



FIG WORKING WEEK 2012  
May 6-10 2012  
Rome, Italy



# International Boundary Making – The Case of the International Boundary between Israel and Jordan

**Dr. Haim Srebro**

**FIG WW Rome, Italy  
6-10 May 2012**



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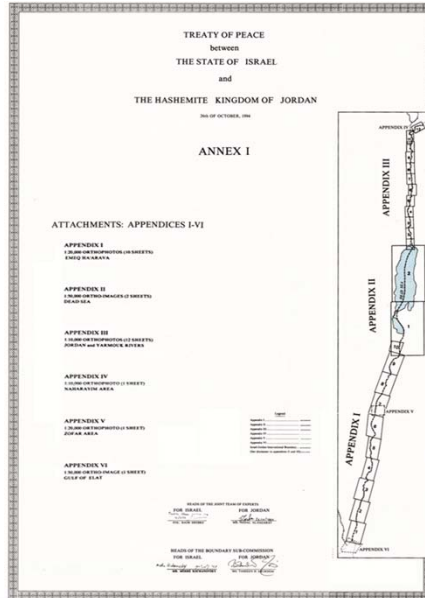


## The FIG Publication on International Boundary Making

- 1. Theoretical and Methodological Chapter**
  - a. A process driven model of International Boundary Making: Allocation, Delimitation, Demarcation, Documentation, Maintenance.**
  - b. Order of Precedence of boundary definitions.**
  - c. The definition of the boundary delimitation in a Peace Agreement.**
  - d. Technical aspects supporting the process.**

- 2. Practical Cases**
  - a. The Irak-Kuwait international boundary – Miklos Pinter.**
  - b. The Nepal-India International boundary – Buddhi Shrestha.**
  - c. The Ethiopia-Eritrea International boundary – Bill Robertson.**
  - d. The Israel-Jordan International boundary – Haim Srebro.**
  - e. The Cruatia-Serbia International boundary – Zaljko Bacic.**

## The Israel-Jordan International Boundary



### Description of the Boundary

## The Historical Background

- Order in Council 1922
- Centre of Wady Araba
- The interpretation of line of lowest points
- The 1946 demarcation
- The armistice period 1949-1967
- The de facto situation 1967-1994
- The Madrid process and the 1993 Common Agenda
- The boundary delimitation and Peace Treaty

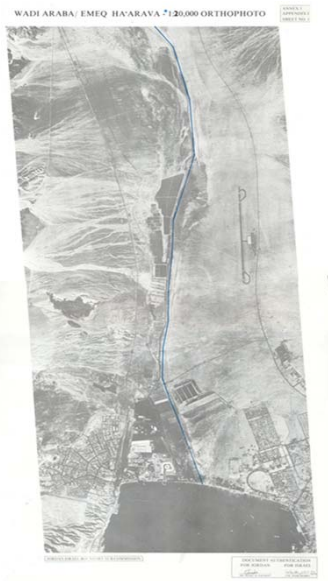


## The negotiations and the boundary delimitation

- The Common Agenda – with reference to the international boundary under the Mandate
- The practical negotiations 12/7/94-26/10/94
- The creation of a JTE
- The maps
- The geodetic framework
- The relations with the political level
- The boundary delimitation in the Peace Treaty

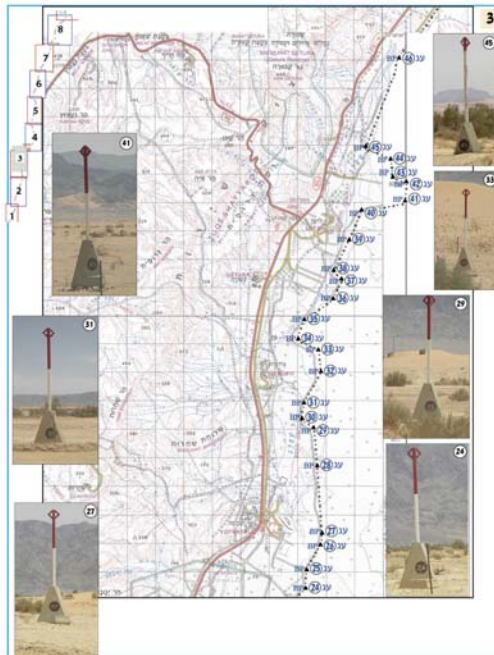


## The delimitation of the boundary line in the Peace Treaty: The 1st orthophoto sheet



## The boundary demarcation

- Demarcation of boundary pillars based on the line shown on the orthophoto maps
- Joint work, temporary markers with witness points, mine fields
- Construction of pillars and field placement
- Use of helicopters
- Special cases





### The boundary documentation

- List of geographic and UTM coordinates
- IJBD94
- The list of coordinates when completed and agreed upon “shall be binding and shall take precedence over the maps . . .”
- JTE and JBC






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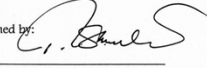
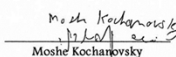
**JORDAN ISRAEL BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FORMAL APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE COORDINATES  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY LINE**

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the State of Israel hereby agree:

1. In conformity with Article 3 and in accordance with Article 2.C.3 and Article 2.B respectively of Annex 1(a) of the Treaty of Peace between Israel and Jordan of 26 October 1994, the Jordan Israel Joint Boundary Commission hereby approves and adopts the Jordan Israel International Boundary Line Documentation including:
  - a. the list of coordinates of the boundary pillars of the Wadi Araba/Emek Ha'arava sector, agreed to by the Joint Team of Experts on 19 September 1996, a copy of which is appended hereto; and
  - b. the list of coordinates of the Southern part of the Dead Sea and Salt Pans sector, agreed to by the Joint Team of Experts on 10 March 1998, a copy of which is appended hereto.
2. By this act the coordinates of these parts of the international boundary are formally approved by the Parties as required by the Peace Treaty and become part of Annex 1(a) of the Peace Treaty.
3. The approved coordinates are henceforth binding and take precedence over the maps, orthophotos and orthoimages as to the location of the boundary line of these parts of the international boundary, as envisaged and specified in Article 2.C.3 and Article 2.B respectively.

Done at Bet She'an on this twenty-ninth day of December, 1998, which corresponds to the eleventh day of Ramadan, 1419 and to the tenth day of Tevet, 5759.

Signed by:

 Lt. Gen. Tahsin Shurdum For the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	 Moshe Kochanovsky For the Government of the State of Israel
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**משרד המדידה והסקר  
SURVEY OF ISRAEL**

## Boundary Maintenance

- **The role of the JBC and JTE**
- **Annual reconnaissance and meetings**
- **Maintenance of boundary pillars**
- **Reconstruction of boundary pillars**
- **Supporting boundary administration**
- **Enhancement of the boundary documentation**
- **Special cases: BP1, BP118, Yarmouk River**

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Jordan – Israel Boundary Committee 1      04 July 2000



76	+	OK
77	+	Remotely observed. Foundation not seen.
78	+	Remotely observed. Foundation not seen.
79	+	Remotely observed. Foundation not seen.
80	-	Could not be observed from remote (Israeli side)
81	+	Remotely observed. Foundation not seen.
82	+	OK
83	+	OK
84	+	Remotely observed. A closer check should be carried out.
85	+	Remotely observed. A closer check should be carried out.
86	+	Remotely observed. A closer check should be carried out.
87	+	Remotely observed. A closer check should be carried out.
88	+	OK
89	+	OK
90	+	OK
91	+	OK
92	+	OK. Local adjustment to the fence is needed
93	+	OK
94	+	OK
95	+	OK
96	+	OK
97	+	Remotely observed. A closer check should be carried out.
98	+	Remotely observed. A closer check should be carried out.
99	+	OK
100	+	OK
101	+	OK
102	+	OK. Remotely observed. A closer check will be carried out by the Jordanians from the Jordanian side.
103	+	OK
104	+	OK
105	+	OK
106	+	OK
107	+	OK
108	+	Foundation exposed partially. Will be supported with stones or soil by the Jordanians.
109	+	OK
110	+	OK
111	+	OK
112	+	OK
113	+	OK
114	+	OK
115	+	Foundation exposed partially. A closer check should be considered.
116	+	OK


