

# SAUDI ARABIA

## AGREEMENT

concerning

### THE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS OF FARSI AND AL-ARABIYAH AND THE DELIMITATION OF THE BOUNDARY LINE SEPARATING THE SUBMARINE AREAS

between

IRAN and SAUDI ARABIA

The Imperial Government of Iran, represented by His Excellency Dr. Manoutchehr Eghbal Chairman of the Board and General Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company, of the one Part, and

The Royal Government of Saudi Arabia, represented by His Excellency Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, of the other Part,

Desirous of resolving the difference between them regarding sovereignty over the islands of Farsi and Al-Arabiyyah and

Desirous further of determining in a just and accurate manner the boundary line separating the respective submarine areas over which each party is entitled by international law to exercise sovereign rights,

NOW THEREFORE and with due respect to the principles of law and particular circumstances,

AND after exchanging the credentials, have agreed as follows:

#### Article 1

The Parties mutually recognize the sovereignty of Iran over the island of Farsi and of Saudi Arabia over the island of Al-Arabiyyah. Each island shall possess a belt of territorial sea twelve nautical miles in width, measured from the line of lowest low water on each of the said islands. In the area where these belts overlap, a boundary line separating the territorial seas of the two island shall be drawn so as to be equidistant throughout its length from the lowest low water lines on each island.

#### Article 2

The boundary line separating the submarine areas which appertain to Iran from the submarine areas which appertain to Saudi Arabia, shall be a line established as hereinafter provided. Both Parties mutually recognize that each possesses over the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas on its side of the line sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting the natural resources therein.

#### Article 3

The boundary line referred to in Article 2 shall be:

(a) Except in the vicinity of Farsi and Al-Arabiyyah, the said line is determined by straight lines between the following points whose latitude and longitude are specified hereinbelow:

Point	North Latitude	East Longitude
1	27°10.0'	50°54.0'
2	27°18.5'	50°45.5'
3	27°26.5'	50°37.0'
4	27°56.5'	50°17.5'
5	28°08.5'	50°06.5'
6	28°17.6'	49°56.2'
7	28°21.0'	49°50.9'
8	28°24.7'	49°47.8'
9	28°24.4'	49°47.4'
10	28°27.9'	49°42.0'
11	28°34.8'	49°39.7'
12	28°37.2'	49°36.2'
13	28°40.9'	49°33.5'
14	28°41.3'	49°34.3'

(b) In the vicinity of Farsi and Al-Arabiyyah, a line down as follows:

At the point where the line described in paragraph (a) intersects the limit of the belt of territorial sea around Farsi, the boundary shall follow the limit of that belt on the side facing Saudi Arabia until it meets the boundary line set forth in Article 1 which divides the territorial seas of Farsi and Al-Arabiyyah; thence it shall follow that line easterly until it meets the limit of the belt of territorial sea around Al-Arabiyyah; thence it shall follow the limit of that belt on the side facing Iran until it intersects again the line described in paragraph (a).

The map prepared by the A.M. Service Corps of Engineers U.S. Army compiled in 1966 was used and shall be used as the basis for the measurement of the coordinates described above and the Boundary line is illustrated in a copy of the said map signed and attached hereto.

**Article 4**

Each Party agrees that no oil drilling operations shall be conducted by or under its authority, within a zone extending five hundred (500) meters in width in the submarine areas on its side of the Boundary Line described in Article 3, said zone to be measured from said boundary.

**Article 5**

This Agreement is done in duplicate in the Persian and Arabic languages, both texts being equally authentic. An English translation thereof is also signed by both Parties and annexed thereto.

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the date of exchange of instruments of ratification which

shall take place at Jeddah as soon as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above-named plenipotentiaries, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Tehran, this 2nd day of Ahan 1347, corresponding to the 2nd day of Shaaban 1388 and to the 24th day of October 1968.

For the Imperial  
Government of Iran  
Dr. Manoutchehr Eghbal  
Chairman of the Board  
and General Managing  
Director of the National  
Iranian Oil Company

For the Royal Govern-  
ment of Saudi Arabia :  
Ahmed Zaki Yamani  
Minister of Petroleum  
and Mineral Resources

Tehran, 24th October 1968.

Your Excellency;

With reference to the offshore boundary agreement signed by us today (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") on behalf of our respective Governments, I have the honour to propose the following technical arrangement to facilitate the determination of geographical locations offshore in the Marjan-Fereydoon area;

As soon as possible after the entry into force of the Agreement a joint technical committee of four members shall be established composed of two experts appointed by each Government. This committee shall be charged with establishing agreed positions defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude with reference to the map attached to the Agreement, for the following offshore locations at which tangible markers of various kinds already exist;

On the Iranian side:

- 1 - The well site known as Fereydoon 3
- 2 - The well site known as Fereydoon 2

On the Saudi Arabian Side:

- 3 - The well site known as Fereydoon 7, or in case there shall be no tangible markers therein, the well site known as Marjan 1. It is understood that whenever a new well is drilled on the Saudi Arabian side with tangible markers on it and conveniently close to the boundary line, such

a well shall also be included in the reference points, thus making the number of the reference points four altogether.

