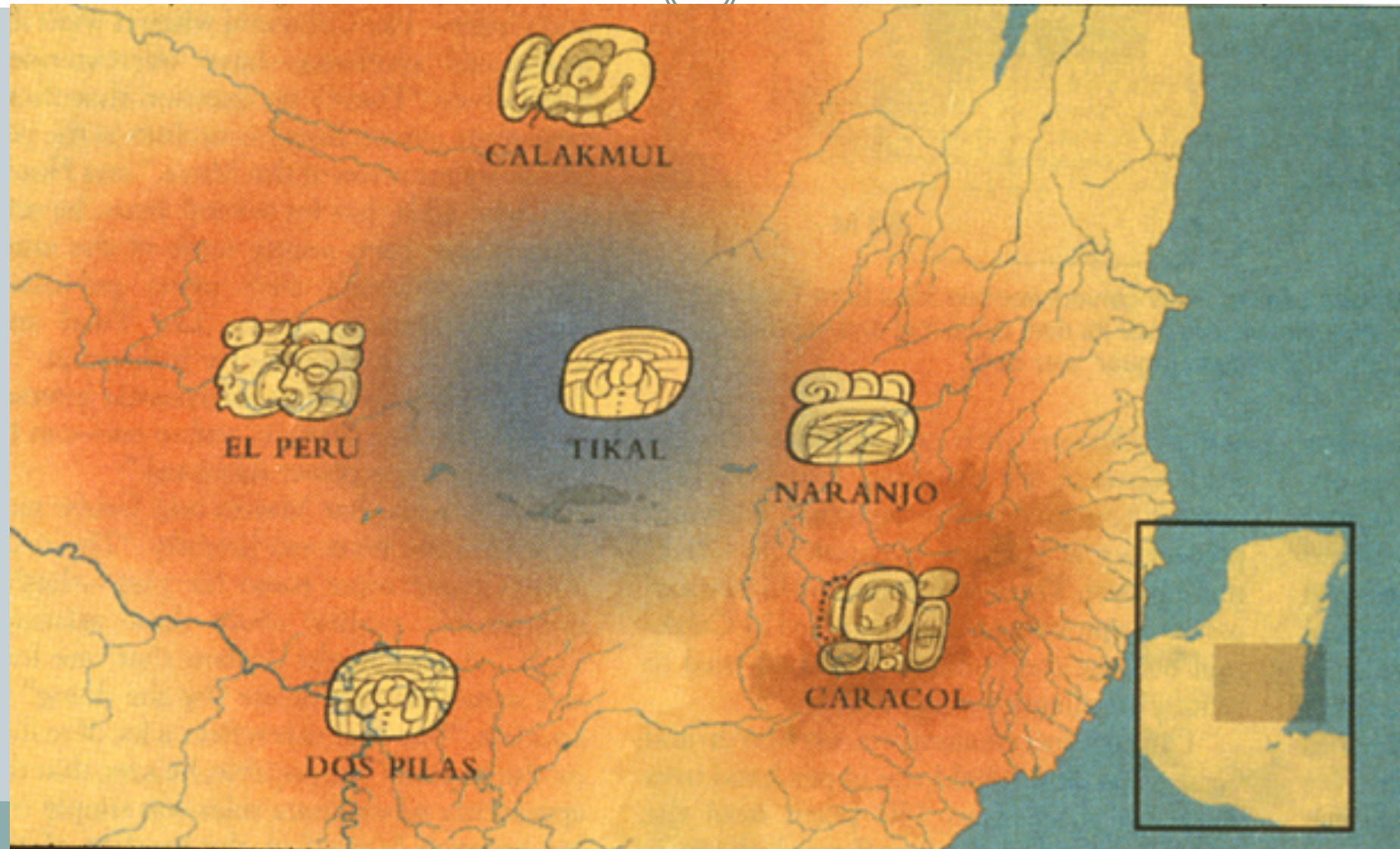


The Belize – Guatemala Issue

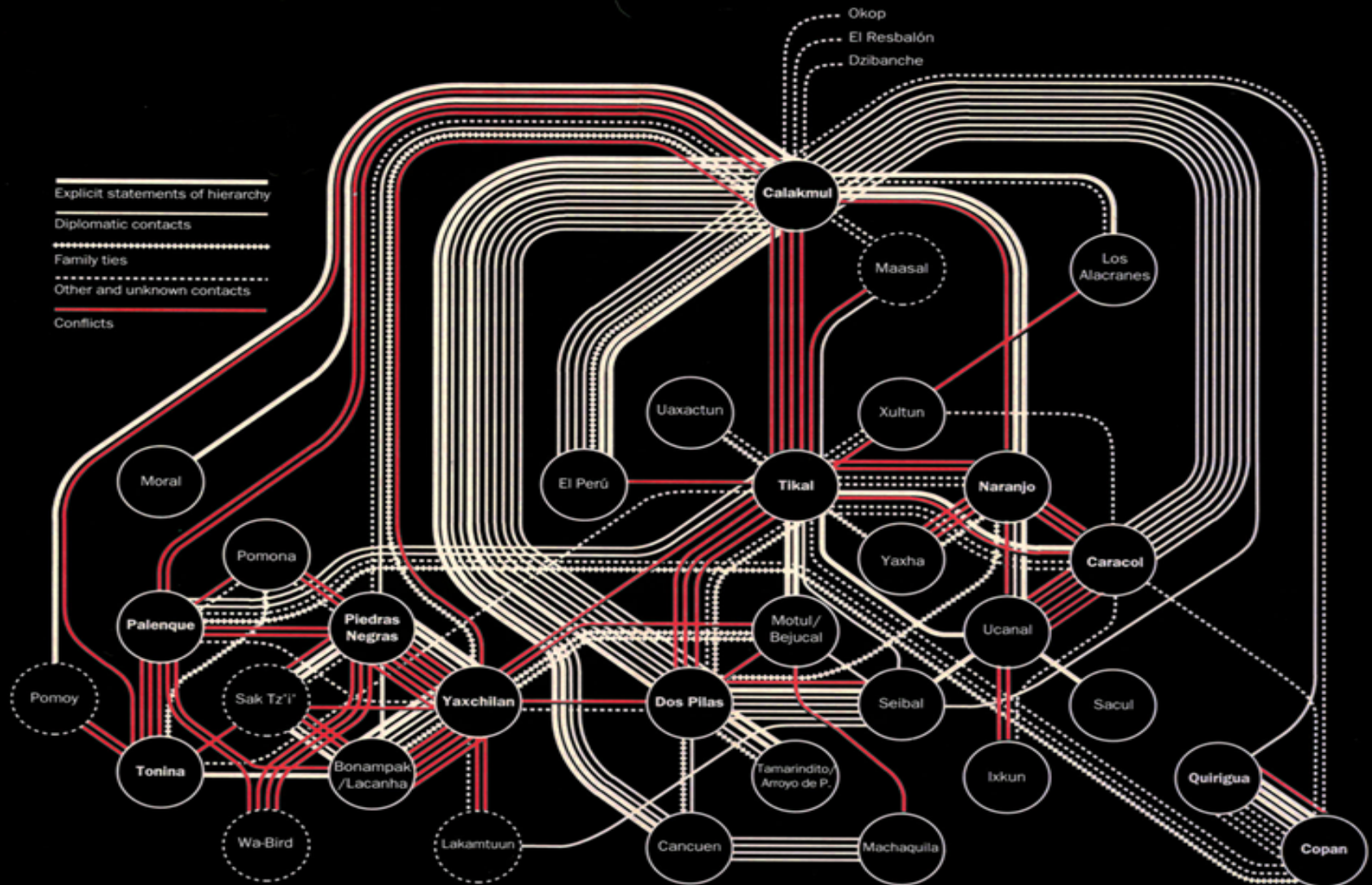


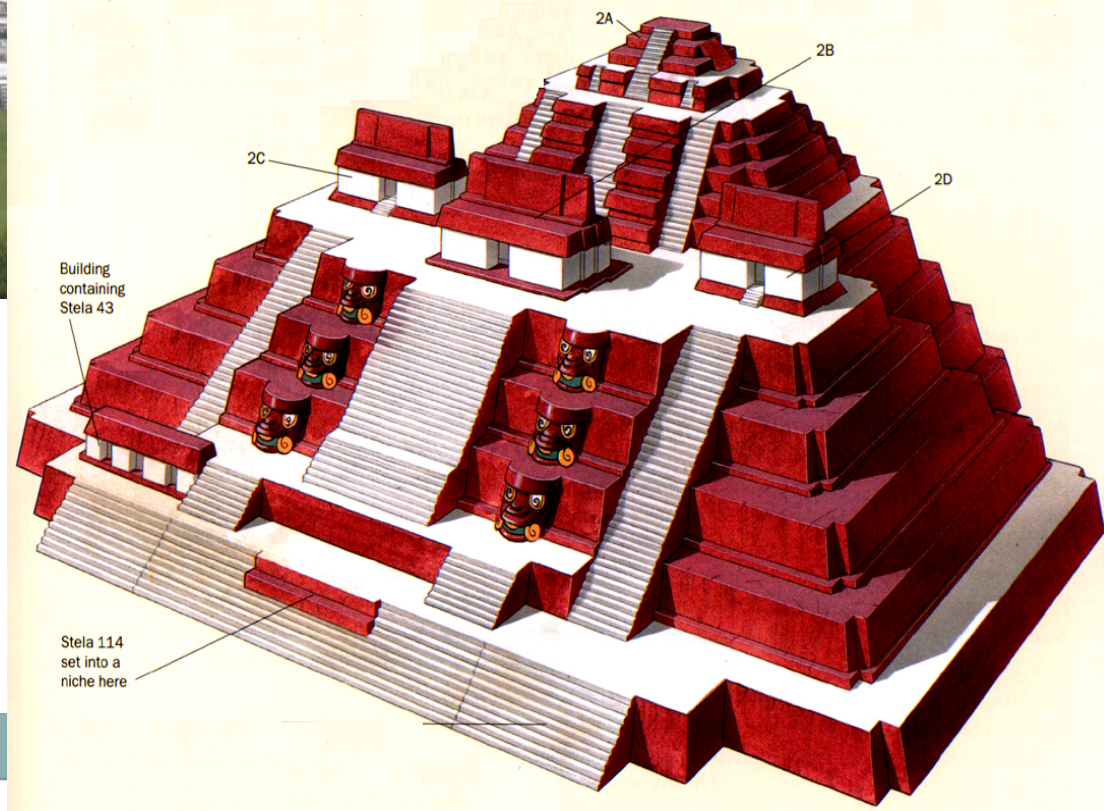
