



United States Department of State  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

## Geographic Notes

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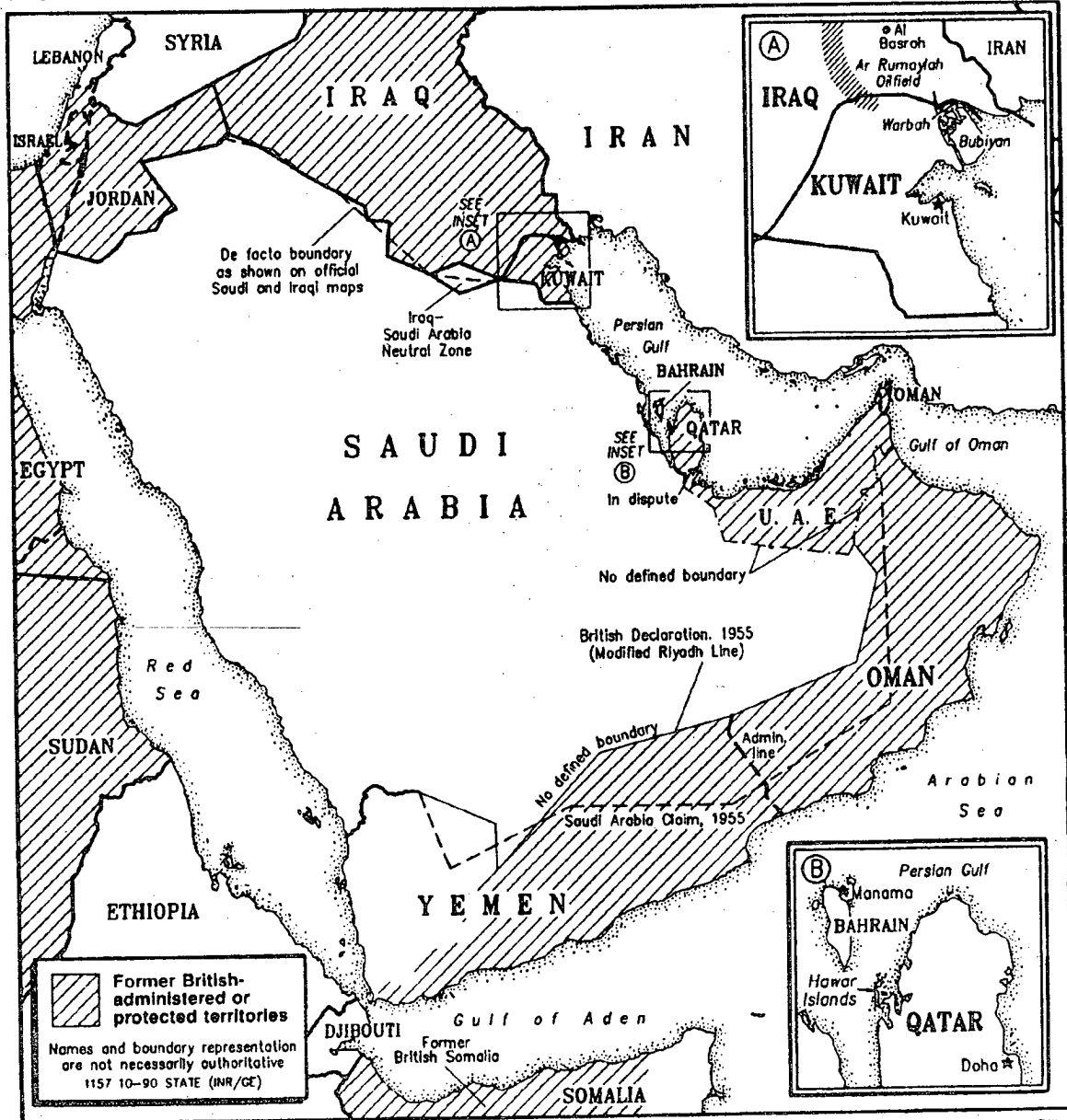
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## Boundaries in the Arabian Peninsula



Office of The Geographer  
U.S. Department of State

Cartographer: Leo Dillon

Britain had granted to Bahrain) and between Yemen and Saudi Arabia over Yemen's claim to boundaries set by the British in interior Arabia. By contrast, Saudi Arabia and Oman settled their common boundary last March, although its exact location has not been made public.