  
 FOR JORDAN      FOR ISRAEL

Jordan – Israel Boundary Committee 4      04 July 2000


117	+	OK
118	+	OK
119	+	OK
120	+	OK
121	+	OK
122	+	OK
123	+	Only upper part of the pipe was seen

1. The Jordanians will check the condition of the old road in the area of BP 70's and 80's and the accessibility from the Jordanian side.
4. Both sides will check the issues reported here and they will be discussed in the next J.T.E. meeting.
5. The B.P.'s were observed as vertical. No inclination was observed except for no. 6.



  
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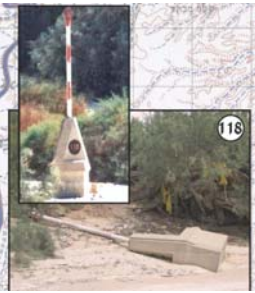
BP 1, 1946



BP 1, 2000

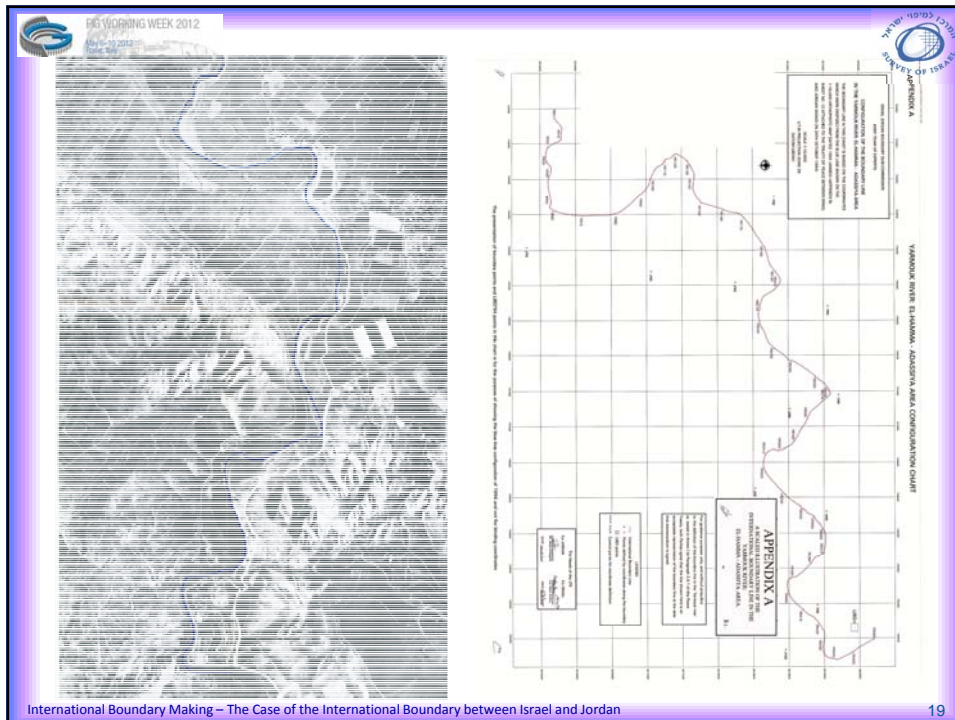


BP 1, December 2009



BP 118

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## Lessons learned and Recommendations

- **The delimitation of the international boundary is crucial to the achievement of a Peace Treaty and may be a cause for dispute and violence;**
- **Establishing a JTE as soon as possible is essential;**
- **Joint work in connection with decision makers;**
- **The boundary making process model is highly recommended;**
- **Joint pre-defined demarcation, documentation and maintenance is contributing.**

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