBRUARY 19, 1955

---

From GOVERNOR SPANISH TERRITORIES GUINEA

To DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MOROCCO AND COLONIES

No. 3

**Colonies**

- E N C R Y P T E D -

WORK BEING CARRIED OUT BY FRENCH PERSONNEL CONSISTS OF BUILDING AN ASTRONOMICAL POINT THAT WILL SERVE AS NAVIGATIONAL MARKER FOR ENTRY INTO MUNDA RIVER. BECAUSE IT IS DEEMED THAT WORK IS BEING PERFORMED WITHIN SPANISH JURISDICTION, I AM ORDERING THAT THE PUERTO IRADIER ADMINISTRATOR MEET WITH THE FRENCH COCO-BEACH ADMINISTRATOR TO DEMAND CLARIFICATION ON WHY TIMELY AUTHORIZATION WAS NOT REQUESTED.

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"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date







PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO  
DIRECCION GENERAL DE MARRUECOS  
Y COLONIAS

SECCION Colonias

Madrid, 18 de febrero de 1955

El Dircol  
Al Gorgui  
en Santisabel  
número 6

IV Centenario de León el Africano

TELEGRAMA C I F R A D O

Transmitido a las  
EL OFICIAL DE GUARDIA.

C I F R A D O  
Y  
C U R S A D O

Acuso recibo despacho reservado Vuecencia número veinte  
fecha 17 actual Punto Ruégole informe esta vía resultado  
visita Cañonero a islote aludido. Salúdole.

Cifrese:

### Telegrama Oficial

Recibido el 20 de FEBRERO de 1955.

SANTA ISABEL 19 de FEBRERO de 1955

De GOBERNADOR TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES GUINEA

A DIRECTOR GENERAL DE MARRUECOS Y COLONIAS

Núm. 3

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Colonias', is written over the typed text.

- C I F R A D O -

TRABAJOS QUE REALIZA PERSONAL FRANCES CONSISTEN EN CONSTRUIR UN PUNTO ASTRONOMICO QUE SERVIRA DE BALIZA PARA ENTRADA RIO MUNDA. POR CONSIDERAR QUE TRABAJOS SE REALIZAN DENTRO DE JURISDICCION ESPAÑOLA ORDENO A ADMINISTRADOR TERRITORIAL PUEERTO IRADIER CELEBRE ENTREVISTA CON ADMINISTRADOR FRANCES COCO-BEACH EN DEMANDA DE ACLARACION POR NO HABER SOLICITADO OPORTUNA AUTORIZACION.

## **Annex 85**

The Spanish State, *Letter from* the Governor of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea *to* the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies (22 February 1955)



## TRANSLATION

## CLASSIFIED

[emblem]  
GOVERNOR GENERAL  
OF THE  
SPANISH TERRITORIES  
OF THE  
GULF OF GUINEA

No. 26-R.....  
REF:.....  
FILE: AM.-AB.

Honorable Sir,

In continuation of my encrypted message No. 2, dated the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month, I have the honor of informing you that, today, the Honorable Deputy Governor of the Continental District, in CONFIDENTIAL NOTE No. 40-R, informed me of the following:

"In compliance with Your Excellency [Y.E.]'s order in urgent letter "S" No. 24, dated this past 20<sup>th</sup>, regarding the exchange of views between the Chief of the Cocobeach District and the Territorial Administrator of Cogo, I have the honor of sharing with you what said Territorial Administrator told me last night about this. At 8:30 yesterday, the Territorial Administrator arrived to Cocobeach and the District Chief received him with upmost courtesy. Once both were in the District Chief's office, the Territorial Administrator of Cogo explained that he was visiting to let the District Chief know that, during an inspection carried out by the Spanish Maritime Administrator, French personnel were observed working on one of the sandbanks located to the east of the islet of MBAÑE. (It was known that a barge had been towed there, transporting construction materials to be used in said work.) Moreover, the Commander of the Spanish gunboat had observed this work during an inspection trip through those waters. As agreed with the Commander of the French survey ship, in the event that hydrographic work is to be carried out in Spanish jurisdictional waters, it should be communicated beforehand in order to proceed accordingly. Nevertheless, this work has not proceeded in accordance with what had been duly agreed, since our authorities had not been informed of the initiation of such works in Spanish jurisdictional waters. Thus, complying with orders from the Hon. Governor General of these Territories, [the Territorial Administrator of Cogo] recounted the Highest Authority's great surprise upon learning that French personnel were carrying out work in waters under Spanish jurisdiction, without the corresponding authorization. Said District Chief told the Territorial Administrator of Cogo that he had no official knowledge of the execution of these works, since they are being carried out by the Maritime Authorities of Brazzaville, on whom they depend. [The District Chief] was shown a text containing the treaty on Spanish possessions. It does not contain anything regarding the possession of the islet of MBAÑE; and, therefore, said District Chief did not know where to stand on this. As a result, [the District Chief] reported the matter to the Libreville Regional Office that same day, so that the Libreville Regional Office would send him, via radio, clarifying instructions from Brazzaville on whether the islet of MBAÑE is under Spanish jurisdiction or is international. The Territorial Administrator of Cogo stated that he was shown the content of the

### TRANSLATION

relevant document from the Libreville Regional Office, which contained the aforementioned clarifying instructions. That document made it very clear that the Governor of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea was surprised upon learning of the matter that concerns us. That document, citing the case of "Pierre Loti," as precedent similar to the matter before us, stated that, in the case of "Pierre Loti," the District Chief did not know what to make of the same's ownership, since he knew that it had been sold by the Spanish and French. Finally, the Territorial Administrator of Cogo expressed that at the end of the approximately forty-minute meeting, held in an atmosphere of utmost politeness, the European who was in charge of the work conducted on the sand bank was summoned to the District Chief's office. A map showing the location of the islet of MBAÑE and nearby sand banks was examined. Once information is obtained on the clarifying instructions that the Cocobeach District Chief requested from Libreville Regional, it will be reported to that General Government"

I have the honor of informing Y.E. that this General Government has issued, with the utmost secrecy, timely orders to have everything planned and ready, in the event that the Spanish Government considers it appropriate to order the occupation of the aforementioned islet of MBAÑE. Since these clandestine preparations could be more easily noticed on the mainland by the neighboring colony, they have been carried out exclusively on Fernando Póo island (with secret and personal communication to the Hon. Deputy Governor of the Continental District). The plan is to start the operation from Santa Isabel, dispatching the Colonial Guard 1<sup>st</sup> Company Troops aboard the "Canovas de Castillo" gunboat, which has orders to be "ready in three hours."

May God safeguard Y.E. for many years  
Santa Isabel February 22, 1955  
GOVERNOR GENERAL

[illegible stamp]

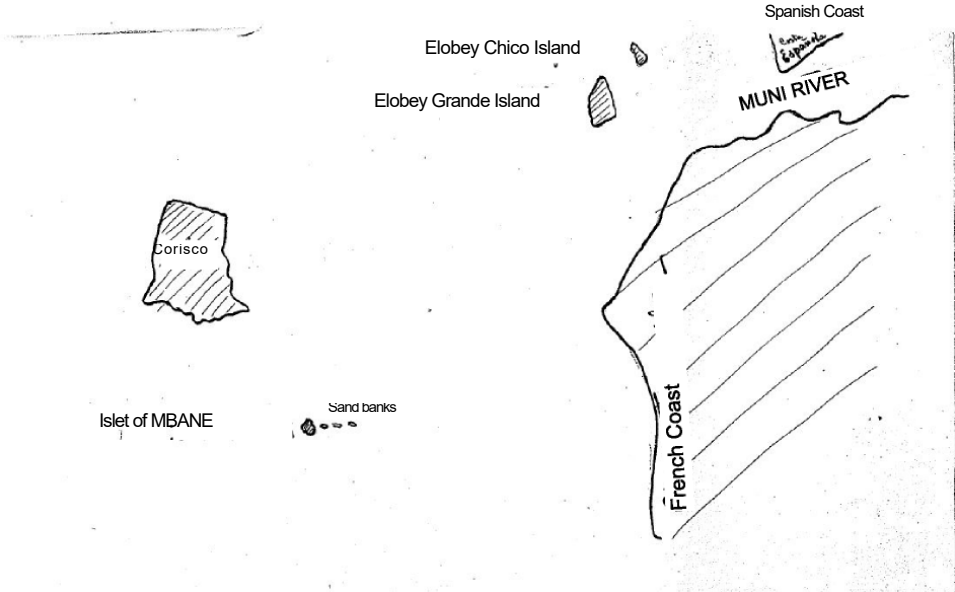
[signature]

Honorable Director General of Morocco and Colonies.- MADRID

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TRANSLATION



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Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





GOBIERNO GENERAL  
DE LOS  
TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES  
DEL  
GOLFO DE GUINEA

**RESERVADO**

NÚM. 26-R  
REF.  
EXP. AM.-AB.

Como continuación a mi citado nº 2, de fecha 19 del actual, tengo el honor de comunicar a V.I. que, con esta fecha, el Ilmo Señor Subgobernador del Distrito Continental, en escrito SECRETO nº 40-R, me informa lo siguiente:

"En cumplimiento a lo ordenado por V.E. en escrito, nº 24, de fecha 20 último, relativo al cambio de impresiones sostenido con el Jefe del Distrito de Cocobeach, por el Administrador Territorial de Cogo, tengo el honor de comunicarle los que a tal respecto me ha informado en la noche de ayer dicho Administrador Territorial. A las 8,30 del día de ayer se personó en Cocobeach, siendo recibido por el Jefe del Distrito con manifiestas muestras de cortesía y una vez ambos en el despacho de dicho Jefe, se le manifestó ser el objeto de su visita hacerle saber que con ocasión de una inspección efectuada por el Administrador Marítimo español, se había observado que se llevaban a cabo obras por personal francés en uno de los bancos de arena situados al Este del Islote MBANE, como que conociase haber sido remolcada una gabarra hasta dicho lugar y transportado materiales de construcción para ser empleados en dichas obras; que la ejecución de éstas había sido asimismo observada por el Comandante del Cañonero español, en viaje de inspección por aquellas aguas; que según lo convenido con el Comandante del Planero francés, caso de que debieran efectuarse trabajos hidrográficos en aguas jurisdiccionales españolas, debería ser ello previamente comunicado para proceder en consecuencia; que como quiera no se había procedido de acuerdo con lo convenido oportunamente, toda vez que de la iniciación de dichas obras en aguas jurisdiccionales españolas, no habías sido informadas muestras Autoridades, es por lo que cumpliendo orden del Excmo Sr. Gobernador General de estos Territorios, le hacía saber la profunda sorpresa experimentada por dicha Primera Autoridad al conocer que por personal francés se llevaban a efecto obras en aguas jurisdiccionales españolas sin la correspondiente autorización. Por dicho Jefe de Distrito se le manifestó al Administrador Territorial de Cogo no tener conocimiento oficial de la ejecución de dichas obras, ya que estas se realizaban por las Autoridades Marítimas de Brazzaville, de quienes dependen; que al mostrarle un texto conteniendo el tratado de las posesiones españolas, no consta en el mismo nada relativo a la posesión del Islote MBANE y que por lo tanto dicho Jefe de Distrito no sabía a qué atenerse, por lo que en aquella misma fecha ponía el asunto en conocimiento del Regional de Libreville, para que por éste, y por radio, interesare de Brazzaville instrucciones aclaratorias sobre si el Islote MBANE es de la jurisdicción española o bien si es internacional. Según manifiesta el Administrador Territorial de Cogo, le fue mostrado el contenido del es-

./.

crito por el que se interesaban, del Regional de Libreville, las anteriormente aludidas instrucciones aclaratorias, haciéndose bien patente en dicho escrito la sorpresa producida en el Gobernador de los Territorios españoles del Golfo de Guinea, al tener conocimiento del hecho que nos ocupa. En dicho escrito se hacia constar que, en relación con el "Pierre Loti", el Jefe de Distrito no sabia a qué atenerse respecto a la pertenencia del mismo, toda vez que conocia habia sido vendido por españoles y franceses, citando este caso como precedente similar al hecho que nos ocupa. Finalmente manifiesta el Administrador Territorial de Cogo que al término de la entrevista sostenida en ambiente de la máxima corrección y que durara unos cuarenta minutos, fué llamado al despacho del Jefe de Distrito el europeo que estuviera al frente de las obras que se realizan en el banco de arena y siendo examinado un plano de la zona de emplazamiento del Islote MBANE y bancos de arena próximos. Seguidamente se tenga información relativa a las instrucciones aclaratorias que han sido solicitadas por el Jefe del Distrito de Cocobeach del Regional de Libreville, se comunicará a ese Gobierno General.

Lo que tengo el honor de poner en conocimiento de V.I. significándole que por este Gobierno General se han dictado con el mayor secreto, oportunas órdenes para tener todo previsto y a punto, en el supuesto caso de que el Gobierno de España considerase oportuno ordenar la ocupación del mencionado Islote MBANE, significándole asimismo que estos preparativos secretos -dado que en el Continente podrían ser más fácilmente advertidos por la vecina Colonia- se han llevado

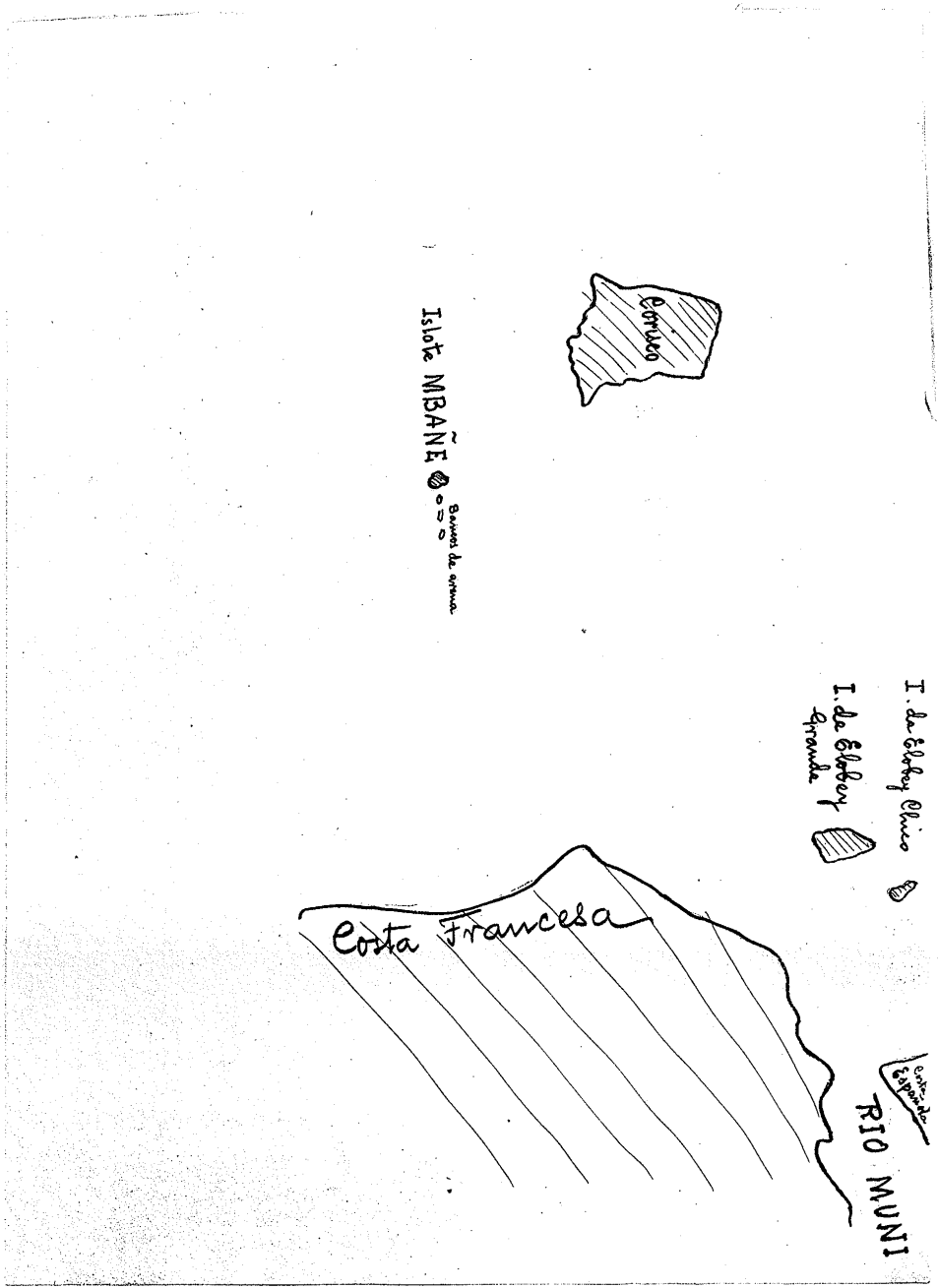
a cabo exclusivamente en la isla de Fernando Poo (con comunicación Secreta y Personal al Ilmo Sr Subgobernador del Distrito Continental) con vistas a que la operación se iniciase partiendo de Santa Isabel, con el envío de Fuerzas de la Compañía de la Guardia Colonial a bordo del Cañonero "Canoas del Castillo", que tiene orden de estar "listo para tres horas".

Que Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.  
 Santa Isabel 22 de Febrero de 1.955

EL GOBERNADOR GENERAL  
*Augustus Ruiz*



Ilmo. Sr. Director General de Marruecos y Colonias. - M A D R I D





**Annex 86**

The Spanish State, *Telegram No. 8 from the Department of Morocco and Colonies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (26 February 1955)





TRANSLATION



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF  
MOROCCO AND COLONIES

COLONIES DIVISION

*Madrid, February 26, 1955*

*E/ DIRCOL  
A/ GEOLGUI*

*Number 8*

IV Centenary of León el Africano

CODED

*Sent at*

ON-CALL OFFICER

CODED AND SENT

MINISTER. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

RESERVED DOCUMENT. YOUR EXCELLENCY. 22 CURRENT.

THE OCCUPATION OF MBAÑE ISLET IS AUTHORIZED ACCORDING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S PREVIOUS DOCUMENT.

JUNE 30 OF LAST YEAR IN RELATION TO SUNK BOAT "PIERRE LOTI," MBAÑE ISLET WAS PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY OCCUPATION COLONIAL TEAM, WHICH SEEMS TO REINFORCE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S PROPOSAL.

SINCERELY,

THIS SHALL BE CODED.



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21

Date





IV Centenario de León el Africano

PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO  
DIRECCION GENERAL DE MARRUECOS  
Y COLONIAS

SECCION COLONIAS

Madrid, 26 de Febrero de 1955

Trasmitido a las  
EL OFICIAL DE GUARDIA.

CIFRADO  
Y  
CURSADO

El DIRECTOR  
Al GEOLGUI

en  
número 8

DADA CUENTA MINISTRO PRESIDENCIA GOBIERNO  
ESCRITO RESERVADO V.E. 22 ACTUAL, QUEDA  
AUTORIZADO OCUPACION ISLOTE MBANE SEGUN  
HA PREPARADO V.E. PUNTO EN ANTERIOR ESCRITO  
V.E. 30 JUNIO AÑO PROXIMO PASADO RELATIVO  
A BUQUE HUNDIDO "PIERRE LOTI" SE INDICA QUE  
CITADO ISLOTE MBANE ESTUVO YA OCUPADO  
ANTERIORMENTE POR PLANTON GUARDIA COLONIAL  
LO QUE PARECE REFORZAR PROPUESTA V.E.  
SALUDOLE.

CIFRESE



**Annex 87**

The Spanish State, *Telegram No. 6 from the Governor of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea to the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies* (28 February 1955)



**TRANSLATION**

**Official Telegram**

Received on March 1, 1955

Santa Isabel, February 28, 1955

From GOVERNOR OF SPANISH GUINEA TERRITORIES

To DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MOROCCO AND COLONIES

No 6

- ENCRYPTED -

COMMANDER OF CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO GUNBOAT  
COMMUNICATED TO ME THAT THE COLONIAL GUARD DISEMBARKED  
TROOPS ON THE ISLET OF MBANIÉ TODAY. WITHOUT INCIDENT.



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

Date





## Telegrama Oficial

Recibido el 1 de Marzo de 1955.

Santa Isabel 28 de Febrero de 1955.

De GOBERNADOR TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES GUINEA

A DIRECTOR GENERAL DE MARRUECOS Y COLONIAS

Núm. 6

- CIFRADO -

COMANDANTE CAÑONERO CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO  
ME COMUNICA QUE DIA HOY DESEMBARCO FUER-  
ZAS GUARDIA COLONIAL EN ISLOTE M B A Ñ E  
SIN NOVEDAD.