- Brad Thomas

### ● US Government Revises Depiction of Iraq/Saudi Arabia and Iraq/Jordan Boundaries

The Department of State has reviewed the depiction of the Iraq/Saudi Arabia and Iraq/Jordan boundaries on US Government maps. The boundary between Iraq and Saudi Arabia currently being

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shown is the 1922 boundary, established by the Protocol of Uqayr to the Treaty of Muhammarah. Since 1981, however, when Iraq and Saudi Arabia signed a treaty delimiting a new boundary, the 1922 boundary has not been the de facto boundary. The 1981 line partitions the Neutral Zone and straightens the boundary westward from it.

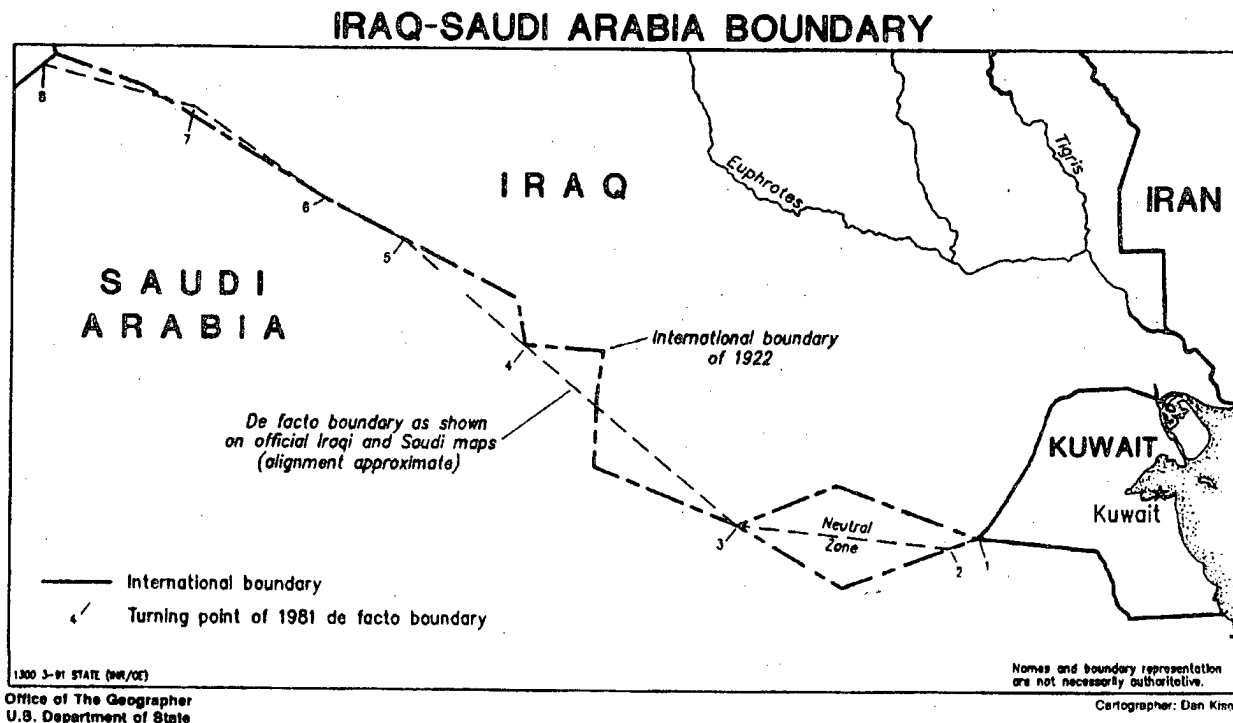
The boundary between Iraq and Jordan currently being shown is the one established in 1932 by an exchange of letters among the Iraqi Prime Minister, the British Resident in Amman, and King Abdullah. A treaty signed in 1984, however, delimits a new line which has become the de facto boundary. It runs from the terminus of the 1981 Iraq/Saudi Arabia boundary to the old Iraq/Jordan/Saudi Arabia tripoint, then turns northwestward, making several dogleg turns to exchange territory between Iraq and Jordan, and terminates at the tripoint with Syria established by France and Britain in 1931.

**Iraq/Saudi Arabia boundary.** Both Iraq and Saudi Arabia show the 1981 boundary on their

official maps and respect it in practice, but neither country has provided evidence of ratification or precise coordinates for the new boundary. Under the circumstances, the US has continued to depict the 1922 boundary on its maps but has recognized that conditions in the region make it necessary to represent the boundary respected by the two countries as well.

The Department has issued revised guidance to US cartographers which calls for continuing to depict the 1922 boundary as the international boundary while depicting the 1981 de facto boundary with a different symbol. The de facto boundary is also to carry the notations "de facto boundary as shown on official Iraqi and Saudi maps" and "alignment approximate."

The 1981 boundary consists of seven straight-line segments (see map, below). Although the agreement signed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia included a survey by a joint boundary commission, the exact coordinates of the boundary have not been released to the public. The coordinates of the tripoint with



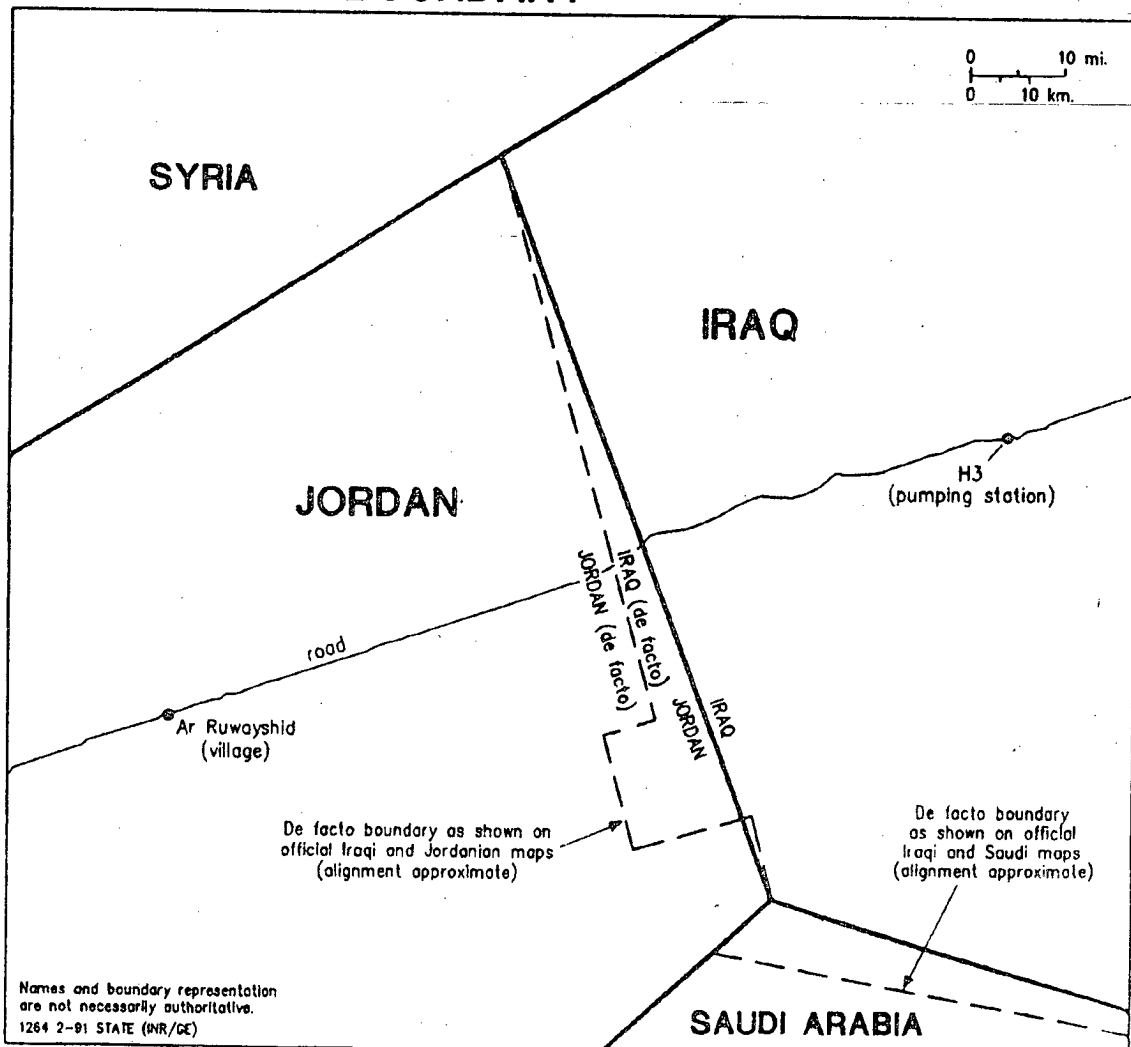
Kuwait are known; those for the other seven points have been approximated from existing maps. To the nearest tenth of a minute, they are:

| Point             | Latitude  | Longitude |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Kuwait tripoint | 29 06.1 N | 46 33.2 E |
| 2                 | 29 03.7 N | 46 25.6 E |
| 3                 | 29 11.9 N | 44 43.3 E |
| 4                 | 30 25.0 N | 43 03.9 E |
| 5                 | 31 06.7 N | 42 05.1 E |
| 6                 | 31 22.4 N | 41 26.4 E |
| 7                 | 31 56.9 N | 40 24.8 E |
| 8 Jordan tripoint | 32 09.3 N | 39 12.1 E |

**Iraq/Jordan boundary.** Like Iraq and Saudi Arabia, both Iraq and Jordan show the new boundary on their official maps and respect it in practice. Jordan has, in fact, ratified the 1984 treaty, but there is no evidence of Iraqi ratification. Again, conditions in the region have raised the need for depiction of the de facto boundary.

