

## TREATY ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE FRONTIER BETWEEN MEXICO AND GUATEMALA(1)

The Governments of Mexico and Guatemala, seeking to resolve amicably the difficulties existing between the two Republics, have decided to conclude a treaty to achieve such a desirable objective; and to that end have appointed their respective plenipotentiaries; namely, the President of the Mexican Republic: Mr. Ignacio Mariscal, Secretary of the Office of Foreign Affairs; and the President of the Republic of Guatemala: Mr. Manuel Herrera, Jr., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Government of Mexico; who, having exchanged their respective powers, found in due form, and bearing in mind the preliminary arrangements signed by the representatives of the two nations in New York City, United States of America, on 12 1:\UgUSt 1882, have agreed as follows:

### Article I.

The Republic of Guatemala renounces for ever the rights which it deems it has to the territory of the State of Chiapas and its district of Soconusco, and consequently considers that territory an integral part of the United Mexican States.

### Article II.

The Mexican Republic duly appreciates the conduct of Guatemala, acknowledging that the ends which have prompted it to make the above renunciation are as worthy as they are honourable, and declares that in the same circumstances Mexico would have agreed to a similar disclaimer. Guatemala, being for its part satisfied with this acknowledgement and this solemn declaration, shall seek no compensation of any kind on account of the foregoing stipulation.

### Article III.

The frontier between the two nations shall for ever be as follows: (1) **the line running along the centre of the River Suchiate from a point situated in the sea three leagues from the mouth of the river, upstream through its deepest channel, so far as the point at which the river intersects the vertical plane passing through the highest point of the volcano of Tacana, 25 metres from the southernmost pier of the customs booth at Talquian, leaving the booth in Guatemalan territory;** (2) the line formed by the vertical plane described above, from the point at which the plane meets the River Suchiate to its intersection with the vertical plane passing through the summits of Buenavista hill and Ixbul hill; (3) the line formed by the vertical plane passing through the summit of Buenavista hill, previously determined astronomically by the Mexican Scientific Commission, and through the summit of Ixbul hill, from its intersection with the preceding line up to a point four kilometres beyond Ixbul; (4) the parallel of latitude running through the latter point and thence eastwards until it meets the deepest channel of the River Usumacinta, or of the River Chixoy should the said parallel not meet the first-mentioned river; (5) the median line of the deepest channel, either of the Usumacinta in the one case, or of the Chixoy and then of the Usumacinta and continuing along the latter in the other case, from the point at which either river meets the aforesaid parallel so far as the point at which the deepest channel of the Usumacinta meets the parallel situated 25 kilometres south of Tenosique, in the State of Tabasco, as measured from the centre of the town square; (6) the last-mentioned parallel of latitude, from its intersection with the deepest channel of the Usumacinta so far as the point at which it meets the meridian passing at one third of the distance between the centres of the squares of Tenosique and Sacluc, as reckoned from Tenosique; (7) this meridian, from its intersection with the aforesaid parallel so far as latitude seventeen degrees forty-nine minutes (17° 49'); (8) the parallel of seventeen degrees forty-nine minutes (17° 49'), running indefinitely eastwards from its intersection with the aforesaid meridian.

### Article IV.

Each of the two Governments shall appoint a Scientific Commission to draw the dividing line with due precision on reliable maps and to erect markers on the ground clearly specifying the boundaries of the two Republics as described in the preceding article. The two Commissions shall meet at Union Juarez, six months at the latest from the date on which the instruments of ratification of this Treaty are exchanged and shall immediately begin work on the operations indicated. They shall keep daily records and establish schedules; and the result of their work, mutually approved, shall be considered part of this Treaty and shall have the same force as the provisions thereof. The deadline for completing the said operations shall be two years from

the date on which the Commissions meet. If either of the two fails to appear within the six-month period established above, the other shall begin its work notwithstanding; and the work it carries out separately shall have the same force and validity as if it had been done by both Commissions. The two Governments shall conclude as soon as possible an arrangement for determining the details relating to these Commissions and their work.

**Article V.**

Nationals of either of the two Contracting Parties who, by virtue of the provisions of this Treaty, shall henceforth be residing in territories of the other may remain there or move at any time elsewhere as they prefer, either keeping any property they may possess in the former territories or disposing of it and transferring its value wherever they may wish, such transfer being exempt from all levies, charges or taxes. Persons who prefer to remain in the ceded territories may either retain the status and rights of nationals of the country to which the said territories previously belonged or acquire the nationality of the country to which they shall henceforth belong. However, they must opt for one nationality or the other within one year from the date on which the instruments of ratification of this Treaty are exchanged; and persons who remain in the said territories after the year has elapsed without having declared their intention of retaining their former nationality shall be deemed to be nationals of the other Contracting Party.

Property of any kind situated in the ceded territories shall be deemed inviolable; and the present owners, their heirs, and persons who may in future legally acquire such property shall enjoy the same guarantees in respect of the property as if it belonged to nationals of the country in which it is situated.

**Article VI.**

It being the objective of the two Governments in concluding this Treaty not only to put an end to the difficulties existing between them but also to resolve or avoid any which arise or may arise between neighbouring towns in either country because of uncertainty as to what is now the dividing line, it is stipulated that, within their first six months of meetings, the Scientific Commissions referred to in article IV shall send to their respective Governments an agreed list of those villages, estates and farms which are situated beyond any doubt on a particular side of the dividing line agreed upon in article III. Upon receipt of this list, each of the two Governments shall have the right to issue forthwith appropriate orders establishing its authority in those localities which are situated within its national territory.

**Article VII.**

This Treaty shall be ratified in accordance with the Constitution of each of the two Republics; and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Mexico City as soon as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Plenipotentiaries have signed this Treaty and affixed their seals thereto.

DONE at Mexico City, in two originals on 27 September 1882.

[IGNACIO MARISCAL]

[MANUEL HERRERA]

**Endnotes**

**1 (Note - Note)**

Registered by Mexico: No. 933

Came into force on 1 May 1883 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Mexico City, in accordance with article VII.