---



## **Annex 88**

The Spanish State, *Telegram No. [ J11 from the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies to the Governor of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea (8 March 1955)*



## TRANSLATION

[crest]  
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

**IV Centenary of Leo Africanus**

TELEGRAM:

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MOROCCO  
AND THE COLONIES  
SECTION Sec. Part.

*Madrid, March 8, 1955*

*The DIRCOL [Directorate of the Colonies]  
To GORGUI [Governor of Spanish Guinea]  
in \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number [handwritten: (illegible) 11]**

[handwritten: 1]  
ENCRYPTED

*Transmitted at \_\_\_\_\_*  
OFFICER OF THE GUARD

[stamp: ENCRYPTED  
AND  
SENT]

SINCE HIS EXCELLENCY RECEIVED NOTE FROM THE SECOND OF THIS MONTH REGARDING THE ISLET OF MBANIÉ AND ADJACENT LOW-LYING AREAS, I AM ORDERED TO HAVE YOU TAKE ACTION TO SUSPEND THE NONCOMPLIANT CONSTRUCTION WORK, WHICH IS OF PERMANENT NATURE AND NOT RELATED TO HYDROGRAPHIC WORK. PERIOD. REGARDS.

Send.



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

Date





PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO  
DIRECCION GENERAL DE MARRUECOS  
Y COLONIAS

SECCION Sec. Part.

Madrid, 8 de 3 de 1955

El DIRCOL

Al GORGUI

en  
número 11

DADA CUENTA A SU EXCELENCIA ESCRITO SU AUTORIDAD DOS DEL ACTUAL RELATIVO ISLOTE MBAÑE Y BAJOS ADYACENTES ME ORDENA DISPONGA VUECENCIA SUSPENSION OBRAS TODA VEZ QUE NO HABIA SIDO REQUERIDAD SU CONFORMIDAD PARA DICHA CONSTRUCCION PERMANENTE Y AJENA A LOS TRABAJOS HIDROGRAFICOS. punto SALUDOLE.

Transmitase,

IV Centenario de León el Africano

TELEGRAMA

C I F R A D O

Trasmitido a las  
EL OFICIAL DE GUARDIA.

**C I F R A D O  
Y  
C U R S A D O**





## **Annex 89**

The Spanish State, *Letter from the Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea to the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies* (17 March 1955)



## TRANSLATION

[coat of arms]  
 GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
 OF THE SPANISH  
 TERRITORIES ON THE  
 GULF OF GUINEA

[handwritten: (illegible)]

[stamp: CLASSIFIED]

No. [handwritten: 45 - R]  
 REF. AM. AB.  
 FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Esteemed Sir:

The Illustrious Deputy Governor of the Continental District, in an encrypted radiogram today, communicated the following to me:

[handwritten: C(illegible)]

[handwritten: 1922 (illegible)  
 1923 (illegible)  
 (illegible)]

[stamp: (illegible)  
 GOVERNMENT  
 (illegible)]

“The Administrator of Cogo communicated to me via radiogram today that he has carried out the order regarding evacuation of French personnel on the sandbar, telling me to send the report that I will communicate to Your Excellency shortly.”

I have the honor of communicating this to Your Illustriousness, informing you that with this, the issue related to French works on the islet to the east of MBANIÉ is now resolved.

May God keep Your Illustriousness many years.

Santa Isabel, March 17, 1955

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

[signature]

Illustrious Director General of Morocco and Colonies. MADRID.



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

03/19/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





GOBIERNO GENERAL  
DE LOS  
TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES  
DEL  
GOLFO DE GUINEA

*436 Archivo*  
**RESERVADO**

Ilmo. Señor:

NÚM. 45-R-  
REF. AM.-AB.-  
EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

*1922  
1923  
[initials]*

El Ilmo. Sr. Subgobernador del Distrito Continental, en radio cifrado de esta fecha, me comunica, lo siguiente:

"Comunicame Administrador Cogo radio esta fecha haberse cumplimentado orden relativa evacuación personal francés banco arena anunciandome remitir informe que seguidamente comunicaré V.E."

Lo que tengo el honor de comunicar a V.I., significándole que con ello queda zanjada la cuestión relacionada con los trabajos franceses en el islote al Este de MBANE.

Dios guarde a V.I. muchos años.

Santa Isabel, 17 de marzo de 1.955

EL GOBERNADOR GENERAL

*Faustino Luis*



Ilmo. Señor Director General de Marruecos y Colonias.- M A D R I D.



**Annex 90**

The Spanish State, *Memo No. 436 to the Department of Morocco and Colonies* (10 March 1955)





## TRANSLATION

26

RESERVED

COLONIES  
436SUBJECT: French Hydrographic Boat "Beautemps  
Beaupré"  
299[Seal] EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
MARCH 10, 1955  
GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF MOROCCO AND COLONIES

Your Excellency,

In response to your Reserved communication number 33-R of March 2 of the current year, and as confirmation of coded radio communication number 11, of the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the current month, I hereby let you know that after informing the State Authorities about the matter related to Mbañe Islet, they determined that Your Excellency should be informed of the need to order the suspension of the works started by French workers in the shallows near Mbañe Islet.

Given that said works are not a provisional but permanent visual signal, and therefore, they are contrary to the agreement between Your Excellency and the Commander of the French boat "Beautemps-Beaupre," the advantages promised to said French boat are excluded. Consequently, it is not a work that is auxiliary to the topographic works performed in relation to the tasks assigned to "Beautemps-Beaupre," but an installation of lights for navigation.

In addition, the works suspension measure, among the solutions proposed by Your Excellency, is considered to be the most convenient measure to strengthen the Spanish point of view regarding the statement of our sovereignty over the abovementioned Islet of Mbañe and the sandbanks to the East of the Islet.

This is all I have the honor to communicate to Your Excellency for your information and appropriate effects.

May God bless Your Excellency with many years.  
Madrid, March 10, 1955.  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

[Signature]

Your Excellency, Governor General of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea -  
Santa Isabel.



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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21

Date



26

# RESERVADO

COLONIAS.  
436

ASUNTO: Barco francés hidrográfico  
"Beautemps Beaupré".

---

Excmo. Sr. :

En contestación a su Reservado, num. 33-R, fecha 2 de marzo en curso, y como confirmación de lo comunicado en radio cifrado num. 11, de fecha 8 del actual, debo participarle, que informada la Superioridad del estado de la cuestión relativa al islote Mbañe, dispuso se comunicara a V.E. la necesidad de que ordene la suspensión de las obras iniciadas por personal francés en los bajos de arena próximos al islote Mbañe.

Dado que dichas obras no constituyen una señal visual provisional sino permanente y, por tanto, en desacuerdo con lo convenido por V.E. con el Comandante del buque francés "Beautemps-Beaupre", quedan excluidas de las facilidades que se le prometieron al indicado buque francés. Por añadidura no se trata de un trabajo auxiliar de los topográficos que se realizan en relación con el cometido del "Beautemps-Beaupre", sino de una instalación de luces para la navegación.

También se estima ser la medida de la suspensión de las obras, entre las soluciones propuestas por V.E., la más conducente a robustecer el punto de vista español de la afirmación de nuestra soberanía sobre el mencionado islote Mbañe y los bancos de arena del Este del mismo.

Lo que tengo el honor de decir a V.E. para su conocimiento y efectos oportunos.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.  
Madrid, 10 de marzo de 1955.  
EL DIRECTOR GENERAL,

Excmo. Sr. Gobernador General de los Territorios  
Españoles del Golfo de Guinea - Santa Isabel.

---





## **Annex 91**

The Spanish State, *Telegram No. 7 from the Governor of Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea to the Director-General of Morocco and Colonies* (12 March 1955)



**TRANSLATION**

[handwritten: 436]

**Official Telegram**

Received on March 12, 1955

Santa Isabel xxxxxxxx, March 12, 1955.

From GOVERNOR OF SPANISH GUINEA TERRITORIES

To DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MOROCCO AND COLONIES

No 7

ENCRYPTED

THE TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF COGO, WHO I ORDERED TO TAKE ACTION TO SUSPEND THE WORK THAT THE FRENCH WERE CARRYING OUT ON THE SANDBANK TO THE EAST OF THE ISLET OF MBANIÉ, TOLD ME THAT HE WENT IN PERSON TO SAID SANDBANK AND TOLD THE FRENCHMAN IN CHARGE OF THE WORKS THAT HE MUST SUSPEND THE WORK AND EVACUATE THE SANDBANK. THE LATTER TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM HIS SUPERIORS THAT ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY, THE 14<sup>TH</sup>, A FRENCH TUGBOAT WOULD ARRIVE TO GET THE WORKERS AND MATERIAL AND EVACUATE SAID SANDBANK.

----

[handwritten: March 14, 1955]

[signature]



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





436  
Telegrama Oficial


Recibido el 12 de M a r z o de 195 5  
 Santa Isabel  
~~Siixifmk~~ 12 de M a r z o de 1955

De GOBERNADOR TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES GUINEA  
 A DIRECTOR GENERAL DE MARRUECOS Y COLONIAS

Núm. 7

- C I F R A D O -

ADMINISTRADOR TERRITORIAL COGO A QUIEN ORDENE  
 SUSPENDIÉSE TRABAJOS QUE FRANCESES EFECTUAN BAN  
 CO ARENA AL ESTE ISLOTE MBANE ME COMUNICA QUE  
 PERSONADO EN DICHO BANCO Y COMUNICADO A EUROPEO  
 FRANCÉS ENCARGADO OBRAS QUE DEBIA SUSPENDERLOS  
 Y EVACUAR BANCO ARENA LE COMUNICO ESTE ACABAR  
 DE RECIBIR ORDEN DE SUS SUPERIORES EN SENTIDO  
 QUE PROXIMO LUNES DIA 14 LLEGARIA REMOLCADOR  
 FRANCÉS PARA RECOGER TRABAJADORES Y MATERIAL  
 DESALOJANDO DICHO BANCO.

14/III/55  
 Inter S. R.  




**Annex 92**

*Letter from the High Commissioner for French Equatorial Africa to the Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea (14 March 1955)*



## TRANSLATION

### COPY OF A LETTER:

FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA.- HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC.-  
BRAZZAVILLE March 14, 1955.-

YOUR EXCELLENCE:

I have the honor to inform you that the Governor of Gabon has updated me on an instrument written by Lieutenant Olmo, Head of the Cogo Sector, regarding what the Head of the Cocobeach District did about the construction of a beacon, undertaken by the Public Works Service of Gabon, on the islet of Cocotiers (about six miles southeast of Corisco Island). Lieutenant Olmo has specifically asked whether any agreement had been reached between the French and Spanish authorities, before the execution of these works.

I would lament if you had not been informed, in advance, of this beacon's construction since the provisions of Article 5 of the Franco-Spanish Convention [Treaty of Paris] of June 27, 1900, seem to be aimed more particularly at the Muni riverbank accesses. Moreover, when my services learned of these works, they thought that the Commander of the hydrographic vessel "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRÉ" had raised this issue with the Commander of the "CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO" gunboat at the November 6, 1954, meeting on Corisco Island and that no objection had been raised.

Finally, I must point out that this beacon, which should have a platform for a topographic equipment station, is mainly to facilitate "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRÉ's" next operation, allowing the ship to continue the task it began in the last year, in accordance with the Spanish Government.

I doubt you will find any problem in activating this small work, which has the legal backing of Article 5 of the June 27, 1900, Convention [Treaty of Paris]. I have requested that Paris provide more information on this for me and will keep you henceforth informed of the beacon construction works to be executed in Corisco Bay.

I pray that Your Excellence will accept the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Signed.- Illegible.- Stamped.-

His Excellence the Governor General of the Spanish Possessions in the Gulf of Guinea. - SANTA ISABEL (Fernando Póo)



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## COPIA DE UN ESCRITO:

AFRICA ECUATORIAL FRANCESA.- ALTO COMISARIO DE LA REPUBLICA.-  
BRAZZAVILLE 14 de marzo de 1955.-

## EXCELENCIA:

Tengo el honor de informarle, que he sido puesto al corriente por el Señor Gobernador del Gabon, de una diligencia hecha por el Teniente Olmo, Jefe del Sector de Cogo, respecto a lo hecho por el Señor Jefe del Distrito de Coco-Beach, en el asunto de la construcción de una baliza, emprendida por el Servicio de Trabajo Público del Gabon, sobre el Islote de Cocotier situado al rededor de seis millas al Sud Este de la Isla de Corisco. El Señor Teniente Olmo ha solicitado particularmente saber; si habia intervenido algun acuerdo entre las Autoridades Superiores francesas y españolas, antes de la ejecución de estos trabajos.

Sentiria mucho que Vd. no hubiera sido prevenido de la construcción de este balizamiento ya que todavia las disposiciones del Artículo 5º de la Convención franco-española de 27 de junio de 1900, parecen apuntar mas especialmente a los accesos de la ribera del Muni. Además en el momento de aprender estos trabajos, mis servicios pensaron que en el encuentro previsto el dia 6 de Noviembre de 1954, en los parajes de la Isla de Corisco, el Señor Comandante del buque Hidrografico "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRE", habia sostenido esta cuestión con el Señor Comandante del Cañonero "CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO" y que no se habia elevado ninguna objeción a este asunto.

Finalmente, creo que debo señalarle, que este balizamiento, que debe llevar una plataforma para la puesta de estación de aparatos topograficos y tiene por principal objeto, facilitar la proxima campaña del "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRE", permitiendo a éste buque proseguir la tarea comenzada en el último año, de acuerdo con el Gobierno español.

No creo que Vd. vea algun inconveniente en activar esta pequeña obra, que lleva el respaldo juridico del Artículo 5º de la Convención de 27 de junio de 1900, habiendo solicitado de Paris me lo precise, teniendole de aqui en adelante informado, de los trabajos de balizaje a ejecutar en la bahia de Corisco.

Le ruego. Excelencia, acepte la seguridad de mi más alta consideración.

Firmado.- Ilegible.- Rubricado.-

Excmo. Señor Gobernador General de las posesiones españolas del Golfo de Guinea.- SANTA ISABEL ( Fernando Poo)





### **Annex 93**

*Letter from the Governor-General of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea to the High Commissioner for French Equatorial Africa (22 March 1955)*



## TRANSLATION

[crest]  
 THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
 OF THE SPANISH TERRITORIES ON THE  
 GULF OF GUINEA

Santa Isabel (Fernando Póo) on March 22, 1955.  
 His Excellency the High Commissioner of  
 the Republic of French Equatorial Africa.  
BRAZZAVILLE.

YOUR EXCELLENCE:

I have in my possession your letter dated the 14th of this March, in which you refer to the construction of a beacon by personnel under your orders on the sandbank east of the islet of Mbanié.

On this subject, I have the honor of sharing the following with Your Excellency:

1.- During discussions at the anchorage at Corisco Island, between the Commander of "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRÉ" (the hydrographic vessel) and the Commander of the "CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO" gunboat, it was agreed that all the necessary facilities would be provided for the construction—on territory under Spanish sovereignty—of as many signals as necessary to carry out the hydrographic work, as long they are of temporary nature and the Territorial Administrator of Cogo is informed in advance. The Territorial Administrator of Cogo had orders from my authority to make no objection against the execution of the aforementioned works.

2.- When I learned that construction work of a permanent nature was being carried out on the sandbank to the east of the islet of Mbanié and in its territorial waters, I ordered that such work be stopped. Said construction work should not have been carried out in any way, since the discussions between the Commanders of the ships, logically, only took into account works of a temporary nature.

3.- This islet belongs to Spain who asserted its sovereignty by installation of a garrison of Spanish forces, which was withdrawn in 1912 as it was no longer necessary. Coriscan natives continued to inhabit [the islet of Mbanié] until just a few years ago.

4.- I consider that permanent beaconing works in Spanish sovereign territory must be carried out by the Sovereign Nation. However, and taking into account the usefulness of the aforementioned work which facilitates navigation through those areas, there is no reason why Spain should not finish it, with that administration covering the expenses incurred.

5.- The French hydrographic survey personnel may use the aforementioned beacon as many times as necessary for their work, without objection.

I pray that Your Excellence will accept the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

[stamp: COPY]

GOVERNOR-GENERAL



**WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS, LLC**

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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Mary McKee, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





EL GOBERNADOR GENERAL  
DE LOS  
TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES DEL GOLFO DE GUINEA

Santa Isabel (Fernando Poo) a 22 de marzo de 1955.

Excelentísimo Señor Alto Comisario de la República del Africa Ecuatorial francesa.

BRAZZAVILLE.

EXCELENCIA:

Ha sido en mi poder su atento escrito de fecha 14 del actual mes de marzo, en el que se refiere a la construcción de una baliza por personal a sus órdenes en el banco de arena al Este del Islote Mbañe.

Sobre éste asunto, tengo el honor de exponer a Su Excelencia, lo siguiente:

1º.-En la conversación que en el fondeadero de la Isla de Corisco sostuvieron el Comandante del buque hidrográfico "BEAUTEMPS BEAUPRE", con el Comandante del Canoero "CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO", quedaron de acuerdo en que serían dadas cuantas facilidades fueran precisas para el levantamiento en territorio de Soberanía española, de cuantas señales fuesen necesarias para llevar a cabo los trabajos hidrográficos, siempre que tuviesen un carácter eventual y se pusieran previamente en conocimiento del Administrador Territorial de Cogo, el cual tenía órdenes de mi Autoridad, para no poner el mas mínimo inconveniente a la ejecución de las citadas obras.

2º.-Cuando fui informado de que, en el banco de arena al Este del Islote Mbañe, incluido en aguas jurisdiccionales de dicho Islote se levaba a efecto la construcción de una obra de carácter permanente que de ninguna manera debía efectuarse, ya que en las conversaciones sostenidas por los Comandantes de los buques solo se tuvieron en cuenta -como es lógico- las de carácter eventual, di la orden de que dicha obra quedase paralizada.

3º.- Dicho Islote, pertenece a España quien afirmó su Soberanía por una guarnición de fuerzas españolas que fueron retiradas por no considerarse necesarias el año 1912, y que siguió habitado por indígenas de Corisco hasta hace muy pocos años.

4º.- Considero que las obras de balizamiento de carácter permanente en territorio de la Soberanía española, deben ser llevadas a cabo por la Nación Soberana, no obstante, y teniendo en cuenta la utilidad de la citada obra que facilita la navegación por aquellos parajes, no existe inconveniente en terminarla por cuenta de España, sufragando a esa Administración los gastos que se le hayan originado.

5º.-No se pondrá ningún inconveniente para que por el personal francés hidrográfico, se utilice la citada obra cuantas veces le sea preciso para sus observaciones.

Ruego, Excelencia, acepte la seguridad de mi más alta consideración y estima.

COPIA

GOBERNADOR GENERAL



**Annex 94**

The French Republic, *Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Minister of Overseas France* (6 May 1955)





## TRANSLATION

LM/AR  
MINISTRY  
OF  
**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**GENERAL OFFICE OF  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS**  
Northern Africa Office  
Africa Sub-Office  
No. 438 AL

FRENCH REPUBLIC

Diplomatic pouch of May 12, 1955 May 6, 1955

Registration: 692

Classification: 127

DELIVERY NOTE

AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE IN MADRID

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS	NUMBER	OBSERVATIONS
<p>Subject: Incidents regarding the islet of "Cocotier" ---</p> <p>Copy of letter dated today, addressed to the Minister of Overseas France – Political Affairs – 3<sup>rd</sup> Office</p>	1	<p>For information</p> <p>[Ministry of Foreign Affairs seal]</p>

**TRANSLATION**

LM/AR

GENERAL OFFICE OF POLITICAL  
AFFAIRS

---  
Northern Africa Office  
Africa Sub-Office  
---

No. AL

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
TO  
THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS FRANCE  
Political Affairs – 3<sup>rd</sup> Office

Incidents regarding the islet of "Cocotier"  
(Spanish Guinea-  
[ ] Ref.: your letters no.  
[ ] dated March 28, 1955, and no.  
[ ] dated April 19, 1955  
[left margin cut off]

Your above-referenced correspondence informed me of the incident that occurred between the head of the Kogo District (Spanish Guinea) and the head of the Cocobeach District (French Equatorial Africa) during the construction of a cement buoy on the islet of "Cocotier," located approximately six miles southeast of the Spanish island of Corisco. When the construction of the work was nearly finished, an armed Spanish detachment of four men debarked there and ordered interruption of the work.

As a result of these events, you asked me to

**TRANSLATION**

– 2 –

provide information on the following points:

1) The existence of any documents establishing the respective rights of France and Spain to the Corisco Bay islands.

2) The applicable interpretation of Article 5 of the June 27, 1900, Convention.

With regard to the first point, after examining the files in my Department, there is nothing that allows the nationality of the Corisco Bay islands to be confirmed, other than for the islands of Elobay, Corisco and Añobon. These islands are formally acknowledged to be owned by Spain, either in the preliminary reports for the June 27, 1900, Convention or in the text of said diplomatic instrument, itself. Baynia (or Bañe) Island, the primary land mass emerging from the bank to which the "Cocotier" islet belongs, did not, specifically, appear in any text.

The silence in these texts requires us to consider the facts. Nonetheless, considering that the "Cocotier" islet must be considered as following the fate of Baynia Island, of which it is a geographical dependency, I believe that:

Over the past fifty years, Baynia Island was occupied by the Spanish on several occasions, without protest or alternate occupation by us.

Baynia Island is located within the six nautical mile-

## TRANSLATION

– 3 –

limit forming the boundary of Spanish territorial waters.

With regard to the second point, I believe that the ambiguous text of Article 5 of the 1900 Convention does not allow Spain to use it as an argument. In fact, this article only refers to the waters of the Muni River, which does not include the “Cocotier” islet. To the contrary, it even seems that this text, considered in isolation, allows justifying a unilateral beaconing action by our Government.

That, however, is a disputable interpretation.

Furthermore, the situation of the islet within Corisco’s territorial waters places us in a disadvantageous basic legal position.

I believe that all of this information requires us to adopt a prudent, flexible attitude. This is why I think that the incident should be settled locally.

That being said, both Madrid’s approval of our hydrographic ship’s arrival in Corisco’s waters and Corisco naval authorities’ cooperation last November in the preparatory beaconing operations,

**TRANSLATION**

– 4 –

suggests that an understanding between the two Governors would be possible. The explanatory letter that the High Commissioner in French Equatorial Africa sent last March to the Governor General of the Spanish Establishments in the Gulf of Guinea can be used as a starting point for arriving at such an agreement.

It is not as you think, that only if the local Spanish authorities do not do so, then settlement of this matter should be sought between the two Governments.



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This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Karen Brovey, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from French into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the French text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/12/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



LM/AR

MINISTÈRE  
DES  
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

VALISE DU 12 5 55
ENREGISTREMENT: 692
CLASSIFICATION: 127

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES AFFAIRES POLITIQUES


- 6 MAI 1955

**BORDEREAU D'ENVOI.**

Direction d'Afrique-Levant  
Sous-Direction d'Afrique

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR DE FRANCE A MADRID

N° 438 AL

DESIGNATION DES PIÈCES	NOMBRE.	OBSERVATIONS.
<p>A/S : Incidents de l'flot "Cocotier".</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Copie de la lettre adressée en date de ce jour à Monsieur le Ministre de la France d'Outre-Mer - Affaires Politiques - 3ème Bureau</p>	1	<p>Pour information.</p> 

J. 407095. [39205]

LM/AR

RECTION GENERALE DES AFFAIRES  
POLITIQUES

Direction d'Afrique-Levant  
Sous-Direction d'Afrique

N° /AL

LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

à

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DE LA FRANCE D'OUTRE-MER  
- Affaires Politiques - 3ème Bureau -

Objet : "Incidents de l'îlot  
Cocotier" (Guinée Espagno-  
Réf. : vos lettres N°  
du 28 Mars 1955 et N°  
du 19 Avril 1955.

Votre correspondance citée en référence m'a informé de l'incident survenu entre le Chef du Secteur de Kogo (Guinée Espagnole) et le Chef du District de Cocobeach (Afrique Equatoriale Française), à l'occasion de la construction d'une balise en ciment sur l'îlot "Cocotier" situé à environ six milles au Sud-Est de l'île espagnole de Corisco et qui a finalement abouti, alors que la construction de l'ouvrage était presque terminée, au débarquement d'un détachement armé espagnol de quatre hommes qui a imposé l'interruption des travaux.

En fonction de ces événements, vous me demandez de

.../...



- 2 -

préciser les points suivants :

1°) Existence éventuelle de documents établissant les droits respectifs de la France et de l'Espagne sur les flots de la baie de Corisco.

2°) Interprétation qu'il convient de donner aux termes de l'article 5 de la Convention du 27 Juin 1900.

En ce qui concerne le premier point, rien ne permet, après examen des archives de mon Département, d'affirmer la nationalité des fles de la Baie de Corisco, autres que les fles Elobay, Corisco, et Añobon dont l'appartenance à l'Espagne est formellement reconnue, soit dans les rapports préparatoires à la Convention du 27 Juin 1900, soit dans le texte même de cet instrument diplomatique. Le nom de l'île Baynia (ou Bañis), qui constitue la principale terre émergée du banc auquel appartient l'flot "Cocotier", n'apparaît, en particulier, dans aucun texte.

Le silence des textes nous oblige à considérer les faits. Or, estimant que l'flot "Cocotier" doit être considéré comme suivant le sort de l'île Baynia dont il est une dépendance géographique, je crois savoir :

Que l'île Baynia a été à plusieurs reprises, au cours des cinquantes dernières années occupée par les Espagnols sans protestation ou sans occupation alternée de notre part

Que l'île Baynia se trouve située à l'intérieur des six

.../...

milles marins formant la limite des eaux territoriales espagnoles.

En ce qui concerne le second point, j'estime que la rédaction ambiguë de l'article 5 de la Convention de 1900 ne permet pas à l'Espagne d'en tirer argument. Cet article ne vise en effet que les eaux de la rivière Mouny, ce qui n'inclue pas l'flot "Cocotier". Il semble même que ce texte considéré isolément, permette de justifier, à contrario, une action unilatérale de notre Gouvernement en matière de balisage.

C'est là toutefois une interprétation controversable.

De plus la situation de l'flot à l'intérieur des eaux territoriales de Corisco nous place dans une position juridique de base désavantageuse.

J'estime que l'ensemble de ces données nous impose une attitude de prudence et de souplesse. C'est pourquoi il me paraîtrait souhaitable que l'incident puisse être réglé localement.

Etant donné, tant l'approbation fournie par le Gouvernement de Madrid à la venue de notre navire hydrographe dans les eaux de Corisco, que la coopération fournie en Novembre dernier par les autorités navales de Corisco, aux opérations préparatoires au balisage, il semble qu'une enten-

.../...

- 4 -

te, à l'échelon des deux Gouverneurs, devrait pouvoir intervenir. La lettre explicative adressée au Mars dernier par le Haut-Commissaire en Afrique Equatoriale Française au Gouverneur Général des Etablissements Espagnols du Golfe de Guinée pourrait servir de point de départ à la recherche d'un tel accord.

Ce n'est comme vous l'estimez vous-même, qu'au cas où les autorités espagnoles locales se déroberaient qu'il conviendrait de rechercher le règlement de cette affaire à l'échelon des deux Gouvernements./.



## **Annex 95**

The Spanish State, *File D 474 Secret Document from the General Directorate of Morocco and African Provinces to the Governor General of Santa Isabel (7 June 1958)*



**TRANSLATION**

**TRANSCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS.**

**FIRST DOCUMENT: FILE D 474. Secret document. Sent by the General Directorate for Morocco and African Provinces to the Governor General of Santa Isabel.**

Guinea 667                    (Stamp dated June 9, 1958)

SUBJECT: Terms governing the  
regime of the Spanish Territories of the  
Gulf of Guinea

Honorable Sir:

I have the honor of communicating to Your Excellency that, according to our reports, the Bill on Terms has been submitted to the Courts for their review, and the text of the bill is as follows:

“The Spanish overseas political tradition and the sacrifice and selflessness shown by Spain in the administration and governance of the Territories of Guinea have enabled these territories to overcome the phase of indispensable evolution and reach the degree of progress sufficient to be considered full legal members within the Spanish community. These reasons give rise to the need to adjust their regime to Spain’s administrative organization and it is for this purpose that the Decree dated August 21, 1956, and these terms are geared, as they shall guide the creation of any legal framework to be adopted.

By virtue thereof, the undersecretary of the presidential cabinet, upon prior agreement with the Council of Ministers, has the honor of submitting to the Spanish courts the following

BILL

The regime and organization of the territories of the Gulf of Guinea shall be adjusted to the following rules:

Rule 1 – The areas known as “Fernando Póo” and “Continental Guinea” are Spanish provinces.

## TRANSLATION

The province of Fernando Póo shall include the territory that bears its name as well as the island of Annobón and its adjacent islets. The province of Continental Guinea shall include its present territories and the islands of Corisco, Elobey Grande, Elobey Chico, and Mbane. In the administrative subdivisions that may be created out of these territories, the different natural entities that make them up shall be taken into account.

Rule 2 – The public and private legal regime for the aforementioned provinces shall be configured in accordance with the directives that inspire the legislation by which the rest of the national territory is governed, while remaining mindful of the peculiarities of those provinces.

Rule 3 – The rights and duties of Spanish citizens from the provinces of Guinea are those governed by the fundamental laws of the Spanish State and their individual, complementary provisions, without regard for color, race or religious creed.

In the sphere of private law, adequate protective measures shall be maintained and existing aborigine privileges shall be recognized.

(Next page)

2

Guinea

667

Rule 4 – Until such time as guidelines for the implementation of these rules are set by the President, upon prior deliberation by the Council of Ministers, the provinces of Guinea shall continue to be governed by the provisions presently in force therein. Only those general provisions handed down henceforth upon the express authorization of the President shall be applicable.”

I convey this to Your Excellency for your information.

May God keep Your Excellency many years.

Madrid, June 7, 1958

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,

The Honorable Governor General of the Gulf of Guinea Province of Santa Isabel.



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/12/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





**TRANSCRIPCIÓN DE DOCUMENTOS.**

**PRIMER DOCUMENTO: LEGAJO D 474. Documento secreto.  
Remitido por la Dirección General de Marruecos y  
Provincias Africanas al Gobernador General de  
Santa Isabel.**

Guinea 667 (Sello fecha 9 Junio  
de 1958) ASUNTO: Bases sobre  
régimen de los Territorios  
Españoles del Golfo de Guinea.

Excmo. Sr.:

Tengo el honor de comunicar a V.E. que, según nuestros informes, ha sido remitido a las Cortes, para su estudio, un Proyecto de ley de Bases, cuyo texto es como sigue:

“ La tradicional política española de Ultramar y el sacrificio y desinterés mostrados por España en la administración y gobierno de los Territorios de Guinea han permitido a éstos superar la fase de indispensable evolución y alcanzar el grado de progreso suficiente para ser considerados con plenitud jurídica dentro de la comunidad española. Estas razones determinan la necesidad de adecuar su régimen a la organización administrativa de España y a ello se encaminan el Decreto de 21 de agosto de 1956 y las presentes bases, que han de ser directrices del Estado jurídico que se adopte.

En su virtud, el Ministro Subsecretario de la Presidencia del Gobierno, previo acuerdo del Consejo de Ministros, tiene el honor de someter a las Cortes Españolas el siguiente

**PROYECTO DE LEY**

El régimen y organización de los territorios del Golfo de Guinea se ajustará a las bases siguientes:

Base 1ª- Son provincias españolas las denominadas “Fernando Poo” y “Guinea Continental”.

La Provincia de Fernando Poo comprenderá el territorio de su nombre y el de la isla de Annobón, con los islotes adyacentes. La provincia de Guinea Continental comprenderá sus actuales territorios y los insulares de Corisco, Elobey Grande, Elobey Chico y Mbañe. En las divisiones administrativas que de las mismas pueden efectuarse, se tendrán en cuenta las distintas unidades naturales que las integran.

Base 2ª- El régimen jurídico, público y privado, de las provincias expresadas, se configurará de acuerdo con las directrices que inspiran la legislación por que se rige el resto del territorio nacional, pero teniendo en cuenta las peculiaridades de aquellas provincias.

Base3ª- Los derechos y deberes de los españoles de las provincias de Guinea, sin diferencias de color, raza o confesión religiosa, son los regulados por las leyes fundamentales del Estado y disposiciones complementarias peculiares.

En la esfera del Derecho Privado se mantendrán las medidas protectoras adecuadas y se reconocerán los privilegios existentes a favor de los aborígenes.

(Vuelta de página)

2

Guinea  
667

Base 4ª- Hasta tanto sean dictadas por la Presidencia del Gobierno, previa deliberación del Consejo de Ministros, las normas que desarrollen las presentes Bases, continuarán rigiéndose las provincias de Guinea por las disposiciones vigentes actualmente en las mismas, y sólo les serán de aplicación aquellas disposiciones generales que se dicten en lo sucesivo cuando de modo expreso se establezca así por acuerdo de la Presidencia del Gobierno.”

Lo digo a V.E. para su conocimiento.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

Madrid, 7 de junio de 1958.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL,

Excmo. Sr. Gobernador General de la provincia del Golfo de Guinea- Santa Isabel.

## **Annex 96**

The United Kingdom, *Letter No. 10132/14 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the British Embassy to The Spanish State* (4 August 1959)



FO 371/137947

(10132/14)

UNCLASSIFIED



BRITISH EMBASSY,

MADRID.

August 4, 1959.

RECEIVED IN  
ARCHIVES  
5 AUG 1959

J 10122/2

Dear Department,

Would you please refer to our letter 10132/8 of February 6<sup>1959</sup> about the reorganisation by the Spanish Government of Spanish West African Territory.

2. The meeting of the Cortes on July 28 - 29 approved the form of a projected law similarly converting the Spanish territories in equatorial Africa into Spanish Provinces.

3. The new provinces are to be called Fernando Poo and Rio Muni. The Province of Fernando Poo will comprise the territory of that name and the Island of Annobón, together with its adjacent islands; the Province of Rio Muni will comprise the territories of continental Guinea and the islands of Corisco, Elobey Grande, Elobey Chico and Mbañe.

4. When the law is published we will let you have a copy.

5. We are sending copies of this letter to Duala, Fernando Poo, Paris, the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, and to the United Kingdom High Commissioner at Lagos.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

African Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1

TRANSLATION

LAW No. 46 OF JULY 30, 1959, REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND LEGAL SYSTEM OF THE AFRICAN PROVINCES ( Official Bulletin of 31st July, 1959).

The Decree of August 21, 1956, brought to a close a period during which a multitude of provisions were issued regulating the different aspects of life in the Spanish provinces of the Gulf of Guinea. It is necessary, as a result of the experiences obtained by the application of such provisions, to achieve the establishment of a general regulation. In drafting this law the consolidation of two main directives has been taken into account. First, that the provisions of a general or special character, to be enforced in the said territories, should follow similar principles to those regulating the other provinces. And the other, that the natural and customary characteristics of the said overseas region shall be respected.

This last directive conforms to a deep rooted tradition in the Spanish way of life wherein there have always been proofs of adapting the general structures, institutions and organs to the historical, social and economic characteristics. An example of this are the special regulations at present governing some Spanish provinces which tend to maintain the creative drive of the local traditions and customs which give impulse and genuine character to the provincial organization and legal system.

In this sense are established the bases upon which the general legal ordinance should rest, both in its material and in its formal aspect; the local and provincial system, the legal and administrative organization; the government of the provinces and its representative in the Cortes and labour and financial control. The development of the Law shall make evident the essential coincidence between the juridical characteristics of Fernando Po and Rio Muni with those of the rest of the Spanish provinces united in the same communal destiny.

By virtue of the above and in agreement with the proposal drafted by the Spanish Cortes :

I decree

Article 1.- The extention of the application of this Law is confined to the provinces of Fernando Po and Rio Muni.

The first province comprises the island of its name, adjacent islets and the island of Annobón.

The ...



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The second province comprises the district known up till now as Spanish Continental Guinea, and the islands of Corisco, Elobey Grande, Elobey Chico and adjacent islets.

Article 2.- The juridical, public and private system of the said provinces shall follow the directives established in the Fundamental Laws and in the common legislation governing the rest of the national territory.

The essential legal procedure, except when expressly and definitely prescribed to the contrary, contained in the provision the application of which is under discussion, shall be in force subject to the traditional and customary policy governing these provinces.

The Decree Laws, Orders and other regulations of a general or private nature shall begin to govern in these provinces twenty days after their publication in the Official Bulletin issued in the said provinces, unless another period is expressly indicated.

Article 3.- The government and administration of the provinces of Fernando Po and Rio Muni under the Presidency of the Government, corresponds to the authorities and organizations legally established in both provinces.

The organization of the various administrative services shall continue to function following the general pattern of the remaining Spanish provinces.

Combined services may be established in the two provinces.

Article 4.- The provinces of Fernando Po and Rio Muni shall have the same representative rights in the Cortes and other bodies as the rest of the Spanish provinces.

Article 5.- The administration of justice shall be entrusted exclusively to judicial organs completely independent from the executive.

The judicial re-organization shall be adapted to the general Spanish one.

Article 6.- The labour system of the provinces, bearing in mind their peculiarities, shall establish Social Insurance, cooperation and friendly societies, and the principles contained in the Labour Charter shall be developed.

Article 7.- The economic system shall continue to be inspired by the general Spanish legislation.

Article 8 .....

Article 8.- In the matter of property the principles inspired by national legislation shall be applied but maintaining the rights acquired by the present juridical regulation in any adaptation or modification which might be suitable to introduce.

Article 9.- Missionary work and the teaching profession corresponds to Spaniards, whether from the peninsula or from overseas, subject to the provisions contained in international Agreements and Treaties.

Article 10.- The provinces of Fernando Po and Rio Muni shall be divided into municipal districts, administered by Municipal Councils, and the local Councils of smaller centres of population shall come under the said Municipal Councils. The Government is authorised to carry out any necessary modifications in the administrative division of the said provinces.

Article 11.- A Governor General shall rule the two provinces as Government representative dependent upon the Presidency of the Government.

He shall be assisted by a Secretary General who shall substitute him during absence or sickness, and he shall be the direct Head of all the services of both provinces, with the exception of judicial or military services.

When the Government shall consider it convenient a Civil Governor shall be appointed for each province under the authority of the Governor General and likewise subordinated in this particular sphere to that of the Secretary General.

The Government Delegates necessary for the exercise of the functions corresponding to the Government General shall be appointed.

The powers, obligations and relations of subordination and coordination between these delegated authorities of the Central Power shall be adapted, bearing in mind the characteristics of these provinces, to the general system governing the powers and duties of the Governors.

The appointment and dismissal of the Governor General, the Secretary General and the Civil Governors shall be effected by Decree.

Article 12.- Each province shall have a Provincial Council empowered in accordance with the regulations contained in the Law of Local Administration. Each

Council . . . .

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FO 371/137947

4.

Council shall likewise be entrusted with welfare-social affairs handled until now by similar organizations.

The composition of the Provincial Councils shall be of a representative character, in accordance with provisions to be issued to that effect.

Article 13.- The Municipal Councils shall have the same representative character within their local sphere and their juridical-administrative system shall be inspired by the fundamental principles of the Law of Local Administration in so far as they are applicable to the special character of the said provinces.

Article 14.- The services rendered by public officials in these provinces shall be considered to all effects and purposes as carried out in the exercise of the normal services from which they proceed, while retaining their place on the active list of the same and also the rights corresponding to them.

Additional Article.- The Presidency of the Government shall proceed to develop the foregoing precepts and to adapt them to the body of regulations heretofore in force in the said provinces by issuing the precise regulations required.

Given in the Palace of El Pardo on the 30th of July 1959.



**Annex 97**

*Note Verbale from Embassy of Gabon in Spain to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain*  
(10 December 1963)



## TRANSLATION

Embassy of the Republic of Gabon

In Spain

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02790

The Embassy of the Republic of Gabon presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has the honor of asking the Ministry if the Spanish government would be inclined to open negotiations with the Government of Gabon, either in Rio Muni or in Gabon, for the purpose of entering into a Convention aiming to define border relations between the two countries.

The purpose of this Convention could be:

- 1) To establish a list of villages on both sides of the border that would be included in the said border zone (15 to 10 km);
- 2) To identify authorized crossing points for the movement of people;
- 3) To create a template for a border map that would be issued by the authorized authorities to people having the status of "border-region dwellers";
- 4) To exempt foodstuffs or items, within certain limits to be defined, that are being imported to Gabon or exported to Rio Muni by border-region dwellers, from all customs fees and taxes;
- 5) To plan for necessary surveillance measures to avoid any abuse of the planned exemptions, and to jointly adopt the required measures if needed.

Additionally, the government of the Republic of Gabon believes that it must make it known that it favorably views the proposals that have already been made to it, and which might be made to it by financial groups and Spanish commercial corporations that might wish

.../...

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MADRID

**TRANSLATION**

-2-

to strengthen commercial exchanges between our two countries, or participate in the industrialization of Gabon, and considers that entering into the Convention defining the border region system might, from the economic point of view, facilitate current or future arrangements.

The embassy of the Republic of Gabon takes the occasion offered to it to renew its assurances of its highest consideration, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[initials]

Paris, December 10, 1963

[stamp: Embassy, High Representative in France, Republic of Gabon, Unity, Work, Justice]

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---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/18/21

---

Date





AMBASSADE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE  
EN ESPAGNE

02790

L'Ambassade de la République Gabonaise présente ses compliments au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et a l'honneur de lui demander si le Gouvernement Espagnol serait disposé à ouvrir avec le Gouvernement Gabonais soit au RIO MUNI, soit au Gabon, des négociations en vue de la conclusion d'une Convention tendant à définir les relations frontalières entre les deux pays.

Cette Convention pourrait avoir pour objet :

- 1°/ d'arrêter la liste des villages qui, de part et d'autre de la frontière seraient à inclure dans la zone dite frontalière (15 à 10 km) ;
- 2°/ de déterminer les points de passages autorisés pour la circulation des personnes ;
- 3°/ de prévoir un modèle de carte frontalière qui serait délivrée par les autorités qualifiées pour le faire aux personnes possédant la qualité de "frontaliers" ;
- 4°/ d'exonérer les denrées ou objets susceptibles, dans une certaine limite à déterminer, d'être importés au Gabon ou exportés vers le RIO MUNI en franchise de tous droits et taxes de douane, par les frontaliers ;
- 5°/ de prévoir les mesures de surveillance nécessaire pour éviter tous abus au sujet des facilités prévues et adopter de concert, le cas échéant, les mesures qui s'imposent.

Par ailleurs, le Gouvernement de la République Gabonaise croit devoir faire savoir qu'il considère favorablement les propositions qui lui ont déjà été faites et qui pourraient lui être faites par des groupements financiers et des sociétés commerciales espagnols qui désireraient

.../...

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

M A D R I D

- 2 -

renforcer les échanges commerciaux entre nos deux pays, ou participer à l'industrialisation du Gabon, et considère que la conclusion de la Convention définissant le régime frontalier serait de nature à faciliter, sur le plan économique, les arrangements en cours ou à venir.

L'Ambassade de la République Gabonaise saisit l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour renouveler au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères les assurances de sa haute considération.

AM

Paris, le 10 décembre 1963



## **Annex 98**

*The Spanish State, Letter No. 109 from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Gabon to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (30 May 1964)*



## TRANSLATION



16 541.230 (6/18)-2

Libreville, May 30, 1964

[illegible]

FOREIGN POLICY

AFRICA

SUBJECT: Rio Muni-Gabon boundary agreement

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 109

/[handwritten] (illegible) Libreville  
9.17.64/

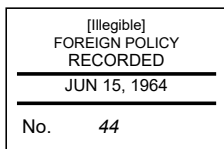
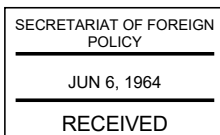
CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency:

/[stamp] MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS/

JUN. 6, 1964

*Afri*



During a recent conversation with the Minister of the National Economy of this Government, Mr. André-Gustave Anguilé, he told me of his interest in signing a boundary agreement with Rio Muni based upon the draft that was sent to you through the Embassy of Spain in Paris, and which was forwarded to the Representation of Gabon in said capital city, enclosed with a letter dated January 18 of the current year. Mr. Anguilé added that according to the calendar of activities of his Department, the negotiations could take place in October or November of this year.

After reviewing the provisions of said draft, it appears that, from a practical standpoint, it is a matter of legalizing and regulating a factual situation. Politically speaking, it represents a recognition of boundaries, which, in my opinion, has the most positive effect, [and] it would be appropriate to replace the second paragraph of Article 1 with the list of border locations and urban areas rather than including it in an attached Note, as the Gabonese draft proposes.

**TRANSLATION**



This draft was written by the Director of  
Customs, Mr. David, a French national.  
May God protect Your Excellency for many years to come.

THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN

*[signature]*

T. de Aguilar

HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

MADRID.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/12/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





16'341.222 (6718)-2

Libreville, 30 de Mayo 1964



Embajada de España

POLITICA EXTERIOR

AFRICA

RELACIONES ECONOMICAS

Num. 109

*Fecha Libreville  
9. 7. 64*

*Ante*

ASUNTO: acuerdo fronterizo Rio Muni-Gabon.

RESERVADO

Excmo. Señor:



- 6 JUN 1964

*Afri*

En reciente entrevista con el Ministro de Economía Nacional de este Gobierno, Sr. André-Gustave Anguilé, me ha expuesto su interés por llegar a la firma de un acuerdo fronterizo con Rio Muni sobre la base del proyecto enviado a V.E. a través de la Embajada de España en Paris y que fue remitido a la Representación del Gabon en aquella capital anejo a un comunicado fechado el 18 de Enero del año en curso. De acuerdo con el calendario de actividades de su Departamento, ha añadido el Sr. Anguilé, las negociaciones podrian tener lugar durante el mes de Octubre o Noviembre próximos.

SECRETARIA DE POLITICA EXTERIOR  
- 6 JUN 1964  
ENTRADA

SECRETARIA DE POLITICA EXTERIOR  
REGISTRADO  
15 JUN 1964  
N.º 44

Examinado el articulado del citado proyecto resulta, desde el punto de vista práctico, que se trata de legalizar una situación de hecho y reglamentarla. Políticamente considerado representa un reconocimiento de fronteras a cuyo mas positivo efecto está-mo podria ser conveniente sustituir el párrafo segundo del Artículo primero por la enumeración de localidades y aglomeraciones fronterizas en lugar de figurar en Nota aneja, como el proyecto gabones propone.



Embajada de España

Este proyecto ha sido redactado por el Director de Aduanas, Sr. David, de nacionalidad francesa.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

EL EMBAJADOR DE ESPAÑA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. de Aguilar', written in a cursive style.

T. de Aguilar

EXCMO. SEÑOR MINISTRO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES.- M A D R I D.

**Annex 99**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 223 from the Ambassador of Spain in Rio Muni to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (6 May 1965)



## TRANSLATION



FOREIGN POLICY  
AFRICA  
No. 223

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
General Register  
MAY 14, [19]65

*18-341-220 (6/1.0)-3*

Libreville, May 6, 1965

SUBJECT: Guinean-Gabonese Boundary Agreement

*/[handwritten] Date 5-25-65/*

Recorded  
MAY 18, 1965  
No. 103

Your Excellency:

Further to my dispatch No. 217, dated the 4th of the present month, I am sending you attached hereto the original Note signed by the Vice President of this Government, Mr. Yembit, which is a counterproposal to the one that was, undoubtedly, made by the Rio Muni Authorities with respect to establishing cross-border movement locations as provided in the text of the Convention.

I am also enclosing a list of Gabonese localities situated within the 10 km border area and a list of thoroughfares proposed by this Government. Both documents are appendices to the referenced Note.

I kindly reiterate to Your Excellency the content of the above-cited dispatch requesting instructions.

May God protect Your Excellency for many years to come.

THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN

*[signature]*  
T. de Aguilar

HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MADRID.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

GABONESE REPUBLIC  
----  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC  
----  
REF. **00949/P.R.**

UNION – WORK – JUSTICE  
---

SPANISH EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE  
Annex no 1 to Message  
No. 223 dated May 6, 1965

1

Libreville, **April 23, 1965**

-----  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*The President of the Gabonese Republic  
Head of Government*

-----  
Ministry of Finance

To the Spanish Ambassador

-----  
Department of Customs and  
Indirect Taxes  
-----

LIBREVILLE

Subject: Convention between the Gabonese Republic and Rio Muni relative to border traffic and trade

-----

To the Ambassador:

Article 1 of the Convention between the Gabonese Republic and Rio Muni relative to border traffic and trade, initialed in Bata on January 23, 1965, states that an exchange of letters will determine the list of places and settlements included within the 10 kilometer zone whose permanent residents may be considered as cross-border commuters pursuant to article 2 and, under these conditions, may benefit from a "border card."

It was also agreed to specify the mandatory crossing points established in article 4 of said convention.

As a result, I am pleased to enclose herewith:

- on the one hand, the list of Gabonese places included in the border zone;
- on the other hand, the proposals by my Government relative to crossing points that may be authorized for cross-border commuter traffic.

con't.



**TRANSLATION**

– 2 –

These proposals only include fifteen crossing points other than those formulated by your Government, for the following reasons:

1. Some crossing points appearing on the list presented by Rio Muni require surveillance that is particularly difficult to oversee due to their distance from Gabonese customs stations; if these points are selected as mandatory crossing points, traffic by cross-border commuters will be detoured toward them, to the detriment of points that are controlled or easily controllable by customs offices and stations, of which there are currently nine;
2. It is indispensable to limit the number of crossing points, since their proliferation risks making customs control ineffective, which would be contrary to the spirit of the Convention.

Please let me know if the Government of Rio Muni approves these proposals.

If so, the contracting parties may agree to make the provisions of the Convention applicable as of January 1, 1966, which would give the implementing departments reasonable time to allow them to establish the control mechanism and issue and distribute border cards.

I would also appreciate your informing me of the date on which the plenipotentiary representative of the Rio Muni Government may go to Libreville to sign the Convention.

Respectfully,

For the President of the Republic  
The Vice President of the Government  
[signature]  
[illegible stamp]  
P.M. YEMBIT

## TRANSLATION

### LIST OF LOCATIONS IN THE GABONESE REPUBLIC included in the 10 km. border zone (from north to south and east to west)

#### I. WOLEU-N'TEM REGION

##### a) District of BITAM

x Bikas  
 x Alene  
 Akomsi  
 Ntourandia  
 Mékomo  
 x Alene  
 x Bikas  
 Messoumo  
 Mekome  
 Mfoumou  
 Meyo Kye  
 Nkoumedoume  
 Ebome  
 Mobogo  
 Nsimy  
 Tho  
 Aloume  
 Meleme  
 Metchu  
 Mbo  
 Adzabilone  
 Fong  
 Nkolayop  
 Oyem village  
 Bilebidoua  
 Mvan

##### b) District of OYEM

Ebot  
 Bengoye I et II  
 Kos  
 Emieng  
 Assok I et II  
 Anguie  
 Abam Eba  
 Ingasse  
 Akinitom  
 Ingong ( Okas )  
 Melene  
 Miboué  
 Essong  
 Abame  
 Alène  
 Abana  
 Andoumézé  
 Doua  
 Ekounevong  
 Ovine  
 Oveng Abè I et II  
 Olong  
 Akak  
 Ntong  
 Ossas I et II  
 Essong Abam I et II  
 Oveng Abè II  
 Angoum?

.../...

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

- 2 -

c) District of MITZIC

Sam I et II  
 Mbolenzork  
 Nzeik I  
 Adzabilone  
 Onol  
 Nkane  
 Yinassessogo  
 Alarmitang  
 Zogomitang  
 Alenass  
 X Abenelang  
 Aonela  
 Neengmitang  
 Doumandzou  
 X Abenelang  
 Okogayo  
 Assengassi  
 Biyene  
 Nzoua  
 Mebolo II  
 Mebolo on oua  
 Assi  
 Nongzork  
 Assen  
 Nkamenvi  
 Angouma  
 Binigi  
 Bissobimam  
 Elélem  
 Asengasi  
 Ono  
 Oboui  
 Abangayo.

d) District of MEDOUNEU

Koumadza  
 Efont  
 Akan  
 Egnangmelon  
 Eyamayong  
 Egnang  
 Medouneu  
 Abamasi  
 Nifala  
 Edounassi  
 Nangbang  
 Atout  
 Efoulan  
 Abogotome  
 Etsame  
 Koume  
 Mbé  
 Olong  
 Ntan  
 Ngoneki  
 Nkinen  
 Mveign  
 Edoune  
 Nzogbour  
 Zoerbermitang  
 Avang

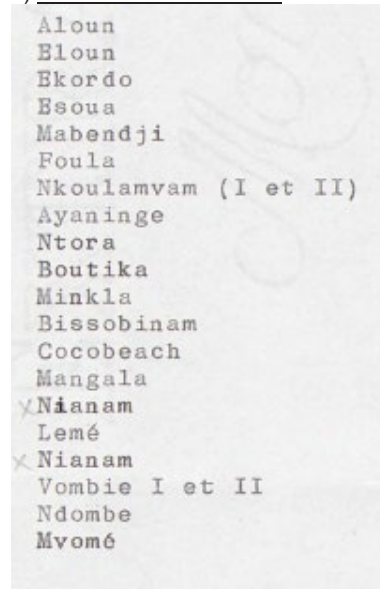
.../...

**TRANSLATION**

- 3 -

II. ESTUAIRE REGION

e) District of COCOBEACH



Aloun  
Eloun  
Ekordo  
Esoua  
Mabendji  
Foula  
Nkoulamvam (I et II)  
Ayaninge  
Ntora  
Boutika  
Minkla  
Bissobinam  
Cocobeach  
Mangala  
x Nianam  
Lemé  
x Nianam  
Vombie I et II  
Ndombe  
Mvomé

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

### COMMON BORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF GABON AND RIO MUNI

#### Proposed Crossing Points

	<i>Correspondence with Rio Muni Administration numbering</i>
	1
1. Road from Bitem – Ebebeyin, through Meyó Kye	1
2. Trail from Ngong (Rio Muni) to Nkoloyop (Gabon)	5
3. Path from Alem (Rio Muni) to Akam (Gabon)	6
4. Path from Anunguon (Rio Muni) to Ebot (Gabon)	7
5. Path from Ngemété (Rio Muni) to Bilossi (Gabon)	8
6. Path from Mibang (Rio Muni) to Assok (Gabon)	9
7. Oyem-Mongomo Road through Abam Eba (customs post)	10
8. Path from Ebong (Rio Muni) [to] Enuç (Gabon)	11
9. Path from Asoc (Rio Muni) to Doua (Gabon)	13
10. Path from Asinegosi (Rio Muni) to Oveng Abe (Gabon)	14
11. Path from Nzork (Rio Muni) to Avo (Gabon)	15
12. Path from Nzork (Rio Muni) to Sam (Gabon)	16
13. Path from Masomo (Rio Muni) to Efulalan (Gabon)	19
14. Road from Acurnam to Medouneu	20
15. Rio Muni Estuary – Iradier Port – Cocobeach	24



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---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/12/21

---

Date





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---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/09/21

---

Date







N° 341.222 (611.8V)-3

Libreville, 6 de Mayo 1965



Embajada de España  
POLITICA EXTERIOR

AFRICA

Num. 223

ASUNTO: Acuerdo fronterizo guineo-gabones.



Excmo. Señor:

Como continuación a mi despacho num. 217, de 4 de los corrientes, adjunto tengo la honra de pasar a manos de V.E. Nota original firmada por el Vicepresidente de este Gobierno, Sr. Yembit, contrapropuesta a la, sin duda, formulada por las Autoridades de Rio Muni, sobre fijación de lugares de circulación fronteriza que prevee el texto del Convenio.

Incluyo igualmente una lista de localidades gabonesas comprendidas en la zona fronteriza de 10 kms. y relación de lugares de paso que este Gobierno propone, ambos documentos anejos a la Nota de referencia.

Me permito reiterar a V.E. el contenido del despacho citado, rogando instrucciones.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

EL EMBAJADOR DE ESPAÑA

T. de Aguilar

EXCMO. SEÑOR MINISTRO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES.- M A D R I D.

*Fecha 25-5-65*

GENERAL  
DE AFRICA  
Registrado  
18 MAY. 1965  
N° 103

RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE

UNION - TRAVAIL - JUSTICE

EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA EN LIBREVILLE

Anejo núm. 1 al Despacho  
núm. 223 de 6-5-1965PRÉSIDENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

Libreville, le

23 AVRIL 1965

00949

RÉF. .... / P. R.

Le Président de la République Gabonaise

Chef du Gouvernement

Ministère des Affaires  
Etrangères

à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne

Ministère des Finances

LIBREVILLE

Direction des Douanes,  
et Droits Indirects

Objet. - Convention entre la République Gabonaise et le Rio Muni relative à la circulation et aux échanges frontaliers-

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

La Convention entre la République Gabonaise et le Rio Muni relative à la circulation et aux échanges frontaliers paraphée à Bata, le 23 janvier 1965, prévoit, dans son article premier, qu'un échange de lettres déterminera la liste des localités et agglomérations comprises dans la zone des 10 kilomètres dont les résidents permanents pourront être considérés comme frontaliers au sens de l'article 2 et susceptibles, dans ces conditions, de bénéficier de la "Carte frontalière".

Il a été convenu en outre de préciser les points de passage obligatoires, prévus à l'article 4 de ladite convention.

En conséquence, j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre ci-joint :

- d'une part, la liste des localités gabonaises incluses dans la zone frontalière ;
- d'autre part, les propositions de mon Gouvernement relatives aux points de passage qui pourraient être autorisés à la circulation des frontaliers.

.../...

-2-

Ces propositions qui ne retiennent que quinze points de passage, différent de celles formulées par votre Gouvernement, pour les raisons suivantes :

- 1°/ Certains des points de passage figurant sur la liste présentée par le Rio Muni, nécessitent une surveillance particulièrement difficile à exercer en raison de leur éloignement des postes de douane gabonais ; si ces points sont retenus comme lieux de passage obligatoire, la circulation des frontaliers se trouvera détournée vers eux au détriment des points contrôlés ou aisément contrôlables par les bureaux et postes de douane, au nombre de neuf actuellement ;
- 2°/ Il est indispensable de limiter le nombre des points de passage, leur prolifération risquant de rendre le contrôle douanier inopérant, ce qui serait contraire à l'esprit de la Convention.

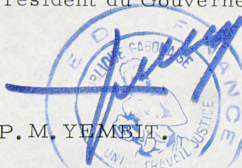
Je vous prie de bien vouloir me faire connaître si ces propositions rencontrent l'assentiment du Gouvernement du Rio Muni.

Dans l'affirmative, les Parties Contractantes pourraient convenir de rendre applicables les dispositions de la Convention à compter du 1er janvier 1966, ce qui laisserait aux services d'exécution un délai raisonnable pour leur permettre la mise en place du dispositif de contrôle ainsi que l'émission et la distribution des cartes frontalières.

Je vous serais obligé, en outre, de bien vouloir me tenir informé de la date à laquelle le représentant plénipotentiaire du Gouvernement du Rio Muni pourra se rendre à Libreville pour procéder à la signature de la Convention.

Je vous prie de recevoir, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma haute considération.

P. le Président de la République  
Le Vice-Président du Gouvernement,

  
P. M. YEMBEIT

LISTE des LOCALITES DE LA REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE  
incluses dans la zone frontalière des 10 Kms -  
( du Nord au Sud et de l'Est à l'Ouest )

-----

I°./- REGION DU WOLEU-N'TEM.-

- a) District de BITAM.-

X Bikas  
 X Alene  
 Akomsi  
 Ntourandia  
 Mékomo  
 X Alene  
 X Bikas  
 Messoumo  
 Mekome  
 Mfoumou  
 Meyo Kye  
 Nkoumedoume  
 Ebome  
 Mobogo  
 Nsimy  
 Tho  
 Aloume  
 Meleme  
 Metchu  
 Mbo  
 Adzabilone  
 Fong  
 Nkolayop  
 Oyem village  
 Bilebidoua  
 Mvan

- b) District d'OYEM.-

Ebot  
 Bengoye I et II  
 Kos  
 Emieng  
 Assok I et II  
 Anguie  
 Abam Eba  
 Ingasse  
 Akinitom  
 Ingong ( Okas )  
 Melene  
 Miboué  
 Essong  
 Abame  
 Alène  
 Abana  
 Andoumézé  
 Doua  
 Ekouevong  
 Ovine  
 Oveng Abè I et II  
 Olong  
 Akak  
 Ntong  
 Ossas I et II  
 Essong Abam I et II  
 Oveng Abè II  
 Angoum?

... / ...

x

- 2 -

- c) District de MITZIC.-

Sam I et II  
 Mbolenzork  
 Nzeik I  
 Adzabilone  
 Onol  
 Nkane  
 Yinassessogo  
 Alarmitang  
 Zogomitang  
 Alenass  
 X Abenelang  
 Aonela  
 Nsengmitang  
 Doumandzou  
 X Abenelang  
 Okogayo  
 Assengassi  
 Biyene  
 Nzoua  
 Mebolo II  
 Mebolo on oua  
 Assi  
 Nongzork  
 Assen  
 Nkamenvi  
 Angouma  
 Binigi  
 Bissobimam  
 Elélem  
 Asengasi  
 Ono  
 Oboui  
 Abangayo.

