

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER
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GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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SAUDI ARABIA/YEMEN BOUNDARY

The delimited 1500-kilometer boundary established between Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the June 2000 Jeddah Treaty contains three segments:

- **Segment 1** confirms the boundary of the 1934 Ta'if Treaty with minor modifications as the official line between the two States. It runs from a marker on the quay at Ras al Ma'waj Shami at 16°24'14.8"N 42°46'19.7"E to a pillar on the hill Jabal ath Tha'ar at 17°26'N 44°21'58"E. Annex 1 of the Jeddah Treaty identifies 293 turning points for this segment.
- **Segment 2** was previously borderless. The line, consisting of seventeen turning points in Annex 2 of the treaty, runs east to west from Point 1 at the Oman-Saudi-Yemen tripoint to Point 17 on the hill Jabal ath Tha'ar.

Point 1	19°N	52°E
Point 2	18°47'20"N	50°47'E
Point 3	18°37'N	49°07'E
Point 4	18°10'N	48°11'E
Point 5	17°27'N	47°36'E
Point 6	17°07'N	47°28'E
Point 7	16°57'N	47°11'E
Point 8	16°57'N	47°E
Point 9	17°17'N	46°45'E
Point 10	17°14'N	46°22'E
Point 11	17°15'N	46°06'E
Point 12	17°20'N	45°24'E
Point 13	17°26'N	45°13'E
Point 14	17°26'N	44°39'E
Point 15	17°24'20"N	44°34'E
Point 16	17°26'N	44°28'E
Point 17	17°26'N	44°21'58"E

- **Segment 3** describes the maritime portion of the boundary in Annex 3 in three straight line segments, beginning at the quay at Ras al Ma'waj Shami out the end of the states' maritime limits in the Red Sea along parallel 16°17'24"N.

16°24'14.8"N	42°46'19.7"E
16°24'14.8"N	42°09'E
16°17'24"N	41°47'E
16°17'24"N	[unspecified]

Neither country has released the reference datum for the turning points. According to the treaty, the final lines connecting the points will be drawn according to tribal affiliations and citizenship selected by tribe. Hence the current delimited land boundary line should be classified according to the following Digital Geographic Information Exchange Standard (DIGEST) codes:

Demarcation code:	FA0000 (administrative boundary)
Usage code:	USE23 (international)
Accuracy code:	ACC6 (undisputed [but not precise]),

Boundary status type code: BST2 (indefinite).

When depicting the current delimited international land boundary on cartographic products, in concordance with an official published map of the delimited boundary, straight-line segments connected to the published points may be shown and are adequate for small-scale maps. However, wherever scale permits – particularly on medium and large-scale maps – the line should be identified as or labeled “indefinite.” The disclaimer “Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative” should be used at all scales.

Background

The boundary treaty, negotiated by Saudi King Fahd and Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in early June 2000, signed by their foreign ministers in Jeddah on June 12, and ratified by their parliaments on June 26, delimits a continuous land and sea boundary based on turning points. Oman had previously agreed to the tripoint. Four border crossing points were additionally established near Gard, Al-Tiwal, Aluqaa maa al-Khadraa and Al-Waseea wa al-Been.

Under the terms of the treaty, Yemen acquired an estimated 35,000 square kilometers of territory including the once-disputed Fasht and Duwayyimah islands and lands near the coast and in the northeast. Saudi military residing in the ceded lands will withdraw, and no troops will be present twenty kilometers on either side of the second segment. In return, Yemen renounced its claims to the Jizan, Asir, and Najran regions in southwest Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia received a small amount of land near the Jabal ath Tha'ar landmark.

