

Directorate of Political Affairs
Number 867/API

Hanoi, 31 January 1939
The Governor General of Indochina
Grand Officer of the Legion
d'Honneur

To the Governor of Cochin China
(I Bureau) in Saigon

Subject: Islands in the Gulf of Siam

I have the honor of informing you that I have just reexamined the question of the islands of the Gulf of Siam, the possession of which is disputed between Cambodia and Cochin China.

The situation of this group of islands, scattered along the Cambodian coast and some of which are so near the coast that land filling presently being carried out will seem to fuse them to the Cambodian coast in a relatively near future, logically and geographically requires that these islands be under the jurisdiction of the Administration of Cambodia.

I believe that it is impossible to let the present state of affairs continue as it is, which is forcing the inhabitants of these islands to refer, either at the price of a long crossing, or at the price of a long detour through Cambodian territory, to the Administration of Cochin China.

As a consequence, I have decided that all the islands located north of the line perpendicular to the coast starting from the border between Cambodia and Cochin China and making a 140 grad angle with the north meridian, in accordance with the attached chart, will be from now on administered by Cambodia. The Protectorate will, in particular, take over the police of these islands.

All the islands south of this line, including the island of Phu-Quoc, will continue to be administered by Cochin China. It is understood that the demarcation line thus made will make a line around the north of the island Phu-Quoc, passing three kilometers from the extreme ends of the north shore of this island.

Administration and police powers on these islands will thus be clearly distributed between Cochin China and Cambodia, so that all the future disputes might be avoided.

It is understood that the above pertains only to the administration and policing of these islands, and that the issue of the islands' territorial jurisdiction remains entirely reserved.

You will please make provisions so that my decision is immediately put into effect.

Please notify me of the receipt of this letter.

Signed: BREVIE