- d) District de MEDOUNEU.-

Koumadza  
 Efont  
 Akan  
 Egnangmelon  
 Eyamayong  
 Egnang  
 Medouneu  
 Abamasi  
 Nifala  
 Edounassi  
 Nangbang  
 Atout  
 Efoulan  
 Abogotome  
 Etsame  
 Koume  
 Mbé  
 Olong  
 Ntan  
 Ngoneki  
 Nkinen  
 Mveign  
 Edoune  
 Nzogbour  
 Zobermitang  
 Avang

... / ...

II./- REGION DE L'ESTUAIRE.-

- e) District de COCOBEACH.-

Aloun  
Eloun  
Ekordo  
Esoua  
Mabendji  
Foula  
Nkoulamvam (I et II)  
Ayaninge  
Ntora  
Boutika  
Minkla  
Bissobinam  
Cocobeach  
Mangala  
x Nianam  
Lemé  
x Nianam  
Vombie I et II  
Ndombe  
Mvomé

---

FRONTIERE COMMUNE  
à la REPUBLIQUE DU GABON et au RIO MUNI

Points de passage proposés

*Correspondance avec  
numérotation de l'Ad-  
ministration du RioMuni*

1-	<i>Route Bitam - Ebebeyin par Meyo Kye (Poste de Douane)</i>	1
2-	<i>Piste de Ngong (RM) à Nkoloyop (Gabon)</i>	5
3-	<i>Piste d'Alem (RM) à Akam (Gabon)</i>	6
4-	<i>Piste de Amunguon (RM) à Ebot (Gabon)</i>	7
5-	<i>Piste de Ngemété (RM) à Bilossi (Gabon)</i>	8
6-	<i>Piste de Mibang (RM) à Assok (Gabon)</i>	9
7-	<i>Route Oyem - Mongomo par Abam Eba (Poste de Douane)</i>	10
8-	<i>Piste Ebong (RM) à Enuç (Gabon)</i>	11
9-	<i>Piste d'Asoc (RM) à Doua (Gabon)</i>	13
10-	<i>Piste d'Asinegosi (RM) à Oveng Abe (Gabon)</i>	14
11-	<i>Piste de Nzork (RM) à Avo (Gabon)</i>	15
12-	<i>Piste de Nzork (RM) à Sam (Gabon)</i>	16
13-	<i>Piste de Masomo (RM) à Efulalan (Gabon)</i>	19
14-	<i>Route d'Acurnam à Médouneu</i>	20
15-	<i>Estuaire du Rio Muni - Port Iradies - Cocobeach</i>	24





## **Annex 100**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 383 from the Presidency of the Government to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (20 October 1965) (agreeing to Gabon's list of border crossings)



## TRANSLATION

46 341.24 (46:672.1) -1

C-1



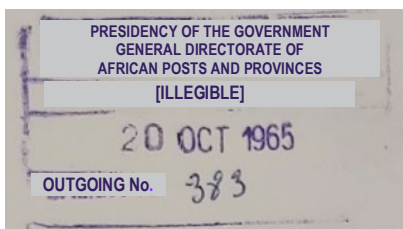
Date MADRID, October 29, 1965  
 Your reference  
 Our reference File 16/4 Guinea  
 Subject Spanish-Gabonese Border Agreement

PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Recipient

-----  
 GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF  
 AFRICAN POSTS AND PROVINCES

H.E. the Director General of Foreign Policy  
 (Africa Affairs)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

M A D R I D  
 =====

Your Excellency:

The Office of the Commissioner General of Equatorial Guinea, in communication No. 2552 dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month, states as follows to this Center:

"As a result of the deliberations of the Commission appointed to study the Cross-Border Trade Agreement with Gabon, I am honored to inform you that the Gabonese proposals on the crossing points and border sites have been found to be adequate and satisfactory. The revised terminology used in the preamble and in Article 2 of the Draft Agreement is also satisfactory.

Consequently, I would provide Your Excellency with the following three annexes:

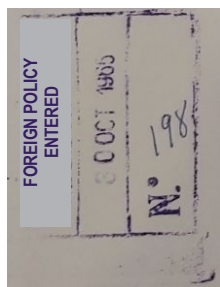
Annex 1, Concerning the mandatory border crossings proposed by the Commission.

Annex 2, Concerning the villages or areas to include within the 10 km. zone referred to in the Agreement.

Annex 3, Concerning the new drafting of the Guinea-Gabon Cross-Border Trade Agreement.

Lastly, with respect to the specification of the most suitable place and date for signing the Agreement, this Office of the Commissioner General previously advised in communication No. 1332 dated May 28, that these matters should be left to the discretion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It seems reasonable that the place would be Libreville, given that the preparatory meetings took place in Bata, where the Gabonese Commission had to travel. However, the Presidency of the Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will determine the most suitable criterion."

I am honored to remit to Your Excellency the foregoing, together with the ann[exes]



WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

BORDER SHARED BY THE REPUBLIC OF GABON AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA.-

PROPOSED CROSSING POINTS.

- 1.- Bitam – Ebebiyin highway, through Meyó Kye.-
- 2.- Ngong trail (R.M.) to Ncalayong (Gabon).-
- 3.- Alen trail (R.M.) to Akan (Gabon).-
- 4.- Anunguon trail (R.M.) to Abot (Gabon).-
- 5.- Ngomete trail (R.M.) to Bilosi (Gabon).-
- 6.- Mibang trail (R.M.) to Assok (Gabon).-
- 7.- Oyem-Mongomo highway through Abam Eba (Customs post)
- 8.- Ebong trail (Esangui) (R.M.) [to] Enuç (Gabon)
- 9.- Asoc trail (R.M.) to Doua (Gabon).-
- 10.- Asinegosi trail (R.M.) to Oveng Abe (Gabon).-
- 11.- Nsork trail (R.M.) to Avo (Gabon).-
- 12.- Nsork trail (R.M.) to Sam (Gabon).-
- 13.- Masomo trail (R.M.) to Efulalen (Gabon).-
- 14.- Acurenam to Medouneo Highway.-
- 15.- Muni River Estuary – Puerto Iradier – Cocobeach.-



WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

## TRANSLATION

LIST OF RIO MUNI VILLAGES INCLUDED IN THE 10 KILOMETER BORDER AREA (FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND FROM EAST TO WEST). -----

DISTRICT OF EBEBIYIN.-		
Ebebiyin	Ndumu	Mabaiñ
Adyap	Mocomo	Ebeele
Ncoayen	Eton	Adyap
Oveng	Bisono	Eyima
Abang	Nsomeyong	Nfua
Eseng	Dumandui	Nton
Ncoebe	Mibonman	Atut
Mosumu	Eseng	Melo
Yebete	Ogoma	Alen (Encampment)
Ngong	Ndalama	Ecui
Mefeng	Mbut	Momo
Mengui	Bifet	Abang
Aban	Ebebiñ	Mefo
Oyep	Bidong	Nsoc
Ncasia	Asog	Ndanguong
Asem	Afemandyim	Masaman
Atom	Asoc	Anuguong
Alo	Alen	Ncoekié
Bifet	Ochunga	Acoelon
Ncoasia	Macomo	Afeton
Ecoung	Ebe	Acam
Malen	Ndogo	Bibo
Bife	Ngong	Mbiralen
		Ngomo. -----
DISTRICT OF MONGOMO.-		
Ngomete	Atamadyin	Mban
Incondo	Ecoc	Nsaaca
Abaiñ	Oveng	Edum
San Carlos	Melen	Bisobinan
Beayop	Macan	Ngulon
Encoembe	Eyamayong	Maseyen
Ecuoco	Macong	Nfaman
Macomo	Eleen	Bisobinan
Efong	Nfua	Nfumayop
Mongomo	Acassi	Nianan
Acoación	Nkeneensoc	Ovang
Endon	Akonikie	Cam
	Enuc	-----
DISTRICT OF N'SORC.-		
Asoc (Encampment)	Ebomicú	Nsamayong
Esung	Mitomo	Macomo
Niemitang	Mayene	Macula
Nsagayong	Ongoma	Ngomo
Ndama	Abama	Assoc-Ngama
Eugas	Mandoc	Mbaula
Sisacang	Mbufa	Elon
Ndumu	Asasi	Eyameyong
Osambeñ	Massa	Esong
Nsinengosi	Nsorc	Mitan
Ecuamayene	Mban	Abumeyeme
Sumosi	Akoesakira	Alen
Ecoco	Oveng	Alun
Anungá	Asia	-----

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

-2-

DISTRICT OF ACURENAN.-

Evonodulu	Sogo	Mandong
Mban	Ncombas	Alenesi
Oyo	San Carlos	Efam
Acanabor	Acumcaso	Efulan
Bu	Nsangan	Enfeme
Nvondyongo	Basile	Mucayong
Melong II	Acurenan	Echan
Melong I	Nfaman	Micomibe
Mafu	Acanabor	Nsong
Bas	Mabomo	Acoaseng
Nsogobor	Ayaguening	Ebang
Asem	Nfengayong	Bidun
Ncumayogo	Otom	Mfambingama
Adyebe	Mosogo	Avanyap
Ngong	Abelesi	Mabe
Oveng	Ebebiyin	Mindyi
Bisobinan	Ayenguensog	Masili
Mosomo		Evordodulu. -----

DISTRICT OF COGO.-

Benkeng	Oeym	Meti
Mikes	Ennuc	Sogoyan
Anguma	Nsogebor	Tec
Bingwara	Onenaben	Npognebeng
Acanabor	Nkinesoc	Adyoba
Nfoga	Aseng	Efan
Mikes	Ouen	Bingua
Eguonaname	Nkonikié	Malen
Nyuamian	Belem	Ayene
Ngomekié	Mbabieng	Miguala
Mfegayon	Eyeme	Obet
Acanabor	Ngamb	Mignola
Adyangamiang	Oveng	Madrid
Mbenaman	Bob	Banapá
Aseng	Ocola	Toledo
Midyop	Minague	Cogo
Niefala	Ncobnekié	Akonikié
Mibonde	Nsogbot	Acalayong
Bisobinan	Eufila	Ayamelsala
Abelenang	Cangana	Bandondon
Sogoyam	Mitombo	Acon
Tom	Nsenguimasa	Victoria
Edyoba	Nsenguinvea	Alennam
Ennigaloc	Vabe	Asamboá
Asobla	Mangola	Edum
Acoclone	Alarmitang	Efule
Achimilang	Oduma	Naunlalen.- -----

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 -----  
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 WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS



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(212) 776-1713  
[info@waterstreettranslations.com](mailto:info@waterstreettranslations.com)

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Mary Lewis, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/20/21


\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





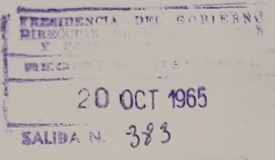


46 341.24 (46:672.1) - 1



PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO

DIRECCION GENERAL DE  
PLAZAS Y PROVINCIAS AFRICANAS



Fecha Madrid, 19 de octubre de 1965 C-1  
Su referencia  
Nuestra referencia Exp. 16/4 Guinea  
Asunto Convenio fronterizo hispano-gabonés.  
Destinatario

Ilmo. Sr. Director General de  
Política Exterior (Asuntos de Africa)

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

M A D R I D  
=====

Ilmo. Señor:

La Comisería General de la Guinea Ecuatorial con escrito nº 2552 de fecha 13 del actual dice a este Centro lo que sigue:

" Como resultado de las deliberaciones de la Comisión --  
" nombrada para el estudio del Convenio Comercial Fronterizo  
" con el Gabón, tengo el honor de comunicarle que las propues  
" tas gabonesas sobre los puntos de paso y localidades fronte  
" rizas han sido halladas adecuadas y conformes. Igualmente ha  
" recaído conformidad sobre la revisión de la terminología uti  
" lizada en el preámbulo y en el artículo 2º del Texto del --  
" Anteproyecto de Convenio.

" En consecuencia, cumpleme remitir a V.I. los tres ane  
" xos siguientes:

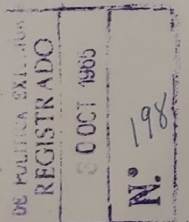
" Anexo 1º, Relativo a los pasos fronterizos obligatorios  
" que propone la Comisión.

" Anexo 2º, Relativo a los poblados o aglomeraciones a in  
" cluir en la zona de 10 Km. a que se hace referencia en el --  
" Convenio.

" Anexo 3º, Relativo a la nueva redacción del Convenio Co  
" mercial Fronterizo Guinea - Gabón.

" Por último, respecto al señalamiento de lugar y fecha -  
" más conveniente para la firma del Convenio, ya se comunicó -  
" por esta Comisería General en escrito nº 1332 de fecha 26 de  
" Mayo último, que eran extremos a elección por el Ministerio  
" de Asuntos Exteriores. Parece razonable que el lugar fuese -  
" Libreville, dado que las reuniones preparatorias tuvieron lu  
" gar en Bata, a cuya capital hubo de desplazarse la Comisión  
" Gabonesa. No obstante, el criterio de la Presidencia del Go  
" bierno y Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, decidirá lo más -  
" conveniente."

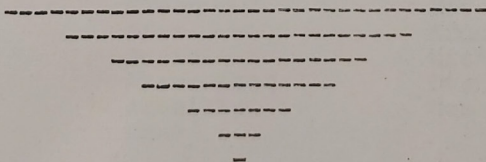
Tengo el honor de trasladarlo a V.I. en unión de los ane



FRONTERA COMUN A LA REPUBLICA DEL GABON Y GUINEA ECUATORIAL.-

PUNTOS DE PASOS QUE SE PROPONEN.

- 1°.- Carretera de Bitam - Ebebiyán, por Meyó Kye.-
- 2°.- Pista de Ngong (R.M.) a Ncalayong (Gabón).-
- 3°.- Pista de Alen (R.M.) a Akan (Gabón).-
- 4°.- Pista de Anunguon (R.M.) a Abot (Gabón).-
- 5°.- Pista de Ngómete (R.M.) a Bilosi (Gabón).-
- 6°.- Pista de Mibang (R.M.) a Assok (Gabón).-
- 7°.- Carretera Oyem-Mongomo por Abam Eba (puesto de Aduana)
- 8°.- Pista de Ebong (Esangui) (R.M.) Enué (Gabón).
- 9°.- Pista de Asoc (R.M.) a Doua (Gabón).-
- 10°.- Pista de Asinegosi (R.M.) a Oveng Abe (Gabón).-
- 11°.- Pista de Nsork (R.M.) a Avo (Gabón).-
- 12°.- Pista de Nsork (R.M.) a Sam (Gabón).-
- 13°.- Pista de Masomo (R.M.) a Efulalen (Gabón).-
- 14°.- Carretera de Acurenam a Medouneo,-
- 15°.- Estuario del Río Muni - Puerto Tradier - Cocobeach.-



LISTA DE LOCALIDADES DE RIO MUNI INCLUIDAS EN LA ZONA  
FRONTERIZA DE 10 KILOMETROS ( DEL NORTE AL SUR Y DEL-  
ESTE AL OESTE. - - - - -

DISTRITO DE EBBEYIN.-

Ebbeyin	Ndumu	Mabañ
Adyap	Mocomo	Ebeele
Ncoayen	Eton	Adyap
Oveng	Bisono	Eyima
Abang	Nsomeyong	Nfua
Eseng	Dumandui	Nton
Ncoebe	Miboman	Atut
Mosumu	Eseng	Melo
Yebete	Ogoma	Alen (Campamento)
Ngong	Ndalama	Ecui
Mefeng	Mbut	Momo
Mengui	Bifet	Abang
Aban	Ebebiñ	Mefo
Oyep	Bidong	Nsoc
Ncasia	Asog	Ndanguong
Asem	Afemandyim	Masaman
Atom	Asoc	Anuguong
Alo	Alen	Ncoekié
Bifet	Ochunga	Accelon
Ncoasia	Macomo	Afeton
Ecoung	Ebe	Acam
Malen	Ndogo	Bibo
Bife	Ngong	Mbiralen
		Ngomo. - - - - -

DISTRITO DE MONGOMO.-

Ngomete	Atamadyin	Mban
Incondo	Ecoc	Nsaaca
Abaiñ	Oveng	Edum
San Carlos	Melen	Bisobinan
Bayop	Macan	Ngulon
Encoembe	Eyamayong	Maseyeh
Ecuoco	Macong	Nfanan
Macomo	Eleen	Bisobinan
Efong	Nfua	Nfumayop
Mongomo	Acassi	Nianan
Acoación	Nkeneensoc	Ovang
Endon	Akonikie	Cam
	Enuc	- - - - -

DISTRITO DE N'SORC.-

Asoc (Campamento)	Ebomicú	Nsamayong
Esung	Mitomo	Macomo
Niemitang	Mayene	Macula
Nsagayong	Ongoma	Ngomo
Ndama	Abama	Assoc-Ngama
Eugas	Mandoc	Mbaula
Sisacang	Mbufa	Elon
Ndumu	Asasi	Eyameyong
Osambeñ	Massa	Esong
Nsinengosi	Nsorc	Mitan
Ecuamayene	Mban	Abumeyeme
Sumosi	Akoesakira	Alen
Ecoco	Oveng	Alun
Anungá	Asia	- - - - -

- 2 -

DISTRITO DE ACURENAN.-

Evonodulu	Sogo	Mandong
Mban	Ncombas	Alenesi
Oyo	San Carlos	Efam
Acanabor	Acumcaso	Efulan
Bu	Nsangan	Enfeme
Nvondyongo	Basile	Mucayong
Melong II	Acurenan	Echan
Melong I	Nfaman	Micomibe
Mafu	Acanabor	Nsong
Bas	Mabomo	Acoaseng
Nsogobor	Ayaguening	Ebang
Asem	Nfengayong	Bidun
Ncumayogo	Otom	Mfamingama
Adyebe	Mosogo	Avanyap
Ngong	Abelesi	Mabe
Oveng	Ebebiyin	Mindyi
Bisobinan	Ayenguensog	Masili
Mosomo		Evorodulu .- - - - -

DISTRITO DE COGO.-

Benkeng	Oeym	Meti
Mikes	Ennuc	Sogoyan
Anguma	Nsogebor	Tec
Binguara	Onanaben	Npognebeng
Acanabor	Nkinesoc	Adyoba
Nfoga	Aseng	Efan
Mikes	Ouen	Bingua
Eguonaname	Nkonikié	Malen
Nyuamian	Belem	Ayene
Ngomekié	Mbabieng	Miguala
Mfegayong	Eyeme	Obet
Acanabor	Ngamb	Mignola
Adyangamiang	Oveng	Madrid
Mbenaman	Bob	Banapá
Aseng	Ocola	Toledo
Midyop	Minague	Cogo
Niefala	Ncobnekié	Akonikié
Mibonde	Nsogbot	Acalayong
Bisobinan	Eufila	Ayamelsala
Abelenang	Cangana	Bandondon
Sogoyam	Mitombo	Acon
Tom	Nsenguimasa	Victoria
Edyoba	Nsenguinvea	Alennam
Ennigaloc	Vabe	Asamboá
Asobla	Mangola	Edum
Acoclone	Alarmitang	Efule
Achimilang	Oduma	Naunlalen.- - - - -

**Annex 101**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 303 from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Gabon to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (13 June 1966)



## TRANSLATION

Libreville, June 13, 1966

AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD

SUBJECT: Rio Muni-Gabon Border  
Agreement Signing

Diplomatic Information Office

No. 303

*Original [illegible] to Agreement  
to determine ratification date*

Your Excellency:

As I had the honor of informing Your Excellency in my telegram No. 42, this past Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of the current month and year, the signing of the Agreement between the Spanish State and the Gabonese Republic concerning cross-border movement and exchanges between Rio Muni and Gabon took place at the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

After we exchanged our respective full powers, I stated the words that are enclosed herewith in their entirety, which were tape recorded and also filmed. All of this has been broadcast on Radio and Television.

Minister Engone improvised his response to my speech, stating that, indeed, relations between Rio Muni and Gabon have always been excellent. We trust—he went on to say—that the Spanish Government will bring its decolonization policy to a successful conclusion and will continue to support the development of Equatorial Guinea so that it will rise to the position that everyone hopes. He concluded by kindly asking me to express to Your Excellency the Head of State the profound gratitude of President León Mba and the Gabonese Government for Spain's magnificent collaboration.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

-2-

I have enclosed the signed texts and Plenipotentiary Powers extended to Minister Engone.

