

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA CONCERNING THE
RESTORATION AND MARKING OF FRONTIER PYRAMIDS AND THE
FRONTIER LINE ON THE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN FRONTIER.
SIGNED AT CUSTENDIL, ON 20 FEBRUARY 1954**

Considering that the frontier line has not been restored for a long period and that a large number of frontier pyramids have been destroyed and mislaid in the course of that time, the two Governments, desiring to establish good neighbourly relations, and with a view to the clear demarcation of the frontier between the two countries in accordance with article 1 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria, dated 10 February 1947, the other documents governing the demarcation of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier and the provisions of the Convention of 9 November 1935, and in order to remove any source of disagreement and possible incidents on the frontier, have decided to conclude an agreement on procedure for the restoration of damaged, semi-destroyed, destroyed and missing frontier pyramids and the demarcation of the frontier line. For this purpose they grant full powers:

The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia: to Karlo Šuman, Colonel, Yugoslav People's Army, as Chairman of the delegation;

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria: to Colonel Dimitar Georgiev Vladimirov as Chairman of the delegation.

The plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have at meetings held at the town of Custendil from 15 to 20 February 1954 agreed as follows:

Article 1

(1) There shall be established a Mixed Yugoslav-Bulgarian Commission composed of a Yugoslav and a Bulgarian section, each Contracting Party sending three representatives of whom one is the Chairman and two are members.

In addition each section of the Mixed Commission shall have the requisite number of auxiliary personnel and experts up to a maximum of four.

The above number of auxiliary personnel and experts may be increased or reduced if necessary by agreement between the Chairmen of the two sections of the Mixed Commission.

(2) The Mixed Commission shall meet alternately in Yugoslav and Bulgarian territory by agreement between the Chairmen of the two sections of the Commission.

(3) It shall be the task of the Mixed Commission to demarcate the frontier line and to restore missing, destroyed, semi-destroyed and damaged frontier pyramids over the whole length of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier as prescribed by the International Commission in 1920-1922 and in accordance with article 1 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria, dated 10 February 1947.

(4) The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shall be entitled to make a partial change in the composition of their respective sections of the Mixed Commission when necessary; they shall inform each other accordingly.

(5) The Mixed Yugoslav-Bulgarian Commission shall establish its own rules of procedure.

(6) If the Mixed Commission fails to reach agreement on any question, such question shall be settled by negotiation between the two Governments.

(7) At the meeting which the Mixed Commission shall hold pursuant to article 9, paragraph (2), of this Agreement, the Chairmen of the two delegations shall communicate to each other the names and positions of the persons who are to serve on the Mixed Sub-Commissions and the date and place at which the latter are to meet in order to begin operations.

(8) The Chairmen of the two sections of the Mixed Commission shall be entitled to make partial changes in the composition of their respective sections of the Mixed Sub-Commissions and working groups when necessary; they shall inform each other accordingly.

Article 2

(1) The work of restoring damaged, semi-destroyed, destroyed and missing frontier pyramids and demarcating the frontier line shall be carried out by the two Contracting Parties as follows:

— The Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia: from the pyramid sign marking the junction of the Yugoslav, Bulgarian and Romanian frontiers to Daščani Kladenac, pyramid No. 199 (exclusive);

— The People's Republic of Bulgaria: from pyramid No. 199 (inclusive) to frontier pyramid No. 1 on Tumba peak.

(2) Each Contracting Party shall clear of plants, bushes, trees and the like a strip five to ten metres wide measured from the frontier line in its own territory over the whole length of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier.

Article 3

(1) For the purpose of carrying out the operations of restoring frontier pyramids and demarcating the frontier line, two Mixed Yugoslav-Bulgarian Sub-Commissions shall be established.

(2) Each Mixed Sub-Commission shall be composed of eight persons, four representing each Party, as follows:

— One officer, as Chairman;

— One surveyor-topographer;

— One frontier officer or construction engineer, and

— One interpreter.

(3) The tasks of the Mixed Sub-Commissions shall be:

- (a) To go over the frontier line, each in its sector; to note in a record the condition of the frontier pyramids, showing how many are in position and how many are missing; to prepare sketches for the replacement of missing pyramids; and to decide upon measures for the repair of pyramids, so that the working groups may carry out the operations unobstructed;
- (b) To effect repairs to damaged and semi-destroyed frontier pyramids;
- (c) To reconstruct destroyed and missing frontier pyramids in the shape and dimensions shown in the annexed diagram (annex 1);
- (d) To draw up in four copies, two in the Serbo-Croat and two in the Bulgarian language, a record (annex 2), of each frontier pyramid fully restored.

(4) In case of necessity, and in order to facilitate the movements of the Mixed Sub-Commissions on the frontier line, each Party shall be allowed free access to the territory of the other Party up to a distance of 1,000 metres, subject to the prior consent of both Chairmen of the Mixed Sub-Commission in each individual case.