New Department of State guidance calls for continuing to depict the 1932 boundary as the international boundary while introducing the 1984 line with a different symbol as a de facto boundary. The 1984 boundary is to carry the notations "de facto

### IRAQ/JORDAN BOUNDARY



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.  
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Cartographer: Dan Klein

boundary as shown on official Iraqi and Jordanian maps," and "alignment approximate."

The de facto boundary consists of six straight-line segments (see map, p. 4). The treaty lists 62 points defining the boundary, giving bearings and distances between them. These data have been converted to provisional geographic coordinates for the five turning points and two termini that define the straight-line segments. To the nearest tenth of a second, they are:

| Point                   | Latitude<br>° , ' , '' | Longitude<br>° , ' , '' |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Saudi Arabia tripoint | 32 09 15.2 N           | 39 12 03.4 E            |
| 2                       | 32 13 48.8 N           | 39 18 04.2 E            |
| 3                       | 32 21 20.0 N           | 39 15 36.0 E            |
| 4                       | 32 18 14.6 N           | 39 02 37.2 E            |
| 5                       | 32 28 39.6 N           | 38 59 09.7 E            |
| 6                       | 32 30 05.5 N           | 39 05 09.6 E            |
| 7 Syria tripoint        | 33 22 28.7 N           | 38 47 37.0 E            |

Point 2 is apparently the Iraq/Jordan/Saudi Arabia international boundaries tripoint. Point 1 and point 8 in the previous table are the same. There is parallelism in the straight-line segments from point 2 on. Note the following azimuths:

| Points | Azimuth<br>° , ' , '' |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 to 2 | 48 08 43              |
| 2 to 3 | 344 15 34             |
| 3 to 4 | 254 15 34             |
| 4 to 5 | 344 15 34             |
| 5 to 6 | 74 15 34              |
| 6 to 7 | 344 15 34             |

Boundary segments 2 to 3, 4 to 5, and 6 to 7 are thus parallel, and boundary segments 3 to 4 and 5 to 6 are parallel (74° 15' 34" being the back azimuth of 254° 15' 34").

Questions about the application of the above information should be directed to Brad Thomas, Office of The Geographer, Department of State (202-647-2250).

- Brad Thomas

## ● Water Reshaping Israel's Future

A second consecutive year of drought has prompted Israel to implement a drastic 60 percent cutback in water for agriculture. Although the re-allocation will devastate Israeli agriculture, this sector accounts for only 5 percent of gross national product, 6 percent of the labor force, and 8 percent of exports. It will be a bitter pill for "make the desert bloom" traditionalists but, even with normal rainfall, the sharp immigration-driven rise in municipal and industrial demand will require taking water away from agriculture. (See map, p. 6.)

**Delicate imbalance.** Israel's water crisis can be laid as much to excessive and wasteful consumption by agriculture (which takes 60 percent of the supply) as to precipitation shortfalls or immigration.

The water level of Lake Kinneret (Tiberias)—source of one-third of Israel's water—is near a record low. Pumping from the lake was stopped last November as it approached the "red line," below which the lake becomes—some fear permanently—too saline to use. As a result, the annual winter artificial recharge of the two principal ground water aquifers—source of another major share of the water supply—could not take place. With no natural or artificial recharge, continued drawdowns have left these aquifers increasingly saline from sea water intrusion.

**Adjusting agriculture.** Farmers can adjust to the cuts by reducing production of water-intensive cotton and other field crops and irrigation of the remainder with treated urban wastewater. Proposed use of expensive desalinized sea water would require shifting to higher-priced market vegetables. Raising water prices—now heavily subsidized—would encourage conservation.

**Foreign hookups?** Israel already receives some of its water from outside its borders. The "Unity Dam" proposed for the Yarmuk River between Jordan and Syria presumably would regularize flows to downstream Israel but would not add significantly to its supply. A private company has proposed importation of water from Turkey at