I kindly request that Your Excellency inform me of the approximate date on which the ratification of this Agreement will take place so that I may inform this Ministry of Foreign Affairs of same, as it has requested I do so.

I will send photographs soon.

May God protect Your Excellency for many years to come.

THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN,

[signature]

T. de Aguilar

HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.- MADRID.

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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Jamie Mullin, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

08/21/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Libreville, 13 de Junio de 1966

AFRICA Y MUNDO ARABE

ASUNTO: Firma Convenio Fronterizo  
Rio Muni-Gabón.

O.I.D.

Nº 303

*Original  
Transfido a  
Convenio  
para determinar fecha ratificación*

Excmo. Señor:

Como he tenido la honra de informar a V.E. en mi telegrama núm.42, el pasado sábado 11 de los corrientes tuvo lugar, en el Despacho del Ministro de Negocios Extranjeros el acto de la firma del Convenio entre el Estado Español y la República gabonesa relativo a la circulación e intercambios fronterizos entre Rio Muni y Gabón.

Despues de habernos intercambiado las respectivas Plenipotencias pronuncié las palabras cuyo texto integro incluyo, que fueron registradas en cinta magnetofónica tomándose igualmente película. Todo ello ha sido difundido por Radio y Televisión.

El Ministro Señor Engone improvisó la contestación a mi discurso manifestando que en efecto las relaciones entre Rio Muni y Gabón han sido siempre excelentes. Confiamos, continuo diciendo, en que el Gobierno español llevará a feliz término su política de descolonización y continuará ayudando al desarrollo de la Guinea Ecuatorial para que ocupe el lugar que todos esperan. Terminó rogandome transmita a Su Excelencia el Jefe del Estado la profunda gratitud del Presidente León Mba y Gobierno gabonés por la magnífica colaboración de España.

-2-

Incluyo los textos firmados y Plenipotencia  
extendida a favor del Ministro Señor Engone.

Ruego a V.E. tenga a bien indicarme la fe-  
cha aproximada en que tendrá lugar la rectificación de  
este Convenio para informar sobre dicho extremo a este  
Ministerio de Negocios Extranjeros que así me lo solici-  
ta.

Próximamente remitiré fotografías.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

EL EMBAJADOR DE ESPAÑA,



T. de Aguilar

**Annex 102**

*Aide-Memoire on “Royal Dutch/Shell Group Exploration Venture in Gabon” for the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Republic of the Congo (16 April 1965)*



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AIDE-MEMOIRE FOR H.E.  
THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT BRAZZAVILLE

ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL GROUP EXPLORATION  
VENTURE IN GABON

COSREG  
Port-Gentil  
GABON  
16th April 1965.

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ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL GROUP EXPLORATION

VENTURE IN GABON

Royal Dutch/Shell Group interests in the Gabon are currently represented by the following operating companies :

- a) Exploration : Compagnie Shell de Recherche et d'Exploitation au Gabon (COSREG)
- b) Marketing : Société Shell de l'Afrique Equatoriale (Head Office in Brazzaville).

Exploration (and Future Production)

COSREG is a 100 % Group Company, incorporated in Gabon, and having its registered office in Port-Gentil. The company's general manager is at present Dr. J. Anderøgg.

The company holds certain land and marine exploration permits in Gabon jointly and equally with Société des Pétroles d'Afrique Equatoriale (SPAFE), a French company controlled by the Bureau de Recherche de Pétrole. COSREG is the operator for all but a small part of these areas (Out of a total association area of 20,925 sq. km, 5,275 sq.km on land and 15,650 sq.km offshore, SPAFE acts as operator in 4,750 sq.km of the offshore part).

COSREG have applied on their own account for an offshore exploration permit covering the area near Libreville, although SPAFE is being offered the chance to partake in this venture if the permit is granted.

COSREG's exploration operations started in 1959 with geological and geophysical parties working in the Sette Cama land permit area. By 1961, surveys were being concentrated in what appeared to be the most prospective part of the area - the coastal strip between Sette Cama and Gamba.

Results gathered by late 1962 allowed the selection of locations for the first exploration test wells, and drilling operations began in January 1963.

The first well, Kissenda-1, T.D. 3314 m, was dry, but provided geological information which was extremely valuable in guiding future exploration activities.



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- 2 -

The second well was drilled at Gamba and encountered encouraging shows at a depth of approximately 1000 m. Before other wells were drilled to appraise this discovery, the well Gamba-1 was carried to 3,387 m to reconnoitre the deeper geological sequence as thoroughly as was feasible.

Appraisal drilling at Gamba began in March 1964 and is still not completed. At the time of writing, 16 wells (of which 15 have given encouraging results) have been drilled, and there is no longer any serious doubt about the economic workability of the reserves of the field.

On 26th March, the following information was passed to the Gabonese government authorities, and afterwards was released to the press in Libreville and in Europe :

" Compagnie Shell de Recherche et d'Exploitation au Gabon (COSREG), the SHELL Exploration company in Gabon, announces that it has encountered commercial quantities of oil in the Gamba area to the South of Sette Cama in a concession which it holds jointly and equally with Société des Pétroles d'Afrique Equatoriale (SPAFE). Further appraisal work is continuing but reserves discovered to date in the Gamba field will support production and plans are in hand to start producing in 1966. "

Since the appraisal drilling campaign is not yet completed, and in fact at this moment is being interrupted in order to drill an exploration well on another structure, it is impossible to give a firm figure even for the reserves of oil in place. The present estimate of 350,000,000 barrels may rise or fall before drilling is completed. And a still greater uncertainty lies in the recoverability of this oil ; at the moment one may only say that between 30 and 70 % of the total volume of oil in place is likely to be recoverable.

The development programme for the Gamba field is still being formulated, but in main lines it will include : the completion of wells for production and their connection to a gathering system of small-diameter pipelines ; construction of a central gathering station with pumping and storage tank facilities ; and the laying of a large diameter sea-line some 8 km long to a single-buoy mooring where the oil will be loaded into tankers for export. Among the numerous technical problems which will have to be overcome before the field comes on production may be mentioned the waxy nature of the crude, which may well call for the installation of heating facilities to allow pumping through the sea-line.

It should be possible to start producing the field at the end of 1966 at a rate in excess of one million tons a year.

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- 3 -

Refining

A "heads of agreement" has been signed between the five governments of the Union Douanière Equatoriale/Cameroun area and the two French oil companies, Bureau de Recherches de Pétrole and Compagnie Française des Pétroles, whereby a refinery will be built at Port-Gentil (and others elsewhere in the area when the need arises) to serve the petroleum requirements of the five States. Provision is made in this agreement for participation by Shell and it is anticipated that this option will be exercised at about the time when the refinery comes on stream (forecast at the end of 1966). Shell's share will probably be of the order of 10 %.

Marketing

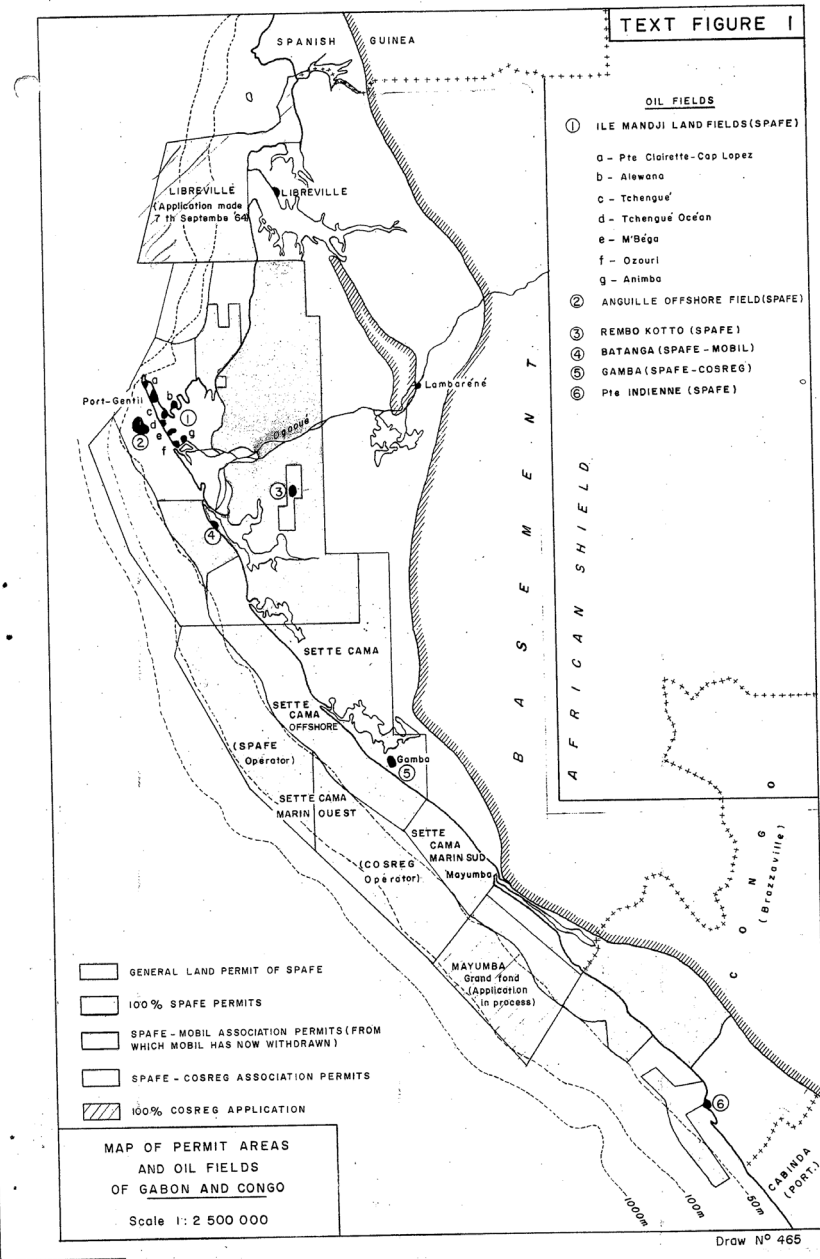
Société Shell de l'Afrique Equatoriale is a 100 % Shell marketing company which operates in Congo (Brazzaville), Gabon, Tchad, and Central African Republic. It holds about one third of the market. It is incorporated in the Congo (Brazzaville) and has its registered office and management in Brazzaville.

General Manager : J.C. HUBERT  
 There is a branch office in Libreville,  
 with a district manager. *Mr. NIEL*

Political and Economic

It seems reasonable to take an optimistic view of the political and economic situation in Gabon. The Government is well disposed towards foreign investment and even if President Leon M'Ba does decide to retire, there would appear to be little prospect of an anti-Western Government assuming power in the near future.

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### **Annex 103**

The Spanish State, Ministry of Industry, *Confidential Report: Delimitation of Gabon's Territorial Waters* (12 July 1966)



**TRANSLATION**

[Seal] Ministry of Industry  
General Directorate of  
Mines and Fuels

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT.

Subject: Delimitation of Gabon's territorial waters.

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY  
UNDERSECRETARY OF INDUSTRY

---

To Mr. Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs

Your Excellency:

I refer to your letter dated the 11th of this month, ref. 46'341.222 (671.S)-2 concerning the delimitation of Gabon's territorial waters. On that matter, I attach a report from the Department's General Directorate of Mines and Fuels so that, should you deem appropriate, timely reservations may be made to the Government of Gabon.

May God preserve your Excellency for many years.

Madrid, July 16, 1966

THE UNDERSECRETARY

[Signature]

[Stamp: Illegible]

WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS



## TRANSLATION

Ministry of Industry  
General Directorate of  
Mines and Fuels

Date  
7/12/66  
Reference  
[Illegible]

### CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

From the Director General of Mines and Fuels to the Honorable Mr. Undersecretary.

Subject: Delimitation of Gabon's territorial waters.

The General Directorate of Tariff Policy - African Political Affairs - forwards you the attached report regarding the referenced subject. Said report was submitted to this General Directorate, along with a six-paged map.

Concerning this matter, I have the honor of reporting the following to you:

It is unknown whether the earlier letter from the General Directorate of Foreign Policy [number illegible] dated 4/29/66 is of import in this matter, but from the text of the letter dated 3/11/66 ref. 46'341.222 (671.8)-2, we understand that in a recent meeting of its Council of Ministers, the Government of Gabon has approved a draft law that provides for a baseline from which to measure the breadth of its jurisdictional waters (territorial waters) opposite Mondah Bay. Said baseline is depicted by the A B line on the attached map No. 1. It is drawn as a single piece for clearer understanding.

It is noted in the referenced document that the Republic of Gabon's territorial waters cover the marine miles counted from the [remainder of page illegible]

## TRANSLATION

That is to say, the referenced Law of the Republic of Gabon does not appear to delimit or provide for delimitation of the so-called “internal waters,” but by now keeping the prior definition of the baseline to measure the breadth of the territorial sea, the former is complemented by a provision agreed to in the Council of Ministers ( we suppose that in Gabon, laws are enacted through the legislative chambers (Congress, Senate, etc.)) - with a straight baseline that delimits, in its own way, the internal waters in Mondah Bay.

We have said that such delimitation of the internal waters of Mondah Bay has been done “in its own way,” because it has not respected the 10 miles rule - which has been applied in several international arrangements-, nor, in its essentials, the norms of the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone of 4/28/1938, which provides that when the coast has deep openings or indentations, or when there are groups of islands along its extension and nearby, the straight baseline shall be the one that joins the appropriate points, without diverging in any appreciable manner from the direction of the coast line.

It is true that this norm does not indicate a maximum length of such a straight baseline, or the maximum distance that such a baseline may lie off the coast line. However, a simple observation of the map makes its capricious and also self-interested placement clear; since, according to the document we reference it appears that the Government of Gabon formed that provision due to pressure from the “Society of Equatorial African Petroleum” [Société des Petroles d’Afrique Equatoriale] [illegible acronym] of Port Gentil that proposes to undertake oil prospecting in the estuary region next to Mondah Bay, certainly as a concessionaire of the exploitation license (exploration permit) in territorial waters. It is trying to place itself in the most advantageous position for its interests before entering into any negotiations with

## TRANSLATION

the neighboring riparian country to try to establish the border line of the territorial waters. Moreover, just as they have selected that line as the baseline limit for the internal waters of the referenced Mondah Bay, they have indicated that it should be the one we marked in blue pencil as C D—or we could either, upon our whim, reduce those interior waters to those of the Mondah estuary, demarcating them with the line we drew in red as E F. But this is no way follows the norm, indefinite as it may be, that is described in the aforementioned Geneva Convention, because all of them fail to follow in an appreciable manner the general direction of the coast line.

Based on this criteria, if not the aforementioned line E F, the most appropriate would seem to be a line between [illegible] N and [illegible, possibly P or F] extending from “Point ANONDA” to a point between N and P, as it would be the line that best follows the general direction of the coast line.

Fixing this baseline may have extraordinary importance in this case, because when the limits of the territorial waters, agreed to by each country, overlap those of the two bordering or riparian countries, according to the aforementioned Geneva Convention of 1938, the line that will delimit the two respective territorial seas, if there is no agreement between those two countries to the contrary, shall be the median line, every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of each of the two countries is normally measured. This norm is used both to delimit the continental shelf between two countries sharing a river, pursuant to Article 6 of the Geneva Convention of April 29, 1958, on the continental shelf. The problem discussed can have impact in any case, which is the reason for this report.

Under normal circumstances we are certain that the solution

**TRANSLATION**

[First line and part of second line illegible], as a result of their/your own seismic studies,  
[four lines of illegible text]

joint owners of the permits for hydrocarbons exploration in squares number 1 and 2 of Zone II (Spanish Province of the Sahara) that includes (within square number 1) the islands of Elobey and Corisco and their territorial waters—waters which are not delimited, as there is no agreement with the riparian country (today the Republic of Gabon). For this reason, if any exists—although we must presume so—they try to advance the baseline offshore as far as possible, which can be key in any supposed negotiations to delimit the territorial waters, and since with the A B line agreed to by the Government of Gabon, they would end up with the full extent of the best structure with oil potential (indicated with the letter Z, if starting from our side we were to make the measurements from the baseline of our Corisco island, or with a part of it, if we start from the island Cocotier or Bane [(Mbañe)], we greatly fear that those negotiations will be clouded with difficulties. Thus we append map no. [illegible] in which we broadly indicate what could be a prudential median line of separation of territorial waters, perhaps acceptable by our side and which additionally includes said Z structure in our jurisdiction. Also included is a map [illegible] that reflects the approximate results in case it should be necessary to start measuring from the baseline of Corisco island, [illegible] counting with the Gabonese baseline [illegible], of demarcation of the internal waters of Mondah Bay.

**TRANSLATION**

If, after studying this report, you deem it appropriate to prepare a draft written response from you, it would be prepared immediately under such instructions as you may deem fit to provide.

Everything stated above is always without prejudice to the rights and easements for free and unrestricted passage for the navigation lines already accepted through the territorial waters that may be subject to possible demarcation.

May God preserve Your Excellency for many years.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

[Signature]



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Jim McMillan, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/13/21

Date





Ministerio de Industria

Dirección General de  
Minas y Combustibles

RESPUESTA CORRESPONDIENTE.

Asunto: Relación áreas jurisdiccionales Cabán.

MINISTERIO DE INDUSTRIA  
SECRETARIA DE INDUSTRIA

Excmo. Señor:

Me refiero a su escrito del 11 del cte. ref. 46.341.222 (571.5)-2 sobre fijación de aguas territoriales de Gabón, asunto sobre el que le acompaño informe de la Dirección General de Minas y Combustibles del Departamento, para que a su vista y si lo estima oportuno, puedan hacer eventualmente las oportunas reservas ante el Gobierno de Gabón.

Dios guarde a V. muchos años.

Madrid 16 Julio 1966

EL SUBSECRETARIO,

*[Handwritten signature]*

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores  
16 JUL 1966  
1406

Sr. Subsecretario de Asuntos Exteriores





Ministerio de Industria

Dirección General de  
Minas y CombustiblesFecha  
12.7.68Referencia  
M.10 20/48INFORME CONFIDENCIAL.

Del Director General de Minas y Combustibles a Ilmo. Sr. Subsecretario.

Asunto: Delimitación aguas jurisdiccionales Gabón.

La Dirección General de Política Arancelaria - Asuntos Políticos de Africa- ha dirigido a V.I. el adjunto escrito en relación con el asunto del epígrafe, que se ha remitido a esta Dirección General, con un mapa en seis hojas.

Sobre dicho asunto tengo el honor de informar a V.I. lo siguiente:

Se desconoce si en relación con este asunto tiene alguna importancia el escrito anterior de la Dirección General de Política Exterior, nº 425, de 25.4.68, pero ateniéndose al texto del escrito de 11.6.68, nº 26'341.222 (371.3)-2, entendemos que el Gobierno de Gabón en reciente reunión de su Consejo de Ministros, ha aprobado un proyecto de disposición por el que se señala una línea base para medir hacia el exterior la anchura de las aguas jurisdiccionales (mar territorial) frente a la bahía de Montal, línea que recogemos como A B en el adjunto mapa nº 1, dibujado en una sola pieza para mejor entendimiento.

Se señala en el escrito que comentamos que las aguas territoriales de la República del Gabón abarcan la millas marinas comprendidas a 200 millas náuticas más avanzadas del mar que en las más bajas mareas. según se establece en la Ley número 1.68 de 12.1.68.

Es decir, la mencionada Ley de la República del Gabón no parece señalar definición alguna o forma de delimitación de las denominadas "aguas interiores", pero ahora, manteniendo la definición anterior de la línea base para la medición de la extensión del mar territorial, se complementa éste por una disposición acordada en Consejo de Ministros —suponemos que las leyes en el Gabón se promulgan a través de las Cámaras (Congreso, Senado, etc.)— con una línea recta de base que delimita a su manera, las aguas interiores en la bahía de Mondah.

Hemos dicho que tal delimitación de las aguas interiores de la bahía de Mondah ha sido hecha "a su manera", pues no se ha seguido para ello la regla de las 10 millas —que ha sido aplicada en varios arreglos internacionales—, ni en esencia tampoco la norma del Convenio de Ginebra, sobre el Mar Territorial y la Zona Contigua, de 23.4.1958, que establece que cuando la costa tenga profundas aberturas o escotadura, o existan grupos de islas a lo largo de la misma y en su proximidad inmediata, la línea base recta será la que une los puntos apropiados, sin apartarse de manera apreciable de la dirección de la costa.

