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In reply refer
to S-193

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.



VITAL STORAGE

- 2 -

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, 1888, that dealt with a similar problem in French and Algerian waters (Great Britain. Foreign Office, British and Foreign State Papers, Vol. 79, 1887-1888). Article 1 of the 1888 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 international 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:

[Redacted]
Chief, Map Division

STAT

Encl: World Aeronautical Chart No. 261

[Redacted]
12 January 1950

cc: Map Division, ORE - 2
Central Records - 1

STAT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY MAP SERVICE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON 16, D. C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDING OFFICER
ARMY MAP SERVICE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
6500 BROOKS LANE
WASHINGTON 16, D. C.

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REFER TO FILE NO.

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

STAT.

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:

Robert D. Smith
Major CE
for DESLOGE BROWN
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers
Executive Officer

RECEIVED
OCT 26 1949
CIA - MAP BRANCH