

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER
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GUIDANCE BULLETIN

No. 9

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OMAN/SAUDI ARABIA BOUNDARY AND
OMAN/YEMEN BOUNDARY

Recent border agreements have established international boundaries between Oman and Saudi Arabia and between Oman and Yemen for the first time.

OMAN/SAUDI ARABIA

The boundary established by Oman and Saudi Arabia in a 1990 agreement consists of straight line segments linking the following turning points (see map):

Point	Latitude N			Longitude E		
	°	'	"	°	'	"
1. Umm az Zumul (UAE terminus)	22	42	30	55	12	30
2.	22	00	00	55	40	00
3.	20	00	00	55	00	00
4. Yemen terminus	19	00	00	52	00	00

Background

On March 20, 1990, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Oman's Sultan Qaboos signed an agreement establishing an international boundary. Instruments of ratification of the agreement were exchanged in Riyadh on May 21, 1991, and the agreement was deposited with the United Nations on July 29, 1991.

Umm az Zumul is the eastern terminus of the *de facto* boundary agreed between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1974 (see *Guidance Bulletin* No. 7, November 13, 1992). Point 4, at Latitude 19° N, Longitude 52° E, is also the terminus of the new Oman/Yemen international boundary (see below).

Article 3 of the agreement calls for an international company, selected by both countries, to survey and demarcate the boundary. This survey has apparently been under way in the time since the agreement. When completed, it will provide detailed and precise coordinates along the line segments between the turning points given above.

OMAN/YEMEN

The boundary established by Oman and Yemen in a 1992 agreement consists of straight line segments connecting the following turning points (see map):

Point	Latitude N			Longitude E		
	°	'	"	°	'	"
1. Ras Dharbat 'Ali (coast terminus)	16	39	03.83	53	06	30.88
2.	17	17	07.91	52	48	44.22
3.	17	17	40.00	52	44	45.00
4. Habarut area	17	18	06.93	52	44	33.50
4a. " "	17	18	08.87	52	44	34.24
4b. " "	17	18	08.42	52	44	35.57
5.	17	18	15.00	52	45	05.00
6.	17	18	21.00	52	45	02.00
7.	17	20	59.04	52	46	55.83
8. Saudi Arabia terminus	19	00	00.00	52	00	00.00

These coordinates are based on the WGS 84 datum.

Background

The boundary agreement between Oman and Yemen was signed on October 1, 1992. It was ratified by Yemen on October 31, 1992, and by Oman on December 20, 1992. The instruments of ratification were exchanged in Muscat on December 27, 1992, and the agreement has been deposited with the United Nations.

Point 8, at Latitude 19° N, Longitude 52° E, is also the terminus of the boundary agreed between Oman and Saudi Arabia in 1990 (see above). From there south, the boundary lies somewhat eastward from the British administrative line that had served as a boundary previously. It is a straight line between Ras Dharbat 'Ali and the Oman/Saudi Arabia border terminus, except for a small digression to the vicinity of Habarut. In Habarut, the boundary skirts around the more eastern of the two forts there, keeping it in Oman, but leaves the rest of the settlement in Yemen.

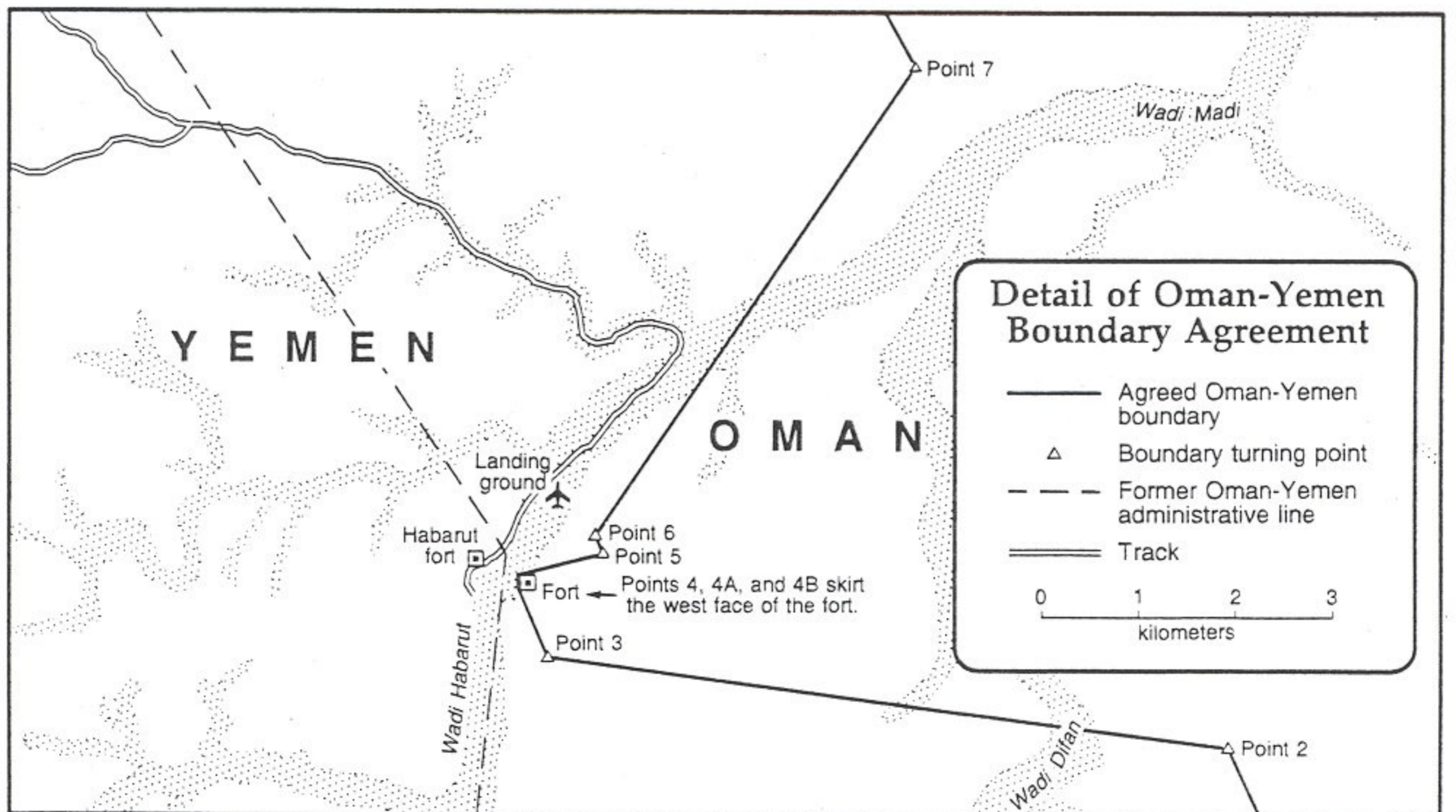
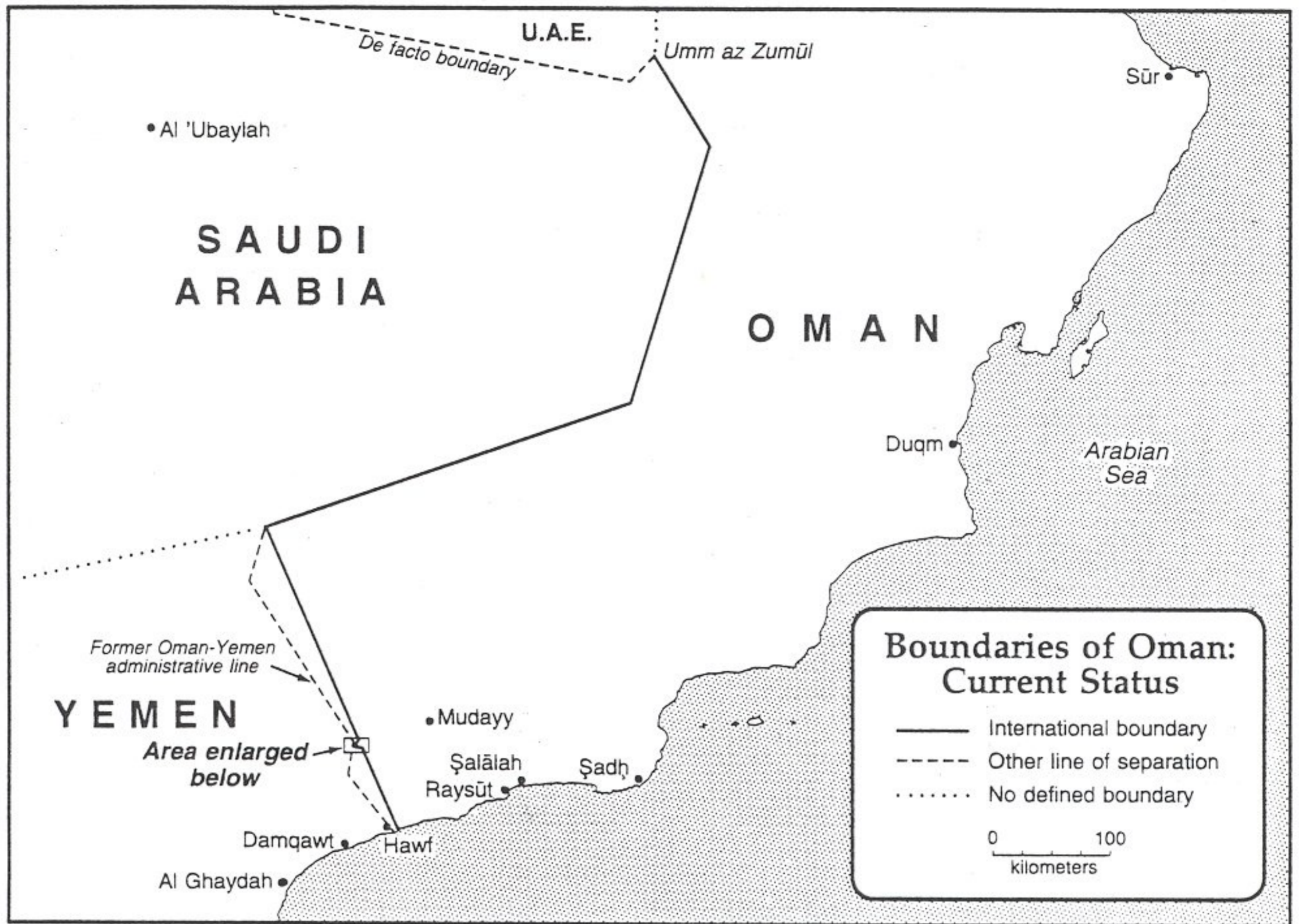
Article 4 of the agreement calls for a joint technical committee to be formed from the survey authorities of each country to survey and demarcate the boundary. This work should get under way soon. When completed, coordinates at closer intervals along the straight line segments will become available.

ACTION

Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William B. Wood".

William B. Wood
The Geographer
Department of State



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

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