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Maya “Super States”



Classic Period Maya State Interactions



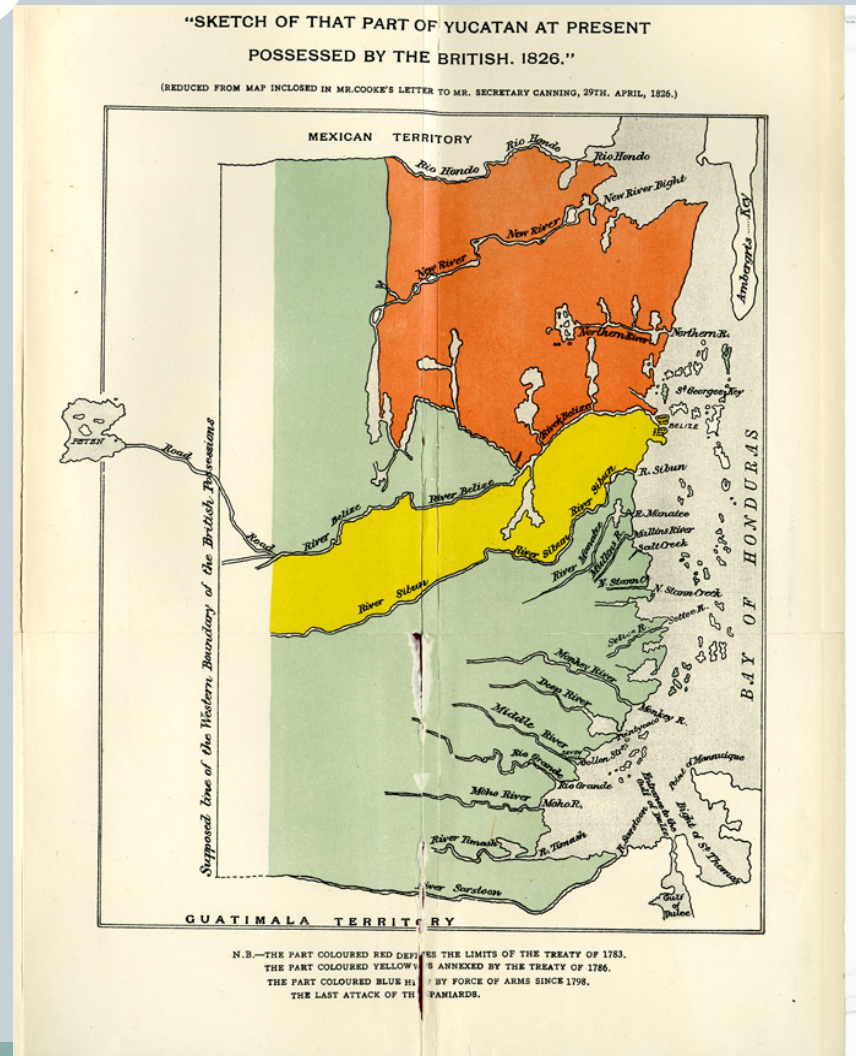


Tikal



British Colonization

- 1650s Settlement Begins
 - 1763 Treaty of Paris
 - 1783 Treaty of Versailles
 - 1786 Convention of London
- 1798 Battle of St. Georges Caye
 - 1802 Treaty of Amiens



