

On Reliability of the Annex Map of the 1915 Land Boundary Treaty Between Indonesia and Malaysia

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SUMMARY

The 1915 Boundary Treaty Agreement between the Netherlands and Great Britain governments, which was signed in London on 20 June 1891, is the reference used for determination of land boundary between Indonesia and Malaysia in Borneo Island. A few problems surfaced when the reference ellipsoid and map projection of the 1915 treaty annex map is not written down in its legend. Moreover, the 1975-1995 joint surveys between Indonesia and Malaysia indicated that the positions of two outstanding boundary problems (OBP), i.e. Sinapad and Simantipal river estuaries, against 4o20' N graticule are not the same as those depicted on the 1915 treaty annex map. This research was conducted to investigate and understand the 1915 land boundary treaty and the reliability of its annex map technical aspect, especially in relation with the outstanding boundary problems of Sinapad and Simantipal rivers. The method used is field surveys, technical analysis on measurement accuracy, map reliability, and interpretation of the 1915 treaty legal document. The analysis results showed that the assumption that the 1915 treaty annex map is a map based on astronomical coordinates using the reference ellipsoid of Bessel 1841 was not correct. The annex map was found to be adequate with regards to its map structure, content and object pattern. The Dutch and British agreed to use the map as a valid document although the majority of the territory in the annex map was unilaterally surveyed by the Dutch, and there is no survey carried out in segment from Sinapad river estuary to the east, in which the map depiction will not be accurate enough.