

Governmental Documents (Guyana)

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the coastal areas so far as may be necessary to establish the line beyond all doubt. Naturally, we would prefer to avoid the expense of an exercise of this nature if it is at all possible to do so, and I suggest that our best course would be to have the line projected as best we can and put it to the Netherlands authorities as our proposal, and see how they re-act.

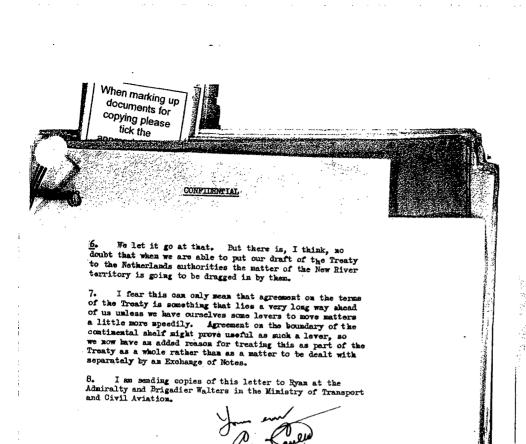
4. I very much agree with you that as the Dutch are now anxious to press ahead with the defining of the boundary of the continental shelf it would suit us better, rather than proceeding as they propose to a conclusion by an Exchange of Notes on that single issue, to take the line that we would prefer to take this as an essential part of the draft Treaty as a whole. In other words, we should now take the same line on the definition of the continental shelf boundary as they have taken on the matter of the fishing rights on the Corentyne.

5. I expect you will have heard that the question of the Treaty and specifically of the continental shelf came up in discussion which I had with the Netherlands Ambassador and the Surinam Minister at lunch resterday. On the matter of the continental shelf, we agreed that there was nothing between us on how the line should be drawn, but there might be the difficulty that I have mentioned above. On the matter of the Treaty itself, I mentioned to the Ambassador that we were now at an advanced stage of drafting, and he then asked me what we were proposing about the New River territory. I thought it best to sky away from this and say that our normal approach was to build upon the Agreements of the 1930's and to make no more than the minor modifications which the simple passage of time dictated, including some reference to fishing rights on the Corentyne River.

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