



# **International Boundary Study**

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## **Libya – Niger Boundary**

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# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

No. 2

## LIBYA - NIGER BOUNDARY

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<b>I. Background.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II. Analysis of Boundary Segments .....</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Between Algeria tripoint and Tummo.....	3
B. Between Tummo and Chad tripoint.....	3
<b>III. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>4</b>

## **LIBYA - NIGER BOUNDARY**

### **I. BACKGROUND**

The Libya - Niger boundary is comprised of two distinctive segments based on differences in origin. These segments are 1) between the Algeria tripoint and Tummo and 2) between Tummo and the Chad tripoint.

The segment between the Algeria tripoint and Tummo (see map of Libya - Niger boundary, page ii) is delimited in accordance with the Franco - Italian Arrangement of September 12, 1919. This arrangement also delimited the Algeria - Libya boundary between French and Italian territories northward to Ghudamis; the delimitation remains in effect between the Algeria tripoint and Ghat but the Franco - Libyan Agreement of 1956 established the present alignment of the boundary between Ghat and Ghudamis (for additional information on this boundary refer to "International Boundary Study No. 1, Algeria - Libya Boundary").

Available sources indicate the segment between Tummo and the Chad tripoint is a conventional boundary based on the southern limits of the Turkish vilayets of Tripoli and Barca. Likewise, the Chad - Libya Boundary between the Niger tripoint and the intersection of the Tropic of Cancer with the meridian of 16° East is a part of the same conventional boundary. The southern limits of the vilayets appear to have been accepted as an international boundary between Turkish and French territories by the Anglo - French Convention of June 14, 1898, and the Anglo - French Declaration of March 21, 1899, which supplemented the convention of 1898 and concerned spheres of influence in north-central Africa. The Franco - Italian Agreement of November 1, 1902 recognized the accords of 1898 and 1899 and, in effect, accepted the boundaries as determined by the different spheres of influence.

Niger, previously an overseas territory in French West Africa, and then an autonomous republic, became independent on August 3, 1960. The new state inherited the part of the Libyan boundary formerly held in common with French West Africa and the autonomous republic.

The Franco - Italian Agreement of January 7, 1935, was to have established a new boundary for southeastern Libya which would have placed the Libya - French West Africa boundary between Tummo and the French Equatorial Africa tripoint southward of the conventional boundary. However, the agreement of 1935 was never ratified; therefore, the 1935 boundary as published on many maps lacked validity. The Franco - Italian Agreement of 1935 also would have placed the Libya - French Equatorial boundary southward of the previously recognized boundary by passing southeastward through the Tibesti and thence to a point 18°45' North and 24° East.

In Article 3 of the Franco - Libyan Treaty of August 10, 1955, the contracting parties recognized the Libya - French West Africa boundary fixed in the international acts listed in Annex I on the date of the establishment of the United Kingdom of Libya (December 24,

1951). Annex I contains the following acts applicable to the Libya - Niger boundary: 1) the Anglo - French Convention of June 14, 1899, 2) the Anglo - French Declaration of March 21, 1899, 3) the Franco - Italian Agreement of November 1, 1902, and 4) the Franco - Italian Arrangement of September 12, 1919.

For cartographic presentation it is the policy of the United States Government to consider as authoritative the Libya - Niger boundary as determined by the Franco - Italian Arrangement of 1919 between the Algeria tripoint and Tummo and the conventional boundary (in accordance with the agreements of 1898, 1899, and 1902) between Tummo and the Chad tripoint. This is the boundary approved by the Franco - Libyan Treaty of 1955 and constitutes the present Libya - Niger boundary. The boundary as contained in the unratified Franco - Italian Agreement should not be used as an authoritative presentation of this boundary.

## **II. ANALYSIS OF BOUNDARY SEGMENTS**

### **A. Between Algeria Tripoint and Tummo**

The boundary extends for about 165 miles between the Algeria tripoint believed to be located at latitude 23°30'54.0" North and longitude 11°59'54.6" East (as determined by an astronomical point) and Tummo. The Algeria tripoint is also known as reference point 1010, which number refers to meters above sea level, and Garet Derouel El Djemel. From the Algeria tripoint, the boundary curves in a generally southeastward trending arc to Tummo; it traverses mainly sandy dune-scattered surfaces for about 65 miles and a rocky surface for the remainder of the distance ending in an escarpment south of the oasis of Tummo.

There is no detailed delimitation of this segment of the boundary available, although it appears in many places to consist of geometrical lines connecting prominent surface features. In Annex I the Franco - Libyan treaty of 1955 states that the boundary between Ghat and Tummo will pass through Takharkhourri Gap and Anai Pass both on the Algeria - Libya boundary and reference point 1010; however, there are no specific points of reference given between reference point 1010 and Tummo. Likewise, available sources do not indicate any maps which delimit the boundary in detail. The French Carte Aéronautique Du Monde (World Aeronautical Chart) at a scale of 1:1,000,000 is recommended as the best source available at the present time for the alignment of the boundary; map sheets of the boundary are Mont Serkout (2571) for the Algerian tripoint and Tibesti Ouest (2570) for the remainder of the boundary, both of which were published in August 1959.

### **B. Between Tummo and Chad Tripoint**

The segment of the Libya - Niger boundary between Tummo and the Chad tripoint is approximately 55 miles in length. The Chad tripoint is located near or at latitude 23° North

and longitude 15° East. This segment is delimited as a straight geometrical line between Tummo and the Chad tripoint and it traverses rocky and pebbly desert surfaces throughout most of its length.

The French Carte Aéronautique Du Monde map sheet Tibesti Ouest as previously referenced is recommended as the best source available at the present time for the alignment of the boundary.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Since the Franco - Italian Agreement of 1935 was never ratified, the alignment of the present Libya - Niger boundary is determined by the accord of 1919 and the conventional boundary as approved by the Franco - Libya Treaty of 1955. There are no known negotiations in progress or joint commissions active on this boundary at the present time.

This International Boundary Study is one of a series of specific boundary papers prepared in the Office of the Geographer, Department of State, in accordance with provisions of Bureau of the Budget Circular No. A-16, Exhibit D.

Government agencies may obtain additional information and copies of the study by calling the Office of the Geographer, Room 7334, State Department Building, Department of State, Washington 25, D.C. (telephone: Code 182, extension 4276). Unfolded copies of map enclosures may be obtained from the Map Library, Code 182, extension 3322.