

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

MINUTE NO. 251

El Paso, Texas
April 28, 1976

OCCUPANTS OF THE HORCON TRACT

The Commission met in the offices of the United States Section, in El Paso, Texas at 10:00 a.m. on April 28, 1976, to consider the measures which it should take regarding the occupants of the lands of the Horcon Tract which are now under the sovereignty of the United States and shall pass to form part of the territory of Mexico, in accordance with the provisions of Article I(B) and I(F) of the Boundary Treaty of 1970.

The Commission then reviewed the history of the Horcon Tract which has been situated to the south of the Rio Grande since 1906, when an artificial cut was made which changed the course of the channel of the river and cut from its left bank to its right bank that tract of territory of the United States. That tract of territory has been under the de facto jurisdiction of Mexico since that date and subsequently on the same tract the Mexican town of Rio Rico was founded.

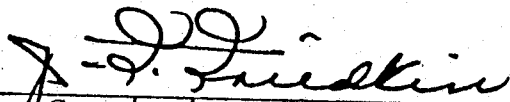
The Commission took note that in accordance with Article VI(A) of the Boundary Treaty of 1970, the lands of the Horcon Tract shall be transferred to Mexico "in absolute ownership, free of any private titles or encumbrances of any kind...", and that the United States, after acquiring the lands which shall be transferred to Mexico, should, in accordance with Article I(D) of the same Treaty, carry out "The orderly evacuation of the occupants of the lands ...".

The Commission considered that it is the intent of the two Governments to effect the transfer without causing unnecessary injury to either country or its nationals. The Commission considered the Mexican Commissioner's view that the evacuation of the residents of the Horcon Tract would cause them unnecessary hardship and that therefore, in this special case, Mexico requests that the residents not be evacuated. The Commission considered the advice of the United States Commissioner that his Government has no objection to the request of Mexico. Accordingly, the Commission concluded that the residents should remain undisturbed on the Horcon Tract.

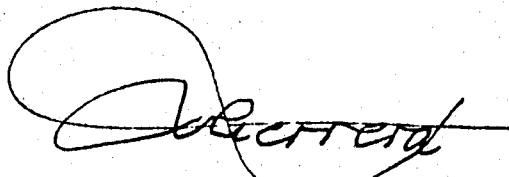
Based on the foregoing considerations, the Commission submits the following Resolution for the approval of the two Governments:

1. That the residents of the Horcon Tract not be evacuated for the transfer of the tract from the United States to Mexico, and
2. That this Minute requires specific approval of the two Governments.

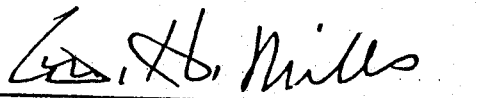
The meeting was adjourned.



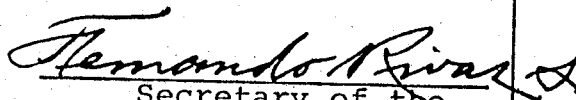
Commissioner of the
United States



Commissioner of
Mexico



Secretary of the
United States Section



Secretary of the
Mexican Section