

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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ISRAEL/JORDAN/WEST BANK/GAZA STRIP

1. The international boundary to be depicted between Israel and Jordan is the one determined by the Treaty of Peace between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, October 26, 1994. This boundary is to be depicted with the symbol of an international boundary on land.

2. The boundary to be depicted runs as follows:

a. from its southern terminus on the Gulf of Aqaba to the southern terminus, in the Dead Sea, of the line separating Jordan and the West Bank; and

b. from the northern terminus of the line separating Jordan and the West Bank to the Israel/Jordan/Syria tripoint, following the middle of the main course of flow of the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers, as of 1994, throughout.

3. The depicted international boundary in the sections described above replaces the 1949 Armistice Line used heretofore as a line of separation between the two states.

4. The line separating the West Bank from Jordan is to be depicted with a symbol distinctly different from that used for international boundaries and labelled as "1994 Treaty Line." Reference to this line as "1967 Cease-Fire Line" is no longer valid.

5. The disclaimer for the West Bank and Gaza Strip is to be changed to the following:

Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement--permanent status to be determined through further negotiation.

This disclaimer supersedes the one given in Guidance Bulletin No. 15, June 19, 1994.

6. US Government policy on the depiction of the boundaries of Syria remains the same.

7. Precise data on alignment of the boundary for large-scale mapping purposes will be available when the survey data from demarcation is released. The accompanying map may suffice for medium and small-scale mapping. If more detailed data is required in the meantime, contact the Office of The Geographer and Global Issues, Cartography Support Staff, at (202) 647-2250.

Background. On October 26, 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a Treaty of Peace that established their mutual boundary. The treaty was subsequently ratified by both countries and went into force on November 10, 1994.

The boundary from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Dead Sea represents a new alignment from the 1949 Armistice Line, departing slightly from it, both to the east and to the west, in various places. There is also a departure from the 1949 Armistice Line at the junction of the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers.

According to the international boundary annex to the treaty, the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers section of the boundary, in addition to following the middle of the main course of flow of the rivers, "shall follow natural changes (accretion or erosion) in the course of the rivers unless otherwise specified. Artificial changes in or of the course of the rivers shall not affect the location of the boundary unless otherwise agreed." It notes further: "In the event of a future sudden natural change in or of the course of the rivers (avulsion or cutting of new bed) the Joint Boundary Commission [specified in Article 3 of the annex] shall meet as soon as possible, to decide on necessary measures, which may include physical restoration of the prior location of the river course."

The "1994 Treaty Line" between the West Bank and Jordan, which was negotiated in the Treaty without prejudice to the future status of the West Bank, has the same alignment as the former "1967 Cease Fire Line" except for a slight modification at the northern end of the Dead Sea made to connect the line with the present mouth of the Jordan River.

Action. Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production, international boundaries and sovereignty, or editing.



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Israel / Jordan Boundary



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative