

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



ORIGIN

Venezuela raised the issue of her border with Great Britain whose colony of British Guiana (as Guyana was) bounded Venezuela on the east.

1830

DISPUTE ARISES

Great Britain attempted to delimit the western boundary. Robert Schomburgk on behalf of Royal Geographical Society carried out a survey. Venezuela declined to accept the line recommended by Schomburgk thereby creating a dispute which ensued until 1894.

1840

ARBITRATION

United States President Grover Cleveland negotiated for Great Britain and Venezuela to submit the dispute to Arbitration.

1894

TREATY OF WASHINGTON

The Treaty of Washington was signed on February 2nd. Sir Julian Paunceforte, UK Under Secretary of State signed on behalf of Great Britain and Jose Andrade, Venezuelan Ambassador to Washington signed for Venezuela.

- ◆ The ratification of the Treaty was exchanged in Washington on June 14th.
- ◆ Great Britain and Venezuela were equally represented on the Arbitral Tribunal.
- ◆ The Treaty of Washington was a final settlement to the border dispute. As per Article XIII both parties pledged themselves to regard the Award "as a **FULL, PERFECT and FINAL SETTLEMENT**".
- ◆ Venezuela President Joaquín de Jesús Crespo, in a message to the Venezuelan Congress said the Arbitration will "put an end to the old dispute between the two nations."
- ◆ The Venezuelan Congress ratified the Arbitration Treaty and offered its full support to the Arbitral Tribunal.

1897

MARKING OF BOUNDARY

By 1905 the boundary had been marked by the appointed Commissioners and embodied in a map which was duly signed on behalf of Venezuela by Dr. Abraham Tirado and Elias Toro and on behalf of Great Britain by H.I Perkins and C Wilgress Anderson. The map with the boundary line, was signed by the Commissioners in Georgetown, British Guiana on January 7.

- ◆ Three days later, on January 10, a separate agreement was signed by the Commissioners and stipulated: "That they regard this agreement as having a perfectly official character with respect to the acts and rights of both governments in the territory demarcated."
- ◆ For half a century Venezuela honoured this Agreement in word and deed.

1905

DISPUTE SETTLED

The Arbitral Tribunal handed down the Award on October 3rd, describing in great detail the boundary between the two countries.

THE DISPUTE WAS DULY SETTLED

- ◆ As per the Treaty of Washington both sides appointed Commissioners to survey the area of the boundary.

1899

ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL

The Arbitral Tribunal was set up and began receiving written submissions from Venezuela and Great Britain.

1898

VENEZUELA DEMONSTRATES ACCEPTANCE

Venezuela **PUBLISHED MAPS IN CARACAS** which reflected the boundary **AS DEMARCATED**.

RORAIMA TRI-JUNCTION ESTABLISHED

In 1931, a boundary commission made up of representatives from Great Britain, Venezuela and Brazil agreed on the specific point on Mount Roraima where the boundaries of British Guiana, Venezuela and Brazil meet. A concrete marker was erected soon after. The matter of the border was then **PERMANENTLY SETTLED**.

1931 - 1932

CLOSED ISSUE

Venezuela Minister of Foreign Affairs, Esteban Gil Borges agreed that the frontier with British Guiana was well defined and was a **CLOSED ISSUE** calling it *chose jugée* (already decided).

1941

VENEZUELA BREACHES TREATY

Venezuela unilaterally and **WITHOUT ANY BASIS OR EVIDENCE** announced that it regarded the Award of 1899 as null and void.

1962

LONDON MEETING

In November a meeting in London between Venezuelan and British representatives and a representative from British Guiana was held. This meeting issued a joint communiqué saying that both sides should work to "find satisfactory solutions for a practical settlement of the controversy which has arisen as a result of the Venezuelan contention.

1965

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1911 - 1917

THE GENEVA AGREEMENT

In February the governments of British Guiana, Great Britain and Venezuela, in Geneva, Switzerland signed an agreement by which a bilateral commission was appointed to seek "satisfactory solutions for the practical settlement of the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which has arisen as the result of the Venezuelan contention that the arbitral award of 1899 about the frontier between British Guiana and Venezuela is null and void."

- ◆ A Mixed Commission was established out of the Geneva Agreement (which is a legally binding international treaty).
- ◆ The Mixed Commission was given 4 years to complete its work.
- ◆ From the beginning Venezuela ignored the main role of the agreement under which the Mixed Commission was established to deal with Venezuela's contention of a nullity in the 1899 Award.
- ◆ The Mixed Commission was unable to fulfill its mandate largely because Venezuela declined to deal with the question of their contention of the nullity of the 1899 Award.

REFERRED TO THE UN

Both Guyana and Venezuela requested the United Nations Secretary General to decide on a method of solution to the controversy.



COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

1966

MADURO AGGRESSION

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro issued decree No. 1.787 laying claim to almost all of Guyana's maritime zone.

GUYANA DENOUNCES AGGRESSION AND REJECTS THREATS

The Guyana Government strongly denounced this decree calling it a flagrant violation of international law and inconsistent with the principle that all states should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states. Guyana further rejected the illegality (of the decree) which seeks to undermine Guyana's efforts at development through the exploitation of natural resources offshore.

SEPTEMBER ESCALATION

In the month of September there was an escalation of Venezuelan military activity in eastern Venezuela near to the border with Guyana.

1982

UN GOOD OFFICER

The UN Secretary General appointed a Good Officer to find a solution to the controversy.

1990

UN GOOD OFFICER PROCESS EXHAUSTED

The UN Good Officer process has not been able to show success and was subsequently declared by Guyana as having been exhausted.

2015

2014



**His Excellency President David A. Granger,
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.**

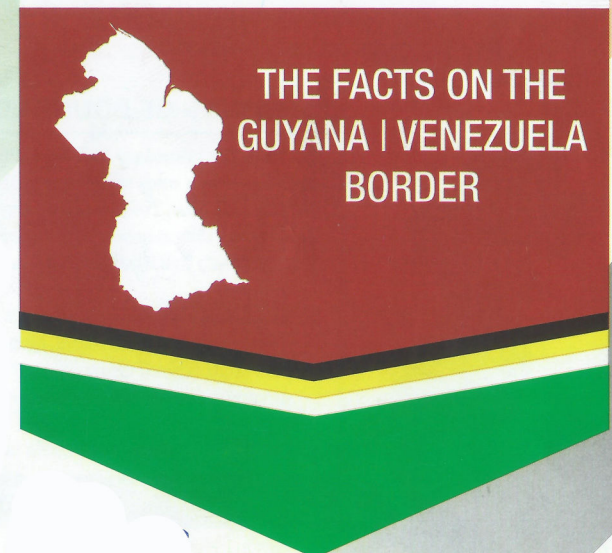
Address to the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, September 29, 2015

“Guyana rejects the threats and claims by Venezuela which are in defiance of international law. Guyana resists Venezuela's acts of aggression in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations which prescribes the peaceful settlement of disputes and proscribes the use of armed force. Guyana's border with Venezuela was settled 116 years ago. The whole world, except the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, accepts our borders. Guyana does not wish that this obnoxious territorial claim should obscure the prospects of peace and obstruct the possibility of growth for the next fifty years. We need a permanent solution in order to avoid the fate of perpetual peril and penury. Guyana seeks a juridical settlement to this controversy.” ”

Source documents: 1. What you need to know about the definitive nature of the Guyana/Venezuela boundary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

2. Guyana-Venezuela: The "controversy" over the arbitral award of 1899. Dr. Odeen Ishmael.

• SETTLED SINCE 1899 •



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