Es verdad que esta última norma no señala la longitud máxima de tal línea base recta, ni la distancia máxima a que tal línea base pueda quedar del litoral, pero la simple observación del mapa hace ver su colocación caprichosa y a la vez interesada, pues según el escrito que comentamos parece ser que aquella disposición ha sido dada por el Gobierno Gabonés por presiones de la "Société des Pétroles d'Afrique Equatoriale" (S.P.A.E.) de Fort Gentil que se propone realizar prospecciones petrolíferas en la región del estuario contigua a la bahía de Mondah, seguramente como concesionaria de licencia de exploración (permiso de investigación) en aguas jurisdiccionales, y trata de colocarse en las condiciones más ventajosas a sus intereses antes de provocar unas negociaciones con

al país vecino ribereño para tratar de fijar la línea límite de las aguas jurisdiccionales, y lo mismo que han escogido dicha línea, como línea base límite de las aguas interiores de la citada Bahía de Mondah, han podido acordar que fuera la que señalamos en lápiz azul como E D, o nosotros a nuestro antojo podemos recurrir dichas aguas interiores a las de la ría de Mondah delimitándolas con la línea que dibujamos en rojo, como E F. Pero en ningún caso se habrá seguido al efecto la norma, aunque muy inculminada, señalada en el antes citado Convenio de Ginebra, porque todas ellas se apartan de manera apreciable de la dirección de la costa.

Dentro de este criterio parece la más ajustada, de no ser la antes citada E F, una línea comprendida entre la N y la P, que partiendo de la "Luzta ALONDA" llegue a un punto comprendido entre el N y el P, pues sería la línea que más se ajustaría a la dirección general de la costa.

La fijación de esta línea base puede tener, en este caso, extraordinaria importancia, porque cuando con la extensión acordada por cada país para sus aguas jurisdiccionales se superpongan las de dos países fronterizos o ribereños, según lo señalado en el antes citado Convenio de Ginebra de 1958, la línea que delimitará los dos mares territoriales respectivos, si no hay otro acuerdo entre dichos dos países, será la línea media en la que todos sus puntos sean equidistantes de los puntos más próximos de las líneas base, a partir de las cuales se medirá nominalmente la anchura del mar territorial de cada uno de dichos países. Esta norma sirve igualmente para delimitar la plataforma continental entre dos países ribereños, según el Artículo 6 de la Convención de Ginebra de 1958, sobre la plataforma continental. En todo caso puede repercutir en el problema planteado, que es objeto de este informe.

En circunstancias normales estamos seguros que la solución

que la S.E. no presenta grandes dificultades, por temas  
 que la S.E. ..., como resultado de sus propios estudios sísmicos, ten-  
 ... de la existencia de ciertas estructuras petrolíferas  
 ... por las compañías SIBISA y la S.A. GULF OIL COMPANY,  
 titulares conjuntos de dos permisos de investigación de hidrocarburos  
 sobre las cuadrículas números 1 y 2 de la Zona II (provincia española  
 del Sahara) que comprenden (por la cuadrícula número 1) las islas de Ule-  
 lag y Gorisco y sus aguas jurisdiccionales, aguas que no están delimita-  
 das, por inexistencia del oportuno acuerdo con el país ribereño fronte-  
 rizo (hoy República del Gabón). Por esta razón, si es que existe, pero  
 deba ser presuñido, tratan de adelantar al máximo, dar adentro, la línea  
 base que, en unas presuntas negociaciones, puede ser fundamental para fi-  
 jar la delimitación de las aguas jurisdiccionales, y como con la línea  
 A B acordada por el Gobierno gabonés se quedarían con la totalidad de la  
 mejor estructura con posibilidades petrolíferas (la señalada con la letra  
 Z), si es que por nuestro lado se partiera, para hacer las mediciones,  
 desde la línea base de nuestra isla de Gorisco, e con una parte de ella,  
 si nosotros partimos de la isla Cocotier o la de Bano, mucho nos tememos  
 que dichas negociaciones van a estar sembradas de dificultades, y por  
 ello se acompaña el mapa nº E en el que señalamos a grandes rasgos lo  
 que pudiera ser una prudencial línea media de separación de aguas juris-  
 diccionales, tal vez aceptable por nuestra parte y que comprende además  
 la buena estructura Z en nuestra jurisdicción, e igualmente se incluye  
 un mapa nº C, que refleja el resultado aproximado para el caso de ser  
 necesario partir, para las mediciones, de la línea base de la isla de  
 Gorisco, señalando con la línea base gabonesa M N, de delimi-  
 tación de las aguas interiores de la bahía de Mendah.

Hoja 5)

Si, a la vista de este informe, V.I. estimara procedente preparar algún proyecto de escrito de contestación de V.I., se prepararía seguramente bajo las directrices que tuviese a bien señalar.

Todo lo señalado anteriormente es siempre sin inconveniente de los derechos y servidumbres de paso libre y sin restricciones para las líneas de navegación ya reconocidos a través de las aguas jurisdiccionales objeto de una posible delimitación.

Dios guarde a V.I. muchos años.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL,





**Annex 104**

The Spanish State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Gabon's Extension of Mondah Bay Territorial Waters* (26 July 1966)





**TRANSLATION**

Madrid, July 26, 1966

Ministry  
of  
Foreign Affairs  
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL  
COUNSEL

Subject: Gabon's extension of  
Mondah Bay territorial waters

1,330

Your Excellency:

The attached Note from the Directorate General for Africa and the Arab World requested a report from the International Legal Counsel on the Gabonese draft law that sets a straight baseline in Mondah Bay from which to measure its territorial waters and to delimit its internal waters. Gabon has claimed a limit of 12 miles for its territorial waters since 1963. According to the new draft law, Spanish territory and waters would fall within such limits.

The question raised requires consideration of the following points:

1. Gabon's right to set a straight baseline to measure its territorial sea: This point is covered in the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea. Its Art. 4 allows this method in areas where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity. In such cases, a straight line may be drawn "joining the appropriate points," and "must not depart to any appreciable extent from the general direction of the coast," leaving as internal waters the sea area that is

## TRANSLATION

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Ministry  
of  
Foreign Affairs  
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL  
COUNSEL

"sufficiently closely linked to the land domain." Also, according to Art. 7, if the distance between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of a bay does not exceed 24 miles, a closing line may be drawn between these two low-water marks, and the waters enclosed thereby shall be considered as internal waters. The article itself defines what is meant by "bay."

One can see that the definitions of "bay", "natural entrance points," "appropriate points," "general direction of the coast," etc., involved matters of fact that need to be determined prior to their legal characterization. As far as the undersigned can see from the elements provided, Gabon's claims seem to fit the above concepts.

Spain is not party to the Geneva Convention; and according to the information provided to this International Legal Counsel, neither is Gabon. However, the International Court of Justice (in the Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries case) decided that the straight baselines approach, understood in a way similar to what the Geneva Convention later sanctioned, is in accordance with international law. This International Legal Counsel has adopted this approach in previous reports (see No. 1171 of October 25, 1962). Therefore, it must be concluded that, subject to a possible different determination of matters of fact, Gabon, *prima facie*, has the right to establish the straight baseline referred to in the attached Note.

2. Consequences of the 12-mile limit Gabon applied to its territorial waters: Although after the 1958 and 1960 Geneva Conferences, the limit of

**TRANSLATION**

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Ministry  
of  
Foreign Affairs  
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL  
COUNSEL

territorial waters is still not set by common agreement, practice shows three main groups of countries: some with limits of 3 miles, others with 4 or 6 (such as Spain), and others with 12 (most of the African countries). None of the three trends obtained decisive support, leaving every State free to choose whether to recognize other States' claims. There is also considerable opinion favoring 6 miles as an appropriate limit for territorial waters—which can be extended to 12 miles for fishing purposes. This is the trend that technical fishery bodies advocate in Spain, meanwhile a draft law that establishes this; in accordance with the 1964 London Convention, to which Spain is a party; is being explored.

Spain, therefore, is not required to recognize the 12-mile limit that Gabon claims for its territorial waters and can make the appropriate reservations of its rights for this purpose.

But the fact is that, in addition, Gabon's claim clashes with the claims that Spain must necessarily maintain over territory and waters under its sovereignty that would be included within Gabon's limits. On this point, in the absence of a special agreement, international practice prior to the Geneva Convention commonly accepted the median line approach to delimit the territorial sea of States situated opposite or adjacent to each other. However, this approach is not implemented satisfactorily when both States maintain different limits for their territorial seas. This is because one of them may be forced to have a sea wider than usual or to recognize another State's seas that are wider than its own. This is why Article 12 of the 1958 Geneva Convention says that

**TRANSLATION**

- 4 -

Ministry  
of  
Foreign Affairs  
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL  
COUNSEL

no State shall have the right "to extend its territorial sea beyond" the median line. Whether this approach is applicable between Gabon and Spain depends, of course, on its prior acceptance by both sides.

In this International Legal Counsel's opinion, Spain must start from the assumption that no Gabonese internal decision can alter what have traditionally been Spanish territorial waters and make an express reservation of its rights, not only on the mainland, islands, islets, and permanent elevations; but also on the corresponding territorial sea, with a breadth of six miles from the low water mark. Ultimately, as indicated in the attached Note, both parties must attempt to resolve the matter via negotiation.

Such is the view that this Advisor has the honor of sharing for Your Excellency's consideration.

[signature]

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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Mary McKee, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Madrid, 26 de julio de 1966.

Ministerio  
de  
Asuntos Exteriores  
ASESORIA JURIDICA  
INTERNACIONAL

Asunto: Extensión aguas jurisdiccionales  
Bahía Mondah hechas por Gobierno  
Gabón.

1.330

Excmo. Señor:

La adjunta Nota de la Dirección General de Africa y Mundo Árabe solicita el Informe de esta Asesoría Jurídica Internacional sobre el proyecto de Ley del Gabón que fija una línea base recta en la Bahía de Mondah, para medir desde ella las aguas territoriales y delimitar las interiores. Desde 1963, Gabón reclama un límite de 12 millas para sus aguas territoriales. Según el nuevo proyecto, quedarían dentro de tales límites tierras y aguas de soberanía española.

La cuestión planteada requiere el examen de los siguientes puntos:

1º. Derecho de Gabón a fijar una línea de base recta para medir la anchura del mar territorial. Este punto viene cubierto por el Convenio de Ginebra de 1958 sobre Mar territorial. Su art. 4, permite este método en los lugares en que la costa tenga profundas aberturas y escotaduras o en los que haya una franja de islas a lo largo de la costa situadas en su proximidad inmediata; en tales casos puede trazarse una línea recta que una "los puntos apropiados" y que "no se aparte de manera apreciable de la dirección general de la costa", dejando como mar interior una zona de mar "su-

Ministerio  
de  
Asuntos Exteriores

ficientemente vinculada al dominio terrestre". También, según el art. 7, si la distancia entre las líneas de bajamar de los puntos naturales de entrada de una bahía no excede de 24 millas, se podrá trazar una línea de demarcación entre las dos líneas de bajamar, y las aguas que queden encerradas serán consideradas como aguas interiores. El propio artículo define lo que se entiende por bahía.

Se verá que tanto la definición de "bahía", como la de "puntos naturales de entrada", "puntos apropiados", "dirección general de la costa", etc. son cuestiones de hecho que necesitan de determinación previa a su conceptualización jurídica. Por lo que puede apreciar el que suscribe con los elementos aportados, las pretensiones de Gabón parecen encajar en los anteriores conceptos.

España no es parte del Convenio de Ginebra y según la información proporcionada a esta Asesoría Jurídica Internacional, Gabón tampoco lo es. Sin embargo, el Tribunal Internacional de Justicia (caso de las Pesquerías Anglo-Noruegas) decidió que el método de líneas de base rectas, entendido en forma muy parecida a lo que luego vino a sancionar el Convenio de Ginebra, es conforme al Derecho Internacional. Este criterio ha sido adoptado en anteriores Informes de esta Asesoría Jurídica Internacional (v. el nº 1171 de 25 de octubre de 1962). Por ello, ha de concluirse que, "prima facie", Gabón, a reserva de una eventual determinación diferente de las cuestiones de hecho, tiene derecho a trazar la línea de base recta a que se refiere la adjunta Nota.

2º. Consecuencias del límite de 12 millas aplicado por Gabón a sus aguas territoriales. Aunque después de las Conferencias de Ginebra de 1958 y 1960, la extensión de



- 3 -

Ministerio  
de  
Asuntos Exteriores

las aguas territoriales sigue sin fijar de común acuerdo, la práctica muestra tres grupos principales de países, unos con límites de 3 millas, otros de 4 ó 6 (como España), y otros de 12 (en el que se encuentran la mayor parte de los países africanos). Ninguna de las tres tendencias obtuvo apoyo decisivo quedando libres cada Estado de reconocer o no las pretensiones de los otros Estados. Existe, asimismo, una considerable opinión que favorece un límite de 6 millas como el apropiado para las aguas jurisdiccionales, límite que puede extenderse a 12 millas a efectos de pesca. Esta es la tendencia que propugnan en España los organismos técnicos de pesquerías, estando en estudio un proyecto de disposición legal que así lo establezca, siguiendo el Convenio Europeo de Londres de 1964, del que España es parte.

España, pues, no está obligada a reconocer el límite de 12 millas que Gabón se arroga para sus aguas jurisdiccionales, y puede hacer la oportuna reserva de sus derechos, por este concepto.

Pero es que, además, la pretensión de Gabón choca con las que forzosamente España ha de mantener sobre las tierras y aguas de su soberanía que quedarían incluidas dentro de los límites gaboneses. En este punto la práctica internacional, anterior al Convenio de Ginebra, aceptaba comúnmente el criterio de la línea media, a falta de acuerdo especial, para delimitar el mar territorial de Estados situados frente a frente ó adyacentes. Sin embargo, el criterio no es de satisfactoria aplicación cuando ambos Estados mantienen anchuras diferentes para su mar territorial, pues uno de ellos puede verse forzado a tener un mar más ancho que lo usual ó a reconocer al otro Estado mayor anchura que la propia. Por ello el Convenio de Ginebra de 1958, en su artículo 12, dice que

Ministerio  
de  
Asuntos Exteriores

ningún Estado tendrá derecho "a extender su mar territorial más allá" de la línea media. La aplicabilidad de este criterio entre Gabón y España depende, naturalmente, de que sea aceptado previamente por ambas partes.

En opinión de esta Asesoría Jurídica Internacional, España debe partir del supuesto de que ninguna disposición interna del Gabón puede venir a alterar lo que ha sido tradicionalmente aguas jurisdiccionales españolas, haciendo expresa reserva de sus derechos, no sólo sobre la tierra firme, islas, islotes y elevaciones permanentes, sino también sobre el mar territorial correspondiente, en una anchura de seis millas contadas a partir de la línea de bajamar. En última instancia, como indica la Nota adjunta, es procedente tratar de resolver el asunto por negociación de ambas partes.

Tal es la opinión que esta Asesoría tiene el honor de elevar al superior criterio de V.E.

*Santiago Martínez Carr*

---

**Annex 105**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 454 from the Ministry of the Navy to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (23 July 1966)



## TRANSLATION

[handwritten: 46 341 221.2 (672.1)]

MINISTRY OF THE NAVY  
 GENERAL STAFF OF THE NAVY  
Information section  
Section 1

Reference No.  
C- 21445

Your Excellency:

[stamp: (illegible)  
 JULY 23, 1966  
 No.] [handwritten: 454 (illegible) 4]

TO: His Excellency, The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.-

SUBJECT: TERRITORIAL WATERS IN MONDAH BAY

REFERENCE: Letter No. 424 of 7-7-66 of that Department.

TEXT: With regard to what was communicated in your letter of reference,

I have the honor of expressing to Your Excellency the following:

The issue raised involves two essential points to consider: 1.- Delimitation of Mondah Bay's waters 2.- Friction that may arise from the coexistence of two areas of different sovereignty over each other's territorial sea.

1. The delimitation or "closing" of Mondah Bay in accordance with a straight baseline, which was perfectly drawn on the map, was apparently done in accordance with the provisions of articles 5 et seq of the Convention on the Territorial Sea from the Law of the Sea Conference held in Geneva, Spring of 1958. In accordance with the former, the markings are perfectly delineated and the line does not exceed the 24 miles referred to in Article 7 point 4 of said Convention. Therefore, on this point, there is nothing to contest, and we believe that we would lack legal arguments to oppose it.

2. With regard to the twelve-mile line, the Convention itself establishes, in article 12, that when the coasts of two States are adjacent or opposite, none of those States shall have the right, unless otherwise agreed, to extend its territorial sea beyond a median line. Said median line is determined such that all its points are equidistant from the points closest to the baselines from which each of those States' territorial sea is measured. Under these agreements, it is clear that, as far as our coasts are concerned, Gabon's territorial sea cannot be extended beyond the established limits, taking further into account that insofar as it concerns island territories, Art. 10 of the Convention establishes that an island's territorial sea is measured in accordance with the provisions of this chapter—that is to say, in the same manner used for continents.

[stamp: (illegible) JULY 27, 1966] [handwritten: (illegible) 90]
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WATER STREET TRANSLATIONS

**TRANSLATION**

There are sufficient arguments to formulate reservations on this point. However, it should be borne in mind that Spain has not ratified the Geneva Conventions, and we do not know whether Gabon—who became independent in August of 1960 (after the Geneva Conventions)—has done so. This could be an issue but would lead to establishing the dividing lines of the respective territorial seas by mutual agreement.

This Ministry has had no news regarding Gabon's position on the international commitments of the former territories of French West Africa—which are subject of the border treaty that Spain and France signed in Paris on June 27, 1900.

May God keep Your Excellency many years  
Madrid, July [handwritten: 23], 1966  
ADMIRAL CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NAVY  
BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCE  
THE [C.A.] CHIEF OF THE STRATEGY DIVISION  
OF THE NAVAL GENERAL STAFF

P. A.

[illegible stamp] [signature]

Signed Ignacio Martel



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New York, NY 10016  
[www.waterstreettranslations.com](http://www.waterstreettranslations.com)

(212) 776-1713  
[info@waterstreettranslations.com](mailto:info@waterstreettranslations.com)

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Mary McKee, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. Heine', written over a horizontal line.

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

Date







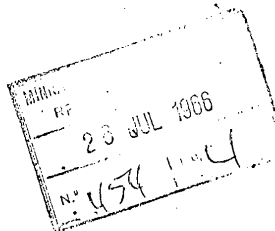


MINISTERIO DE MARINA  
ESTADO MAYOR DE LA ARMADA  
Sección de Información  
Negociado 1º

Excmo. Sr. :

N/Referencia  
C- 21445

46' 341. 221. 2 (672.1)



ASUNTO: AGUAS JURISDICCIONALES EN LA BAHIA DE MONDAH .-

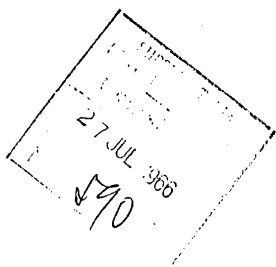
REFERENCIA: Escrito nº 424 de 7-7-66 de ese Departamento.

TEXTO: Con relación a lo comunicado en su escrito de referencia, tengo el honor de manifestar a V.E. lo siguiente:

La cuestión planteada abarca dos puntos esenciales a considerar: 1º.- Delimitación de las aguas de la Bahía de Mondah 2º.- Fricción que puede surgir al coexistir dos espacios de diferente soberanía sobre el Mar territorial de cada una de ellas.

- 1º.- La delimitación o "cierre" de la Bahía de Mondah con arreglo a una línea de bases rectas, que quedó perfectamente señalada en la carta, parece haberse hecho de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en los artículos 5º y siguientes de la Convención relativa al Mar Territorial de la Conferencia sobre el derecho del Mar celebrada en Ginebra en la primavera del año 1958. Con arreglo a ellas las marcaciones están perfectamente señaladas y la línea no excede de las 24 millas que señala el artículo 7 punto 4 de dicha Convención. En este punto, pues, nada hay que objetar y creemos que careceríamos de argumentos jurídicos para oponernos.
- 2º.- En cuanto a la fijación de las doce millas, el propio Convenio establece en su artículo 12 que cuando las costas de dos Estados se hallen situadas frente a frente o sean adyacentes, ninguno de dichos Estados tendrá derecho, salvo mutuo acuerdo en contrario, a extender su Mar Territorial mas allá de una línea media determinada de forma tal que todos sus puntos sean equidistantes de los puntos mas próximos de las líneas de base a partir de las cuales se mide la anchura del Mar Territorial de cada uno de estos Estados. Con arreglo a estos acuerdos, es evidente que en cuanto concierne a nuestras costas no puede extenderse el Mar Territorial gabonés a más de los límites que se establecen, teniendo además en cuenta por cuanto se refiere a los territorios insulares que el art. 10 del repetido Convenio establece que el Mar Territorial de una isla se mide de acuerdo con las disposiciones de este capítulo. Es decir que es igual que en los continentes.