Preceding the Anglo-Guatemalan Treaty



- In 1850 the U.S. and Britain concluded the Clayton Bulwer Treaty, agreeing that neither would colonize any part of Central America.
- A further treaty negotiated in 1856 (Dallas Clarendon) however, agreed that the Mosquito Shore should revert to Nicaragua and the Bay Islands to Honduras. But with regard to Belize it called for the limits of Belize to be settled by Treaty between Britain and Guatemala within two (2) years.

Preamble (1859 Anglo-Guatemalan Treaty)



- WHEREAS the boundary between Her Britannic Majesty's settlement and possessions in the Bay of Honduras, and the territories of the Republic of Guatemala, has not yet been ascertained and marked out; Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Republic of Guatemala, being desirous, with a view to improve and perpetuate the friendly relations which happily subsist between the two countries, to define the boundary aforesaid, have resolved to conclude a Convention for that purpose....

1859 Anglo-Guatemalan Treaty



- ***Article I.** It is agreed between Her Britannic Majesty and the Republic of Guatemala, that the boundary between the Republic and the British Settlement and Possessions in the Bay of Honduras, as they existed previous to and on the 1st day of January, 1850, and have continued to exist up to the present time, was and is as follows:*
- *'Beginning at the mouth of the River Sarstoon in the Bay of Honduras, and proceeding up the mid-channel thereof to Gracias a Dios Falls; then turning to the right and continuing by a line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls to Garbutt's Falls on the River Belize, and from Garbutt's Falls due north until it strikes the Mexican frontier...*

1859 Anglo-Guat.....



- **Article 2-6** are about the appointment of Commissioners and Demarcation methodology.
- Article 7. *‘With the object of practically carrying out the views set forth in the preamble of the present Convention, for improving and perpetuating the friendly relations which at present so happily exists between the two High Contracting Parties, they mutually agree conjointly to use their best efforts, by taking adequate means for establishing the easiest communication (either by means of a cart-road, or employing the rivers, or both united, according to the opinion of the surveying engineers), between the fittest place on the Atlantic Coast, near the Settlement of Belize, and the capital of Guatemala.....’*