Article 4

Each Contracting Party shall establish one working group to carry out the technical operations of restoring the frontier pyramids in its own frontier sector.

Each working group shall function as staff of a particular Mixed Sub-Commission and shall be under the control of that section of the Mixed Sub-Commission which establishes the said working group.

The membership of the working group shall not exceed twenty-five persons, who shall be military personnel.

Article 5

(1) To determine the exact position of missing frontier pyramids and to replace them, the Mixed Sub-Commissions shall use the official documentation of the International Commission of 1920-1922, the description of the frontier, the 1:25,000 map of the frontier line, and the sketch-maps showing distances and bearings.

(2) Frontier pyramids shall be repaired and built with concrete or masonry according to local conditions and by decision of the Mixed Sub-Commissions.

Where concrete is used in the repair and construction of frontier pyramids, the quality ratio of the material used — cement, sand and gravel — shall be 1:3:4.

Where the frontier pyramids are of masonry construction, the stone shall be bonded with cement and then covered with a 2 cm. layer of cement.

(3) Each Party shall work out the form of its initials to be marked on the frontier pyramids and shall supply four copies thereof to the other Party for its use. Each Party shall return these when the operations are completed.

(4) The working groups may, with the prior consent of both Chairmen of the Mixed Sub-Committees, take water, sand, gravel and stone from the territory of the other Party up to a distance of 300 metres, excluding inhabited places.

(5) The operations of repairing and restoring frontier pyramids and demarcating the frontier line shall start at the beginning of May 1954 and must be completed by 1 November 1954.

(6) When the operations of restoring frontier pyramids and demarcating the frontier line are completed, each Mixed Sub-Commission shall draw up a final record and submit it to the Mixed Commission.

Article 6

The cost of restoring frontier pyramids and demarcating the frontier line shall be borne by each Contracting Party in respect of its own part of the frontier line as specified in article 2 of this Agreement.

Article 7

(1) The safety of members of the Mixed Commission, its auxiliary personnel, the Mixed Sub-Commissions and the working groups shall be the responsibility of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are operating (pursuant to article 3, paragraph (4), and article 5, paragraph (4)). It shall likewise ensure the inviolability of official documents in the possession of the said persons.

(2) The members of the Mixed Sub-Commissions and working groups shall be supplied with an identity document in the Serbo-Croat and Bulgarian languages, signed by both Chairmen of the Mixed Commission (annex 3).

(3) The members of the Mixed Commission, its auxiliary personnel, the Mixed Sub-Commissions and the personnel of the working groups shall be entitled to carry their personal weapons while at the frontier.

(4) In areas where the working groups are carrying on technical operations for the restoration of frontier pyramids and the marking of the frontier line, the frontier guards of both Contracting Parties shall withdraw in their respective territories to a distance of fifty metres from the frontier line in order to ensure unimpeded operation and the inviolability of the personnel.

The protection of the working groups in the said areas shall be ensured by three or four soldiers from each Party, who shall not move closer than thirty metres from the personnel of the working groups.

(5) The Mixed Sub-Commissions and working groups shall work at the frontier from sunrise to sunset.

The personnel of the Mixed Sub-Commissions and working groups shall spend the night in their respective territories.

(6) For each trip to the frontier and meeting for work, the place and time of meeting shall be fixed by the Mixed Sub-Commissions the previous day.

Article 8

(1) In the event of any disagreement between the delegations to a Sub-Commission concerning the exact site of a pyramid or on any other question, the disagreement shall be settled by the Mixed Commission, which shall go to the spot in full strength or send some of its members.

Furthermore the full Mixed Commission or, at its decision, some of its members may proceed to any point on the frontier line in order to check the operations of the Mixed Sub-Commissions and working groups.

(2) On the basis of the final records of the Mixed Sub-Commissions, and after checking parts of the frontier wherever it sees fit to do so, the Commission shall draw up a final record on the completion of operations for the restoration and demarcation of the frontier line over the whole length of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier.

Article 9

(1) This Agreement shall enter into force when it has been confirmed by both Contracting Governments, which shall so notify each other through the diplomatic channel. It shall remain in force until the operations of the Mixed Yugoslav-Bulgarian Commission for the restoration and demarcation of the frontier line are completed.

(2) Ten days after the exchange of diplomatic notes to confirm this Agreement, the two Governments shall inform each other of the date and place of meeting of the Mixed Commission.

Article 10

This Agreement is done in two original copies in the Serbo-Croat and Bulgarian languages. The texts of all four copies are equally authentic.

Custendil, 20 February 1954.

The Chairman of the delegation of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia to the negotiations on the restoration and demarcation of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier:
(Signed) Colonel Karlo ŠUMAN

The Chairman of the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the negotiations on the restoration and demarcation of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier:

(Signed) Colonel Dimitar Georgiev VLADIMIROV

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