

cartographic perspectives

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cartographic perspectives on the news

MAPPING THE IRAQ-KUWAIT BOUNDARY

In February, Miklos Pinther, Chief of the United Nations Cartographic Unit, travelled to the Middle East for a fifth time as Secretary of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission. The Commission was established in May, 1991 by the Secretary-General to formally demarcate the boundary between the two countries. Iraq-Kuwait boundaries that appear on recent published maps reflect interpretations of a boundary description originally agreed upon in a letter of exchange between the Prime Minister of Iraq and the Ruler of Kuwait in 1932. The description was subsequently confirmed in agreed minutes between the two countries in 1963. The new present demarcation effort was initiated by the Security Council at the conclusion of the Gulf War (Resolution 687 of 3 April 1991) as one of the arrangements to ensure the restoration of international peace and security in the area.

The Boundary Commission consists of five members: representatives of the governments of Iraq and Kuwait and three