Demarcation Activities : 1860-1861

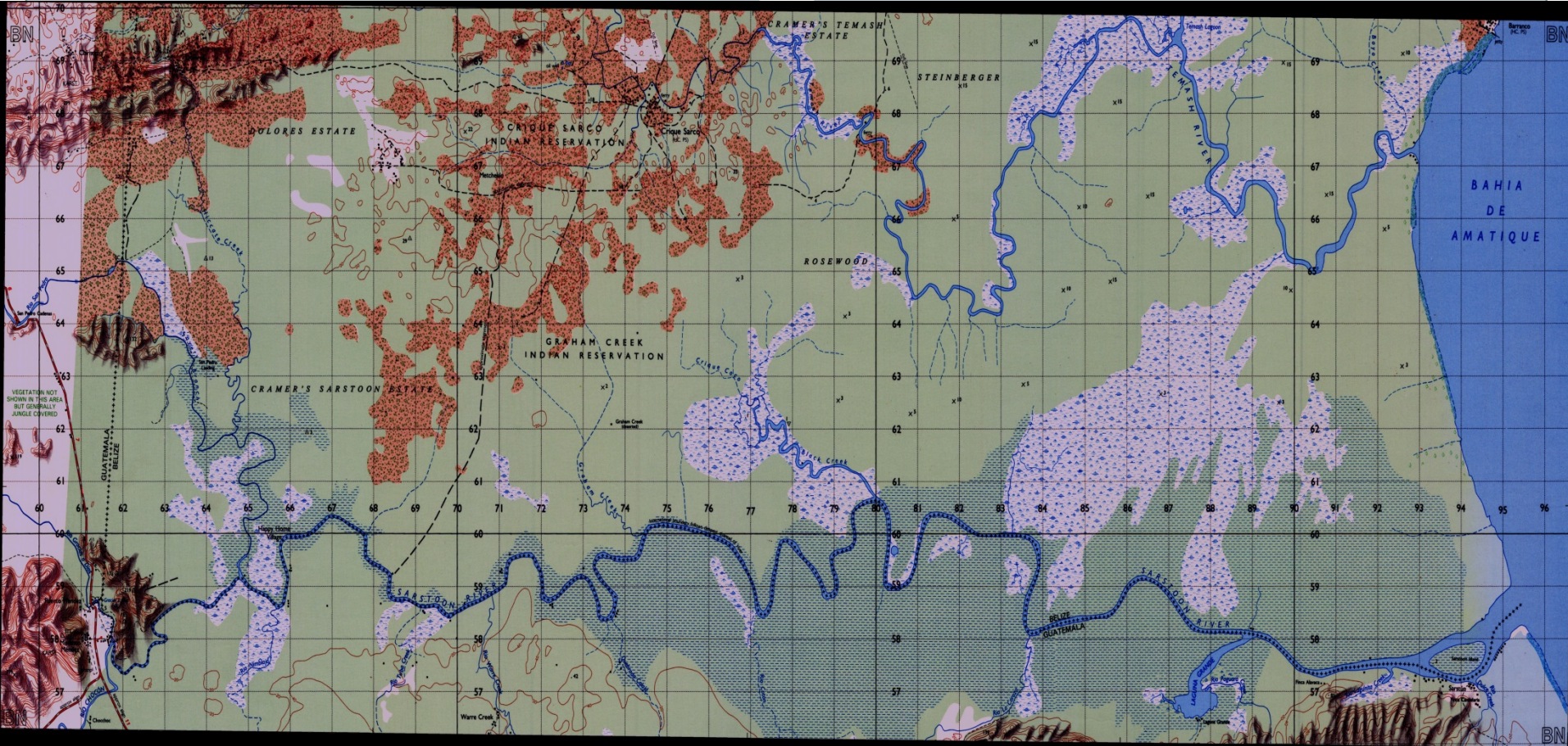


- 1860: Captain Henry Wray appointed Commissioner for the United Kingdom and Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Cano Madrazo as Commissioner for Guatemala.
- December 1860: Commissioners arrived at the mouth of the Sarstoon on December 3rd. Erected a limestone pyramid on December 8th. on the north bank of the Sarstoon River at the rapids of Gracias a Dios.
- January 1861: The Commissioners placed a limestone pyramid on the banks of the Belize River at Garbutt's Falls on 23 January 1861.
- A line was opened for about 6 miles to the south of Garbutt's Falls (toward Gracias a Dios) mainly to fix the limits of the cutting of mahogany in that area. After this was completed, the line to the north of Garbutt's Falls was opened for a distance of some 22.5 miles.



- **1862** The United Kingdom officially declares British Honduras to be a colony under a Lieutenant Governor reporting to the British Governor at Jamaica
- **10th February 1863** For the first time, in rejecting the terms of a draft British proposal for a supplementary convention defining the manner in which the respective obligations under Article 7 of the 1859 Convention should be discharged, Foreign Minister Aycinena asserts that Guatemala's sacrifice in renouncing her rights to the area from the Sibun to Sarstoon had not been compensated
- **5th August 1863** Additional Convention signed in which, subject to Parliamentary approval, British reimbursement to Guatemala of up to £50,000 would be paid to Guatemala in installments as road construction progressed
- Because of Guatemala's engagement in war with El Salvador the six month ratification period lapsed and in July 1866 the British government declined to consider extension which was not requested by Guatemala until **24th July 1865**

MAP: Sarstoon River



Exchange of Diplomatic Notes 1929



- The Governments of the United Kingdom and Guatemala are now desirous of completing the demarcation. As a first step towards this purpose, commissioners were reappointed, who met on the Sarstoon River on the 16 January, 1929

Exchange of Diplomatic Notes (2)

1929-1933 Border Commission Team:

Back Row (L-R): James Waight, Fred Brunton, Arthur Wolffsohn & Busby.

Front Row (L-R): Florentino Santiso & Fernando Cruz



Demarcation Activities : May 1929

- In May 1929 the terminal points were visited again by Commissioners and the existing monuments were replaced by cement concrete monuments, each five (5) feet in height above the ground level with a circular copper stud let in the top. Upon each stud a cross was cut to mark the exact position of the terminal points;



Demarcation Activities Cont....



- The survey was completed on 14th June 1934. The Boundary Plan and report was prepared for signature by the Commissioners by June 1935.
- The Guatemalan Commissioner was instructed by his principals not to sign.
- There the matter has rested.

Diplomatic Notes



- The British communicated the text of the Notes for registration as a treaty by the League of Nations in April 1932, subsequently published in the *League of Nation Treaty Series*.
- There exists no record of Guatemalan objection to the registration.

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