The positions for these points fixed by the committee shall be regarded as accepted by both Governments if neither Government objects within one month after the committee has presented its report, which report shall be submitted to both Governments on the same date.

Thereafter, for all purposes arising under the Agreement positions for oil operations in the Marjan-Fereydoon area carried on under the authority of either Government shall be established by reference to these points in accordance with standard survey techniques.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to your Excellency, this letter and your reply to that effect shall constitute an agreement between our respective Governments, effective on the date on which the Agreement comes into force.

With assurance of my high esteem.  
Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani  
Minister of Petroleum  
and Mineral Resources

His Excellency  
Dr. Manoutchehr Eghbal  
Chairman of the Board and  
General Managing Director of the  
National Iranian Oil Company

Tehran, 24th October 1968.

Your Excellency;

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received Your Excellency's letter of the following text:

"Your Excellency;

With reference to the offshore boundary agreement signed by us today (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") on behalf of our respective

Government, I have the honour to propose the following technical arrangement to facilitate the determination of geographical locations offshore in the Marjan-Fereydoon area;

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On the Saudi Arabian Side:

- 3 - The well site known as Fereydoon 7, or in case there shall be no tangible markers therein, the well site known as Marjan 1. It is understood that whenever a new well is drilled on the Saudi Arabian side with tangible markers on it and conveniently close to the boundary line, such a well shall also be included in the reference points thus making the number of the reference points four altogether.

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Minister of Petroleum  
and Mineral Resources

His Excellency  
Dr. Manoutchehr Eghbal  
Chairman of the Board  
and General Managing  
Director of the National  
Iranian Oil Company

I have the pleasure to convey to Your Excellency my Government's approval of the contents of your letter, the text of which is hereabove stated, considering that the said letter and my reply thereto shall constitute an agreement between our respective Governments, effective on the date on which the Agreement comes into force.

With renewed assurance of my high esteem.

Dr. Manoutchehr Eghbal  
Chairman of the Board  
and General Managing  
Director of the National  
Iranian Oil Company

His Excellency  
Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani  
Minister of Petroleum and  
Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia

Tehran, 24th October 1968.

Your Excellency;

With reference to the offshore boundary agreement signed by us today on behalf of our respective Governments, I have the honour to propose, for the more effective implementation of this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") the following understandings;

- a) The oil drilling operations which are prohibited by Article 4 of the Agreement within the zone therein described (hereinafter referred to as "the Prohibited Area") shall include exploitation carried out directly from the Prohibited Area shall also extend to all drilling operations which could be carried out within the Prohibited Area from installations which are themselves located outside it.

The term "oil drilling operation" as used in Article 4 of the Agreement shall mean drilling operations for oil and/or gas.

Our two Governments shall ensure that the wells drilled in the immediate vicinity of the Prohibited Area shall be vertical wells, however, when a deviation is technically inevitable at a reasonable cost, such a deviation shall not be deemed as encroachment on the Agreement, provided that the deviation is further provided that the Party concerned does not contemplate, by such deviation, the violation of the provisions set forth in the Agreement and this letter.

Should our two Governments mutually agree that gas injection and/or drilling an observation well is technically beneficial and advisable for the Marjan-Ferey-

doon reservoir, our two Governments shall agree on the location, the conducting of drilling the wells and their operations in the Prohibited Area for the sole purpose specified in this paragraph, provided that the wells to be drilled shall be conducted by each Government, directly or through its authorized agent, on its respective side of the Prohibited Area under the terms and conditions to be agreed upon by our two Governments.

b) Our two Governments shall, directly or through authorized agents, exchange with each other all obtained directional survey information during the course of drilling operations carried out as from the effective date of the Agreement within two Kilometers of the Boundary Line. This exchange shall be made on a reciprocal and continuous basis.

c) Each Government shall ensure that the companies operating under its respective authority shall

not carry out operations that may, for technical inconsistency with the conservation rules according to sound oil industry practice be considered harmful to the oil and gas reservoir in the Marjan-Fereydoon area.

This letter and Your Excellency's reply thereto shall constitute an agreement between our respective Governments, to become effective on the date on which the Agreement enters into force.

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Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani  
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The term "oil drilling operations" as used in Article 4 of the Agreement shall mean drilling operations for oil and/or gas.

Our two Governments shall, ensure that the wells drilled in the immediate vicinity of the Prohibited Area shall be vertical wells, however, when a deviation is technically inevitable at a reasonable cost, such a deviation shall not be deemed as encroachment on the Agreement, provided that the deviation is within the minimum range of good drilling practice and further provided that the party concerned does not contemplate,

by such deviation, the violation of the provisions set forth in the Agreement and this letter.

Should our two Governments mutually agree that gas injection and/or drilling an observation well is technically beneficial and advisable for the Marjan-Fereydoon reservoir, our two Governments shall agree on the location, the conducting of drilling the wells and their operations in the Prohibited Area for the sole purpose specified in this paragraph, provided that the wells to be drilled shall be conducted by each Government, directly or through its authorized agent, on its respective side of the Prohibited Area under the terms and conditions to be agreed upon by our two Governments.

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