MEMORANDUM TO: Commanding Officer  
Army Map Service  
Att: Map Research Branch

FROM: Chief, Map Division

SUBJECT: Boundary line between Newfoundland and the Islands of Grande Miquelon, Petite Miquelon, and Saint Pierre

This is in reply to your memorandum of 21 October 1949 concerning the delineation of an international boundary between the Island of Newfoundland and the French islands of Grande Miquelon, Petite Miquelon, and Saint Pierre (see World Aeronautical Chart No. 261).

Apparently no attempt has been made to delineate an international boundary in this area.

The primary issues involving the islands of Grande Miquelon, Petite Miquelon, and Saint Pierre have centered about the value of the islands as bases for fishing operations in the surrounding waters. Official international agreements and treaties referring to this area deal with British or French possession of the islands or with British and French fishing rights along the shores of Newfoundland as a whole and Labrador, and in the "North Banks" fishing areas. Treaties dating from the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 to the Treaty of Vienna in 1815 indicate the various transfers of sovereignty over the islands and the fishing agreements between the British and French, but do not mention the territorial or international boundaries between the islands.
The most recent decree defining fishing rights and also the most
detailed and definite attempt to establish fishing limits and restrictions
around the islands of Grande-Miquelon, Petite Miquelon, and Saint Pierre
was issued in 1907. This is the "French decree prohibiting fishing by
foreigners in the territorial waters of Saint Pierre and Miquelon" of
July 21, 1907, (Great Britain. Foreign Office, British and Foreign
State Papers, Vol. 100, 1906-1907). (The 1907 decree adopted verbatim
several articles of a decree of March 1, 1868, that dealt with a similar
problem in French and Algerian waters (Great Britain. Foreign Office,
British and Foreign State Papers, Vol. 79, 1867-1869). Article 1 of the
1868 decree states that fishing is prohibited by foreigners in the territorial
waters within a line which is set at three nautical miles from the shore at
low-tide. For the bays, the three-mile limit is measured from a straight
line drawn across the bay at the point closest to the entrance or at the
point where the opening of the bay does not exceed ten miles in width.

This office suggests that the islands of Grande Miquelon, Petite
Miquelon, and Saint Pierre be named, that French possession be shown as
on WAC No. 261, and that no attempt should be made to show an inter-
national boundary since there is not substantial evidence of an agreement
between the French and the British on such a boundary.

FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, REPORTS AND ESTIMATES:

[Signature]

Chief, Map Division

Fnc: World Aeronautical Chart No. 261

12 January 1950
cc: Map Division, ORE - 2
    Central Records - 1
21 October 1949

SUBJECT: Boundary line between Newfoundland and the Islands of Grande Miquelon, Petite Miquelon and Saint Pierre.

MEMO TO: Director, Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

ATTN: Map Branch

1. Information is requested regarding the delineation of the international boundary between Newfoundland and the Islands of Grande Miquelon, Petite Miquelon and Saint Pierre, which are of French Sovereignty.

2. Forwarded under separate cover is World Aeronautical Chart 261, for your convenience.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

RECEIVED
OCT 26 1949
CIA - MAP BRANCH