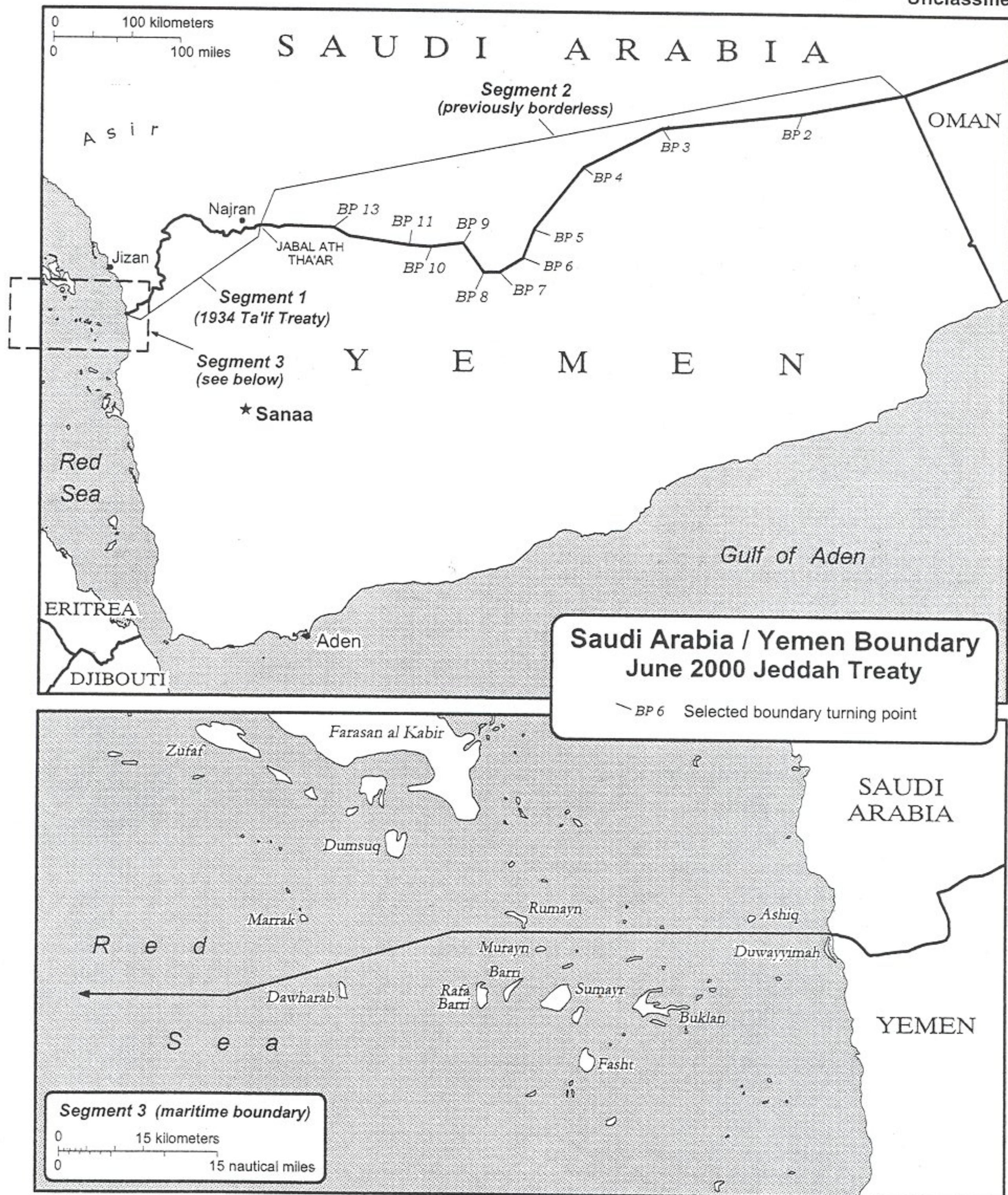
The two states signed a demarcation agreement in October, contracting a private firm to survey the line and erect boundary pillars. Riyadh and Sanaa also must establish border controls and assign citizenship to nomadic tribesmen in the border region. The final demarcated lines connecting the turning points will not rely on straight lines or geographic features, but will be drawn according to tribal affiliations as established during the demarcation. Demarcation is expected to take several years. The official signed demarcation maps will become part of the treaty.

ACTION

Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production.



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Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

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