BORDER AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

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for in the treaty with Brazil mentioned above), which was established in accordance with the Netherlands' suggestion that a boundary line should be drawn from the source of the Cutari, leading over a particular named rock, and that the trijunction point should be the intersection of such a line with the Brazilian watershed. A definitive map was drawn up and was signed by Brazil, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

**Revival of Dutch and Surinamese Claims to the New River Triangle**

After World War II the Dutch attitude hardened considerably, and in 1962 the Netherlands presented a revised draft border definition which discarded the Curuni/Cutari line and revived the claim to the New River Triangle. British Guiana was offered the sovereignty of the Corentyne and New rivers up to mid-stream, and Suriname designated the New river as the Upper Corentyne, a step currently described by Guyana as having no significance in international law. The United Kingdom rejected the Dutch proposals and Suriname, anticipating Guyana's achievement of independence (which finally took place in May 1966), called on the British Government in April 1966 to place on record that the boundary of Suriname and Guyana was in dispute.

Representatives of Guyana and Suriname met in London in June 1966 to discuss the dispute, but subsequently presented widely varying accounts of the meeting. Suriname described it as one between "good friends and neighbours" (May 1968), but the then Guyanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, S. S. Rampal QC, reported in February 1968 that there had been a "free and frank exchange of views during which Suriname asserted its rights to the New river area and sought to demonstrate how utterly indefensible was the Suriname contention that the boundary could be otherwise than on the Cutari".

The situation deteriorated markedly in December 1967, when Guyana expelled from the disputed area a group of Surinamese who were thought to be involved in surveys for a new Surinamese hydro-electric dam. (Suriname has since received the support of the World Bank for a hydro-electric project situated outside the disputed area but dependent on water whose origin is in dispute.) Suriname described the expulsion as an inadmissible use of force, and prolonged diplomatic exchanges followed during which Suriname was alleged to have threatened the expulsion of all 2,000 Guyanese workers from its territory. S. S. Rampal replied on Feb. 2, 1968, that Guyana would not surrender its sovereignty over the New River Triangle, but offered to re-open negotiations with Suriname, and in 1970 new discussions took place, leading to a commitment (as yet believed to be unfulfilled) to demilitarize the area.

A further incident was reported in August 1969, when Guyana alleged that armed Surinamese workers had been driven from the New River Triangle while attempting to set up a landing strip and military camp. Suriname dismissed the report, claiming instead that Guyanese troops had landed at the Tigri aerodrome in Suriname and occupied it, and adding later that Guyanese forces had illegally occupied a frontier post in the disputed area.

Suriname maintained its claim to the New River Triangle after its acquisition of independence from the Netherlands in November 1975, and a series of minor incidents continued to trouble relations between the two countries despite renewed efforts to reach agreement. In September 1977 the Guyanese authorities confiscated four trawlers, one of which was part-owned by the Suriname Government, alleging that they had been fishing in an exclusive 200-mile fisheries zone proclaimed by Guyana without fee. Suriname retaliated on Jan. 1, 1978, by withdrawing fishing licences from about 100 Guyanese who had traditionally worked the Corentyne river, and was said to have used gunboats to harass loggers on the river borders of Suriname, leading to the return of the ships.

Linden Forbes and Henck Arron met in April 1979, during which the Guyanese, seeking to reopen negotiations, had "National Military Forces" called on in which the Guyanese, anticpating Guyana's achievement of independence (which finally took place in May 1966), called on the British Government in April 1966 to place on record that the boundary of Suriname and Guyana was in dispute.

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During the 19th century the extent of Suriname's claimed overlap with British Guiana (130,000 sq km) was discouraged early in the 19th century by a court of arbitration which found in favor of British Guiana, which had since 1830 been the present territory of Suriname. Suriname then signed a protocol with Great Britain which has never been ratified by Suriname or the British Guiana.

Guyana, which became independent in 1966, is claimed to have overlapped with British Guiana to all territory within 30 miles of the Orinoco river. The British claim, claimed by the Dutch in 1616, had been extended to all territory within 30 miles of the Orinoco river (in the eastern provinces). The major issue, of the indigenous people of Suriname as the indigenous people of the British Guiana).

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Surinamese Claims to the New River Triangle

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The major issue at the centre of the claim was the degree of control exercised by the Dutch in the area west of the Essequibo river, which Guyana alleged had illegally occupied the area.

During the 19th century Venezuela and Guyana (then British Guiana) claimed overlapping areas of territory covering about 50,000 square miles (130,000 sq km), consisting mainly of dense tropical rain forest which had discouraged early colonization and development. Despite an 1899 ruling by a court of arbitration which awarded much of the disputed territory to British Guiana, Venezuela in the 1960s reasserted its claim to Guyana's present territory west of the Essequibo river. In 1970 Venezuela and Guyana signed a protocol declaring a 12-year moratorium on the border issue, which has nevertheless remained a source of friction between the two countries. (For map illustrating this dispute, see page 375.)

Guyana-Venezuela

During the 19th century Venezuela and Guyana (then British Guiana) claimed overlapping areas of territory covering about 50,000 square miles (130,000 sq km), consisting mainly of dense tropical rain forest which had discouraged early colonization and development. Despite an 1899 ruling by a court of arbitration which awarded much of the disputed territory to British Guiana, Venezuela in the 1960s reasserted its claim to Guyana's present territory west of the Essequibo river. In 1970 Venezuela and Guyana signed a protocol declaring a 12-year moratorium on the border issue, which has nevertheless remained a source of friction between the two countries. (For map illustrating this dispute, see page 375.)

Guyana, which has an area of 83,000 square miles (215,000 sq km) in its present boundaries, was ceded to Britain by the Dutch in 1814; it obtained internal self-government in 1961, became fully independent on May 26, 1966, and has been a co-operative republic within the Commonwealth since 1970. Venezuela, with a present land area of 352,000 square miles (910,000 sq km), declared itself an independent republic in 1811 after three centuries of Spanish rule and separated from the Gran Colombia federation in 1830.

Historical Background to Dispute

The British claim prior to 1899 was to the drainage basin of the Cuyuni river (in the eastern part of what is now Bolivar state, Venezuela) up to within a few miles of the Orinoco and Caroni rivers. The Venezuelan claim was, and remains, to all territory west of the Essequibo river (i.e. about two-thirds of present-day Guyana).

The major issue at the centre of the claim was the degree of control exercised by the Dutch in the area west of the Essequibo river prior to British rule, which Guyana claimed was extensive. It said that the Dutch settlement of Kyevolrai (established