Hay ...



... pues razones argumentales suficientes para formular reservas en este punto. Ahora bien, hay que tener presente que los Convenios de Ginebra no han sido ratificados por España y no tenemos constancia de que lo haya sido por el Gabón cuyo nacimiento como Nación Independiente data de Agosto de 1960, es decir posterior a los Convenios de Ginebra. Ello implicaría tal vez una dificultad, pero determinaría la fijación por mutuo acuerdo de las líneas divisorias de los respectivos Mares Territoriales.

Tampoco se tienen noticias en este Ministerio de la posición del Gabón en cuanto a los compromisos internacionales de los antiguos territorios del Africa Occidental Francesa, con respecto a los cuales España firmó con Francia un Convenio sobre límites en Paris el 27 de Junio de 1900.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años  
Madrid, 27 de Julio de 1.966  
EL ALMIRANTE JEFE DEL E.M. DE LA ARMADA  
DE ORDEN DE S. E.  
EL CAJEFE DE LA DIVISION DE ESTRATEGIA  
DEL E.M. DE LA ARMADA

P.A.  


Fd: Ignacio Martel -

Excmo. Sr. Subsecretario del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores.-

**Annex 106**

*Airgram No. A-93 from the Embassy of the United States of America to The Gabonese Republic  
to the US Department of State (26 February 1967)*



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# AIRGRAM

POL 33-4 US

XR POL 33-4 GABON  
FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
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ARA	EUR	FE
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NEA	CU	INR
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A-93  
NO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED  
DEPT. OF STATE

MAR 14 8 32 AM 1967

ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: February 26, 1967

FROM : AmEmbassy, LIBREVILLE

SUBJECT : Territorial Sea of Gabon.

REF : CA-1076, August 8, 1966; Embassy's A-7, July 23, 1966.

Dept. Pass  
Ambassades,  
Kinshasa (for  
Naval Attache),  
Yaounde.

Gabon has apparently decided to declare Mondah Bay (an arm of the sea north and east of Libreville) as an interior body of water. In addition, the Gabonese Government is submitting a proposal to the Spanish Government concerning a precise definition of the line determining the territorial waters of Gabon and of Equatorial Guinea on Gabon's northern border.

Mondah Bay is defined as interior Gabonese waters with the mouth of the Bay determined by a line extending, approximately, between Pointe Akanda on the western shore and a point where the parallel 0 degrees 50 minutes north latitude intersects the eastern shore.

Gabonese territorial waters are defined as all those portions of the ocean within twelve miles of the Gabonese coast except in cases where this claim overlaps areas which are within twelve miles of the coastal or island possessions of Equatorial Guinea. In the latter case, lines have been drawn on a detailed map between the various Spanish-held islands and the closest points on the adjacent Gabonese mainland. Points midway along these lines have been connected. The resulting line constitutes the Gabonese proposed boundary between the territorial waters of Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

COMMENT: The reporting officer came across this information recently during a discussion between Gabonese officials and representatives of Gulf Oil Company concerning petroleum exploration concessions. (See Embassy's A-88, February 11, 1967). The Gulf representatives were interested in determining the extent of Gabonese territorial waters and the existence of any disputed regions either with Congo (Brazzaville) on the southern border of Gabon or Equatorial Guinea (Rio Muni) on the northern border. The Gabonese officials stated that no problem whatsoever existed with the Congo (Brazzaville)-Gabonese border since the territorial waters of each

13  
14 PM 3

COPY/FLO-FBR

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by:

CONS:DPN Christensen:mlb 2/24/67

Contents and Classification Approved by:

David M. Bane, Ambassador

Clearance:

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 144 969000

By ST NARA Date 1/28/02

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

state were determined by a line perpendicular to the coast at the point where the land frontier intersected coast. There were no islands in the area to complicate the issue.

In the north, however, the territorial waters of Gabon and Equatorial Guinea are vaguely defined due to the existence of numerous Spanish-held islands south of a seaward extension of the land frontier. In order to allay any apprehension which the Gulf representatives might have about possible concessions in a disputed area, the officials produced a "confidential" map containing the definitions mentioned in the body of this airgram. The reporting officer was only able to glance briefly at the map. Consequently, the determination given above concerning the mouth of Mndah Bay is only approximative.

BANE

*A.M.B.*LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## DECLASSIFIED

Authority 1110 969000By ST NARA Date 12/28/02

**Annex 107**

*Airgram No. A-137 from the Embassy of the United States of America to The Gabonese Republic  
to the US Department of State (28 May 1967)*





RECEIVED - DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARCHIVES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# AIRGRAM

POL 33-4 GABON

RM/R	REP	AF
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ARA	EUR	FE
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TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA
29	20	3
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2		

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A-137  
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TO

Department of State LEGAL ADVISER

RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RS/AN  
ANALYSIS BRANCH  
DATE: May 28, 1967

FROM : AmEmbassy, LIBREVILLE

SUBJECT : Gabonese-Equatorial Guinea Offshore Boundry Question Remains Unresolved.

REF : Embassy's A-93, February 26, 1967; CA-1076, August 8, 1966.

Dept. pass:  
AmEmbassies,  
Kinshasa for  
ALUSNA, Lagos,  
Madrid, Yaounde.

On one of their recent trips to Gabon to complete negotiations for concessions on offshore petroleum exploration, representatives of Gulf Oil Company, Manuel RIGO and Norman LEWIS, were informed by Gabonese officials that Gabon is altering its earlier liberal considerations concerning the boundary between the territorial waters of Gabon and Rio Muni (Equatorial Guinea). Gabon had earlier considered accepting a boundary connecting the midpoints on lines drawn from the Spanish-held islands to points on the Gabonese mainland. (See reference airgram). The Gabonese Government, the Gulf representatives were told, is now going to claim several offshore sand bars, uninhabited reefs and islets as Gabonese territory and, consequently, request that the boundary should be determined by joining the midpoints of lines connecting points on the islands claimed by Spain with points on the bars, reefs and islets claimed by Gabon. The Gabonese officials reportedly confided to the Gulf men that the earlier proposal had been reconsidered since it would have brought the boundary of the territorial waters of Equatorial Guinea far to the south of the land frontier and, consequently, too far south to be acceptable by the Gabonese.

COMMENT: The possibility that there may be offshore petroleum deposits in the border area could well have been a key factor in influencing Gabon to seek to expand its claim. Three oil companies, Gulf, Shell, and the Societe des Petroles d'Afrique (S.P.A.F.E.), are currently actively seeking to obtain concessions for petroleum exploration in the offshore areas west and north of Libreville.

BANE

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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In  Out

Drafted by:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

ECON:DPNCH:stensen:mlb 5-26-67

David M. Bane, Ambassador

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 100 969000

By ST NARA Date 1/28/02



### **Annex 108**

The Spanish State, *Letter No. 159 from* the Hydrographic Division, Maritime Department of Cadiz *to* the Technical Secretary-General of the General Commissariat of Equatorial Guinea (17 October 1967)



## TRANSLATION

MARITIME DEPARTMENT OF CADIZ	HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL "MALASPINA" HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE
------------------------------------	---

STATEMENT 29860

Ref.	Number	Date	N/R [illeg.]	Number
6679	.....	10.17.67	143182/29	159

SUBJECT: DELIMITATION OF GABON'S JURISDICTIONAL WATERS.

REFERENCE: Your letter No. 6679 dated 10.17.67.

ATTACHMENTS: a).- Sketch of Corisco Bay and the Muni Estuary.

b).- Photocopy of the letters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 09.29.67 and 07.26.67 and from the E.M.A. No. C-21445 dated 02.23.67.

TEXT: 1.-

1.1.- Per your request in the above-referenced letter, I am forwarding you the sketch taken from French Chart No. 6183.

1.2.- In the sketch, double lines show the baseline that Gabon unilaterally set to delimit the internal and exterior waters in Mondah Bay, as indicated in the letter No. 3293 from its Technical Secretary General, dated 06.02.67. Please note the following observations:

Point A, situated by latitude and longitude on said chart, falls exactly on Bolokouboué Point.

Point B, situated in the same way, is located in the sea. As such, on the sketch, "Point B" was fixed on the coast, by using the same latitude and slightly changing the longitude. This discrepancy may be because the low tide line is not well defined in the referenced French chart.

If these points are situated on Spanish chart No 247-A of Corisco Bay, the discrepancies are much greater, surely because a different "datum" was used for the French and Spanish charts. Thus, we preferred to take the sketch from the French Chart.

1.3.- The green line roughly represents the 12-mile limit measured from the low water line of Gabon's coasts and the baseline.

1.4.- The blue dashed line represents the 12-mile limit measured from the low water line of Equatorial Guinea's continental and insular coasts.

1.5.- The red line roughly represents the division of the Spanish and Gabonese waters that would result from applying the median line approach, using as a base: (1) for Gabon, the low water line of its coasts and the baseline that Gabon established in Mondah Bay

## TRANSLATION

MARITIME DEPARTMENT OF CADIZ	HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL "MALASPINA" HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE
------------------------------------	---

STATEMENT [illegible]

(Continuation)

Ref.	Number	Date	N/R [illeg.]	Number
.....	.....	.....	.....143182/29.....	.....159.....

SUBJECT: DELIMITATION OF JURISDICTIONAL WATERS OF GABON.

and (2) for Spain, the low water lines of the continental coasts, islands, and islets.

2

2.1- The represented lines are approximations, for the indicated reasons, and because the low water lines are not well marked in some areas on the French chart.

It is normal for the surveys of a particular area by different nations or by the same nation at different times to use a different astronomical point as the basepoint or "datum" for the projection. Therefore, the same geographical feature may have somewhat different geographical coordinates on the respective charts. On the other hand, there may be slight discrepancies in the coastline and in the relative position of geographical features from one chart to the other, due to orographic variations over the years. It might also be due to the greater or lesser accuracy of the survey, which depends on the purpose for which it was conducted and the methods used. As such, this Hydrographic Commission is conducting a new survey of Corisco Bay and the Muni Estuary.

2.2.- Due to the foregoing, when the time comes to reach a final agreement, I believe it best that both parties use the same chart as a reference point and that the ends of the baselines be determined in relation to well-defined geographical features, rather than by latitude and longitude.

3

3.1.- As requested, I am returning to you the photocopies attached to your above-referenced letter.

May God keep you for many years.

On board in Santa Isabel, October 28, 1967.

HONORABLE COMMANDER- HEAD OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

[signature]

-Juan A. Samalea Pérez-

[illegible seal]

Technical Secretary General of the General Commissariat of Equatorial Guinea.

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(212) 776-1713

[info@waterstreettranslations.com](mailto:info@waterstreettranslations.com)

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Dawn Gable, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."



---

Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21


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Date







 <p>DEPARTAMENTO MARITIMO DE CADIZ</p>	<p>BUQUE HIDRÓGRAFO "MALASPINA" COMISION HIDROGRAFICA JEFATURA</p>
---	--

LA VOZ 20060

S/RI.* 6679	Núm.	Fecha 17.10.67	N/RI.* 143182/29	Núm. 159
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ASUNTO: DELIMITACION DE AGUAS JURISDICCIONALES DEL GABON.

REFERENCIA: Su escrito nº 6679 de fecha 17.10.67.

ANEXOS: a).- Croquis de la Bahía de Corisco y Estuario del Muni.

b).- Fotocopia de escrito del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores fecha 29.09.67 y 26.07.67 y del E.M.A. nº C-21445 de 23.07.67.


TEXTO:

- 1.-
  - 1.1.- De acuerdo con lo interesado en el escrito de la "referencia" remito a Vd. el croquis del "anexo" que está sacado de la carta francesa nº 6183.
  - 1.2.- En el croquis se ha dibujado en doble trazo la línea base fijada unilateralmente por el Gobierno del Gabón para delimitar las aguas interiores y exteriores en la Bahía de Mondah indicada en el escrito de esa Secretaría General Técnica nº 3293 de 02.06.67, debiendo hacer las observaciones siguientes:
 

El punto A, situado por latitud y longitud sobre dicha carta, cae exactamente sobre la Punta Polokouboué.

El punto B, situado de la misma forma que en la mar, por lo que en el croquis se ha determinado el punto B', sobre la costa conservando la misma latitud y variando ligeramente la longitud. Esta discrepancia pudiera ser debida a que en la carta francesa citada no esté bien determinada la línea de la bajamar escorada.

Si se sitúan dichos puntos sobre la carta española de la Bahía de Corisco nº 247-A, las discrepancias son mucho mayores debido, seguramente, a que para la confección de la carta francesa y de la española se habrá empleado un "datum" diferente. Por esta razón hemos preferido sacar el croquis de la carta francesa.
  - 1.3.- La línea verde representa aproximadamente el límite de las 12 millas a partir de la línea de la bajamar escorada de las costas del Gabón y de la línea base.
  - 1.4.- La línea de trazos azul representa el límite de las 12 millas a partir de la línea de bajamar escorada de las costas continentales e insulares de la Guinea Ecuatorial.
  - 1.5.- La línea roja representa aproximadamente la divisoria de las aguas españolas y gabonesas que resultaría de aplicar el criterio de la línea media, tomando como base respecto al Gabón la línea de bajamar escorada de sus costas y la línea base de la Bahía de Mondah establecida.

 DEPARTAMENTO MARITIMO DE CADIZ	BUQUE HIDRÓGRAFO "MALASPINA" COMISION HIDROGRAFICA JEFATURA
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LA VOZ 28660

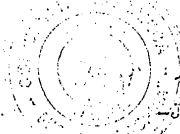
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S/RI.*	Núm.	Fecha	N/RI.*	Núm.
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ASUNTO: DELIMITACION DE LAS AGUAS JURISDICIONALES DEL GABON.

das por el Gobierno del Gabón y respecto a España la -  
líneas de bajamar escorada de las costas continentales  
y de las islas e islotes.

- 2.-
- 2.1.- Las líneas representadas son aproximadas por las razones apuntadas y porque en algunas zonas de la carta francesa no está bien delimitada la línea de bajamar. Es normal, que en los levantamientos de una misma zona efectuados por distintas Naciones y aún en las efectuados por una misma Nación en distintas épocas se tome como punto fundamental o "datum" para la proyección un punto astronómico diferente, por lo que el mismo accidente puede tener coordenadas geográficas algo distintas en las cartas respectivas. Por otra parte la línea de costa y la posición relativa de los accidentes geográficos pueden presentar ligeras discrepancias de una carta a otra por variaciones orográficas a lo largo de los años y también por la mayor o menor exactitud del levantamiento en función del fin a que se destine y de los medios empleados. Por esta Comisión Hidrográfica se está efectuando un nuevo levantamiento de la Bahía de Corisco y Estuario del Muni.
- 2.2.- Por todo lo anterior, en el momento en que se trate de llegar a un acuerdo definitivo, creo que sería conveniente que por ambas partes se tomase como punto de partida la misma carta y que los extremos de las líneas base se determinen refiriéndolos a accidentes geográficos bien definidos, en lugar de establecerlos por latitud y longitud.
- 3.-
- 3.1.- Conforme a lo interesado devuelvo a Vd. las fotocopias anexas a su escrito de "referencia".  
Dios guarde a Vd. muchos años.  
Abordo en Santa Isabel, 28 de Octubre de 1.967.  
EL CF. (H) COMANDANTE-JEFE DE LA COMISION HIDROGRAFICA.



*Juan A. Samalea Pérez*  
-Juan A. Samalea Pérez-

Sr. Secretario General Técnico de la Comisaría General de Guinea Ecuatorial.

### **Annex 109**

Kingdom of Spain, *Letter No. 408R* from the Commissioner-General of Equatorial Guinea, Santa Isabel to the Commissioner-General, Bata (11 May 1968)



**TRANSLATION****THIRD DOCUMENT: File G 2256.****(Bears classified seal)**COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR EQUATORIAL GUINEA.  
Territorial Guard Second Headquarters BATA.

No. 408R

S/R-. Letter R 472 dated April 13, 1968

TO: THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR THIS REGION.

SUBJECT: REPORTING ON SEISMIC WORKS IN RIO MUNI.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In response to your office's written correspondence, I have the honor of sharing with you the following information regarding the installation of instruments for seismic activities in this province:

This Office's "Confidential" Correspondence No. 120 from January of this year informed this department that ESTERN-GEOPHISCAL was seeking permission through the Spanish ambassador in Libreville to place instruments and workers in Corisco and Conga. That letter indicated that neither the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the Commissioner General had an issue with this.

In order to carry what you indicated in your Correspondence No. 472, the deputy chief of the territorial guard for Puerto Iradier was ordered to appear in Corisco and Cabo San Juan. Upon completing his service, he issued the following report:

Upon arriving to Corisco, he confirmed the presence of two American nationals with a "SHORAN" [short-range navigation] station who would be leaving the island the day after the official's visit.

Regarding Cabo San Juan, he likewise encountered two Americans there with a station identical to the first. That same day they left with it. Regarding the fact that a helicopter landing pad had been set up in Cabo San Juan—that is completely untrue.

## TRANSLATION

For the purpose of providing further information, the undersigned wishes to note that, following official Correspondence No. 120 dated January 9 from the Commissioner General, the second headquarters received a letter from this region's mining service informing us that CEPASA-GULF had been granted the petroleum prospecting grid and that the work would be performed by WESTERN GEOPHISCAL, with its "SHORAN" stations in Corisco, Cabo San Juan, Bangui, and Rio Benito.

May God keep Your Excellency many years.

BATA

May 11, 1968

Commander of the Second Headquarters

Signed, Victoriano San Jose Sacristan

SANTA ISABEL.



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**CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION**

This hereby confirms that the foregoing translation was prepared by Matthew Bouillon, a linguist with substantial experience in the translation of documents from Spanish into English as certified by the American Translators Association.

Kent G. Heine, Managing Partner of Water Street Translations, LLC, hereby attests to the following:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing translation is a true, accurate, and unbiased translation into English of the Spanish text attached herewith."

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Kent G. Heine  
Water Street Translations, LLC

09/08/21

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Date







**DOCUMENTO TERCERO: Legajo G 2256.****(Lleva sello de Reservado)**

COMISARIA GENERAL DE LA GUINEA ECUATORIAL.

Guardia Territorial 2ª Jefatura BATA.

Nº 408R

S/R-. Escrito R 472-de 13/4-68

ASUNTO: INFORMANDO SOBRE TRABAJOS SISMICOS EN RIO MUNI.

EXCMO. SEÑOR

En contestación al escrito de su Autoridad, reseñado en la referencia, por el que se interesa información acerca de las instalaciones de instrumentos para trabajos sísmicos en esta provincia, tengo el honor de participarle lo que sigue:

Con el escrito "Confidencial" de este alto Centro, número 120 de 9 de enero del año en curso, se informaba a esta dependencia, que la Compañía "ESTERN-GEOPHISCAL" solicitaba por medición del Embajador de España en Libreville, autorización para instalar instrumentos y operarios en Corisco y Conga. En dicho escrito, se hace constar que no existía inconveniente para ello, tanto por parte del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, como por esa Comisaria General.

Para cumplimentar su antes citado escrito número 472, ordenó el informante al Teniente Jefe de la Sección de la Guardia Territorial de Puerto Iradier, se personase en Corisco y Cabo San Juan, de cuyo servicio, una vez realizado emite el siguiente informe:

Que al personarse en Corisco, comprobó la presencia de dos súbditos Americanos con una estación de "shoran", quienes se marchaban de la isla al siguiente día de la visita del Oficial.

Por cuanto respecta a Cabo San Juan, igualmente halló en dicho punto a dos americanos con otra estación idéntica a la anterior, los que en ese mismo día se marcharon con aquella. En relación a lo de haber sido preparado un campo de aterrizaje para helicópteros en Cabo San Juan, es completamente incierto.

A título de más información, el que suscribe se permite hacer constar, que posterior al escrito de esa Comisaria Generaln° 120 de 9 de enero , se recibió en esta 2ª Jefatura un oficio del Servicio de Minas de esta Region, en el que se informaba se la Compañía CEPESA-GULF la adjudicataria de las cuadrículas de investigación petrolífera y que los trabajos los realizaría la WESTERN GEOPHISCAL" con estaciones de "shoran" en Corisco, Cabo San Juan, Bangui, y río Benito.

Dios guarde a V.E, muchos años.

BATA

11 de mayo de 1968

El Comandante 2º Jefe.

Fdo, Victoriano San Jose Sacristan

EXCMO. SEÑOR COMISARIO GENERAL DE ESTA REGION.

SANTA ISABEL.