

# FIRST BORDER AGREEMENT

1886

Declaration between the Governments of Germany and Portugal respecting the Limits of their respective Possessions and Spheres of Influence in Southern Africa, dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 1886.

The Government of His Majesty the King of Portugal and of the Algarves, and the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, inspired as they are by the same desire to draw still closer the existing cordial relations between Portugal and Germany, and to gain a firm and secure basis for peaceful co-operation between the two Powers in the opening up of Africa for the promotion of civilization and trade, have resolved to establish certain boundaries in Southern Africa, within which each of the two Powers shall retain their full freedom of action in order to enable them to continue without any hindrance in their work of colonization.

To this end the Undersigned, Henrique de Barros Gomes, State Councillor of His Most Faithful Majesty's, Council and his Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Councillor of Legation Baron Richard von Schmidthals, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, have, by virtue of the powers vested in them in the name of their respective Governments, agreed upon the following Articles: -

## ARTICLE 1

The boundary line which shall separate the Portuguese and German Possessions in South West Africa shall follow the course of the Kunene River from its mouth to the cataracts which are formed by that river to the south of Humbe when crossing the range of the Canná Hills. From this point the line shall run along the parallel of latitude as far as the River Kubango, and thence it shall continue along the course of the same river as far as Andara, which place is to remain in the German sphere of interests. From this place the boundary line will continue in a straight line, in a due easterly direction to the rapids of Catima on the Zambezi.

2. Gysbert Reitz Hofmeyr, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St George, Ex-Administrator of South West Africa.
3. Reenen Jacob van Reenen, Esquire, Bachelor of Arts of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, Civil Engineer of the Lehigh University, Associate Member of the American Society of Civil Engineering, Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

and the Government of the Republic of Portugal has appointed as its plenipotentiaries: -

1. Dr. Augusto de Vasconcellos, President of the Delegation, Senator, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ex-Prime Minister, Ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chief of the Portuguese Department for the League of Nations.
2. Vice-Admiral Ernesto de Vasconcellos, Director-General of the Ministry for the Colonies, Ex-Director of Diplomatic, Geographical and Marine Services in the Ministry of the Colonies, Professor of the Lisbon Colonial School, Permanent Secretary of the Geographical Society of Lisbon.
3. Colonel Carlos Roma Machado, Military Engineer, Director of the Geographical Society of Lisbon, Ex-Director of Railways and Public Works in the Colonies.

NOW THEREFORE, under and by virtue of the authority committed to them, the said plenipotentiaries, on behalf of their respective Governments, after due negotiation, agree as follows: -

1. The waterfalls of the Kunene River referred to in Article 1 of the Treaty between the Government of His Majesty the German Emperor and the Government of His Majesty the King of Portugal,

**ADDITIONAL ARTICLE**

This Agreement shall come into force and shall be binding on both contracting Powers upon approval by the Portuguese Cortes and publication in the official gazettes of both countries.

Drawn up and signed in duplicate at Lisbon, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1886.

II. de BARROS GOMES  
Baron Von Schmidthals.

The above agreement was approved by the Portuguese Cortes on July 13, 1887. It was published in the Official Journal (*Diário do Governo*) in Lisbon and in the *Reichs-Anzeiger* in Berlin dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 1887.