

No. 17282

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
MEXICO**

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to maritime boundaries. Tlatelolco and Mexico City, 24 November 1976

Authentic texts: Spanish and English.

Registered by the United States of America on 24 November 1978.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
MEXIQUE**

Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux frontières maritimes. Tlatelolco et Mexico, 24 novembre 1976

Textes authentiques : espagnol et anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 24 novembre 1978.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MEXICO RELATING TO
MARITIME BOUNDARIES

I

[SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE EXPAGNOL]

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
MÉXICO

Tlatelolco, D.F., a 24 de noviembre de 1976

513118

Señor Embajador:

Me honro en hacer referencia al Decreto por el que se adiciona el Artículo 27 de la Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos para establecer una Zona Económica Exclusiva de México situada fuera del mar territorial, así como a la Ley sobre Conservación y Administración de Pesquerías de 1976 por la que se establece una Zona de Conservación de Pesquerías frente a las costas de los Estados Unidos de América.

Me complace igualmente referirme a las conversaciones que han tenido lugar entre Representantes del Gobierno de México y del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, en las cuales ha quedado entendido que la creación de las zonas a que arriba se alude requerirá el establecimiento de fronteras marítimas entre los dos países.

En relación con lo anterior, me permito señalar que nuestros dos países no han trazado aún los límites de sus respectivas plataformas continentales más allá de doce millas náuticas a partir de las respectivas costas, y que la situación actual en cuanto a fronteras marítimas, establecida en base al Tratado para resolver las diferencias fronterizas pendientes y mantener al Río Bravo y al Río Colorado como frontera internacional, concluido en 1970, solamente extiende la frontera marítima hasta doce millas náuticas.

Habiendo el Gobierno mexicano establecido mediante Decreto de 7 de junio de 1976, los límites exteriores de la Zona Económica Exclusiva de México, y tomando en cuenta que en esos límites están incluidos tres segmentos de colindancia con la Zona de Conservación de Pesquerías de los Estados Unidos de América, que entrará en vigor el 1° de marzo de 1977, las Autoridades mexicanas estiman que es deseable establecer ahora las fronteras marítimas entre los dos países hasta 200 millas náuticas contadas a partir de las líneas de base que sirven para medir la anchura del mar territorial frente a las costas del Océano Pacífico y el Golfo de México.

Teniendo presente que las tareas de carácter técnico que implica dicho trazo con un carácter definitivo no podrían ser terminadas antes de la entrada en vigor de la Ley sobre Conservación y Administración de Pesquerías en los Estados Unidos de América, me permito proponer que, a reserva de que se llegue a la determinación final, mediante tratado, de las fronteras marítimas entre los dos países en ambos litorales, se reconozcan provisionalmente, como tales, las líneas que a continuación se especifican:

¹ Came into force on 24 November 1976, the date of the note in reply, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]

UNITED MEXICAN STATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
MEXICO

Tlatelolco, D.F., November 24, 1976

No. 513118

Mr. Ambassador:

[See note II]

A. GARCÍA ROBLES

His Excellency Joseph John Jova
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America
Mexico City

II

The American Ambassador to the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations

Mexico, D.F., November 24, 1976

No. 2165

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to your Note No. 513118 of November 24, 1976, concerning certain maritime boundaries between the United States and Mexico, which reads in English as follows:

“His Excellency, Joseph John Jova, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, Mexico City. Mr. Ambassador: I have the honor to refer to the Decree adding to article 27 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States to establish an exclusive economic zone of Mexico outside the territorial sea and to the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 establishing a Fishery Conservation Zone off the coast of the United States of America.

“I also have the honor to refer to the conversations which have taken place between representatives of the Government of Mexico and the Government of the United States of America, in which it was understood that the creation of the above-mentioned zones will require the establishment of maritime boundaries between the two countries.

“In view of the foregoing, I take the liberty of pointing out that our two countries have not yet delimited their respective continental shelves beyond 12 nautical miles seaward from the respective coasts, and that the present arrangement with respect to maritime boundaries, based on the Treaty to resolve pending boundary differences and maintain the Río Grande and Colorado Rivers as the international boundary, concluded in 1970,³ only extends the maritime boundary 12 nautical miles.

¹ Translation supplied by the Government of the United States of America.

² Traduction fournie par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 830, p. 55.

“Inasmuch as the Mexican Government has established, by means of the Decree of June 7, 1976, the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Mexico, and taking into account the fact that those limits include three segments contiguous to the fishery conservation zone of the United States of America, which will become effective on March 1, 1977, the Mexican authorities deem it desirable to establish at this time the maritime boundaries between the two countries in the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico out to 200 nautical miles seaward counting from the baselines used to measure the breadth of the territorial sea.

“Taking into account the fact that all the necessary technical work entailed in such definitive delimitation could not be completed before the entry into force of the fishery conservation zone of the United States of America, I take the liberty of proposing that, pending final determination by treaty of the maritime boundaries between the two countries off both coasts, the following lines be provisionally recognized as such boundaries:

“In the Pacific Ocean

- “(a) A geodesic line from 32°35'22.11" north latitude, 117°27'49.42" west longitude, to 32°37'37.00" north latitude, 117° 49'31.00" west longitude;
- “(b) A geodesic line from 32°37'37.00" north latitude, 117°49'31.00" west longitude; to 31°07'58.00" north latitude, 118°36'18.00" west longitude;
- “(c) A geodesic line from 31°07'58.00" north latitude, 118°36'18.00" west longitude; to 30°32'31.20" north latitude, 121°51'58.37" west longitude.

“In the Western Gulf of Mexico

- “(a) A geodesic line from 25°58'30.57" north latitude, 96°55'27.37" west longitude; to 26°00'31.00" north latitude, 96°48'29.00" west longitude;
- “(b) A geodesic line from 26°00'31.00" north latitude, 96°48'29.00" west longitude; to 26°00'30.00" north latitude, 95°39'26.00" west longitude;
- “(c) A geodesic line from 26°00'30.00" north latitude, 95°39'26.00" west longitude; to 25°59'48.28" north latitude, 93°26'42.19" west longitude.

“In the Eastern Gulf of Mexico

- “(a) A geodesic line from 25°42'13.05" north latitude; 91°05'24.89" west longitude; to 25°46'52.00" north latitude; 90°29'41.00" west longitude;
- “(b) A geodesic line from 25°46'52.00" north latitude; 90°29'41.00" west longitude; to 25°41'56.52" north latitude, 88°23'05.54" west longitude.

“The above coordinates have been determined using baselines referred to the North American Datum of 1927.

“It would be understood between the two Governments that on the north side of such lines Mexico would not, and on the south side of such lines the United States would not, for any purpose, claim or exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction over the waters or seabed and subsoil. It would be further understood that such lines would not affect or prejudice in any manner the positions of either Government with respect to the extent of internal waters, of the territorial sea, of the high seas or of sovereign rights or jurisdiction for any other purpose.

“On the basis of the foregoing, I have the honor to propose to Your Excellency that if the terms stipulated herein are acceptable to the Government of the United States of America, this Note and Your Excellency's reply shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments.

“I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.”

In reply, it is my honor to inform you that, the proposal set forth in your Note is acceptable to the Government of the United States of America. Accordingly, I agree that your Note and this reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments, which shall enter into force on the date of this reply.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

JOSEPH JOHN JOVA

His Excellency Dr. Alfonso García Robles
Secretary of Foreign Relations
Mexico, D.F.
