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United Nations  
Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names

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Item 5  
of the Provisional Agenda

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the National Committee on Geographical Names  
and of the Survey Department in the  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Submitted by the Arab Division as a part of the  
Divisional Report

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Submitted by Libya

**The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah  
Secretariat Of Planning , Economics and Trading**

**Report Of  
National Committee on Geographic names**

**Introduction**

A national committee on standardization of Geographic names in The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was appointed by Minister Of Planning , and was entrusted with all matters connected with geographic names . This committee is composed of various governmental departments to form a representation of different ministries , some universities and the surveying department of Libya ( S.D.L.) . The latter is the most concerned with the collection and standardization of geographic names in the country .

**Romanization Of Geographic Names**

Because Libya is located near some neighboring African countries, and because some old tribal names are not Arabic , the standardization of these names is not an easy task . Geographic names are collected in field in both written and oral forms

simultaneously . Standardization and Romanization of these names is the responsibility of S.D.L. The transcription of Arabic geographical names in Roman characters enables non-Arabic speakers to pronounce the names as close to the correct Arabic pronunciation as possible . Beirut System For Romanization Arabic Names is adopted for this task .

## **Mapping in Libya**

Topographic maps of Libya were compiled and published in Italian during the Italian occupation of the country and later in English after the Second World War . These maps are mainly

- Maps in Italian at scale 1:1000000 for the whole territory
- Maps in Italian at scale 1:400000 for the whole territory
- Maps in English at scale 1: 50000 for northern part of territory
- Maps in English at scale 1: 250000 for northern part of territory
- Maps in English at scale 1: 100000 for northern part of territory

In 1971 The Surveying Department Of Libya (S.D.L.) was founded . One of the obligations of S.D.L. is the Arabization and Standardization of Geographic names in the existing maps . Extension and updating of 1:50000 existing topomaps of the

country began in 1979 . these maps cover an area of 190000 sq. km. ( in 276 sheets ) All on-map-names were checked during the field works and new names were collected and added These new and updated 1:50000 topomap series of the country are bilingual .

Topographic maps for more than 300 cities and villages at large scales ( namely 1:1000 , 1:5000 ,and 1:10000 ) were compiled and published .All information and geographic names on these maps are in both Arabicand Roman charachters Some of the existing 1:250000 topomaps were republished with names in Arabic only .

The National Atlas Of Libya was published in 1978 in two versions , the first being in Arabic and the second in both Arabic and English . And , at the same time . a relief map of Libya was published for educational purposes . with cooperation Ministry Of Education and under supervision of S.D.I. . at scale 1:1000000 and 1:1500000 . Also . for the same purposes . wall maps were published for the world , the Arab world and different continents . A globe was also published All geographic names of these products are in Arabic .

Thematic maps at scale 1:25000 for forest inventory of north-west part of the country are published in Arabic . and 1:10000 maps for north-west coastal belt covering an area of 7900 sq. km. ( 218 sheets ) are published in both Arabic and English .

A cartographic production of a mapping project that will cover some 340000 sq. km. of the northern part of the country in 1970 sheets at scale 1:25000 began in 1992 . Now 94100 sq.km. ( 547 sheets) are ready for printing .

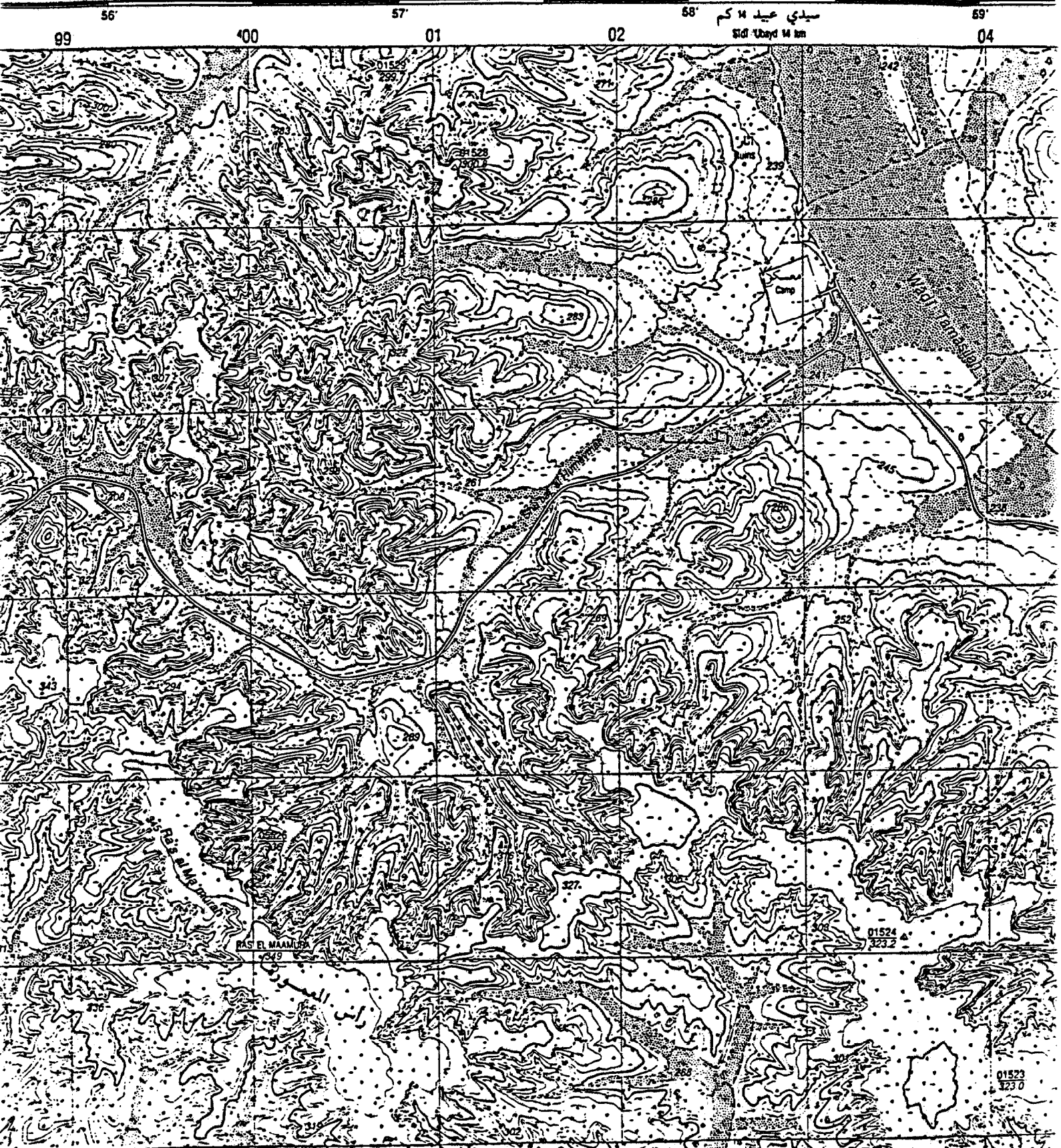




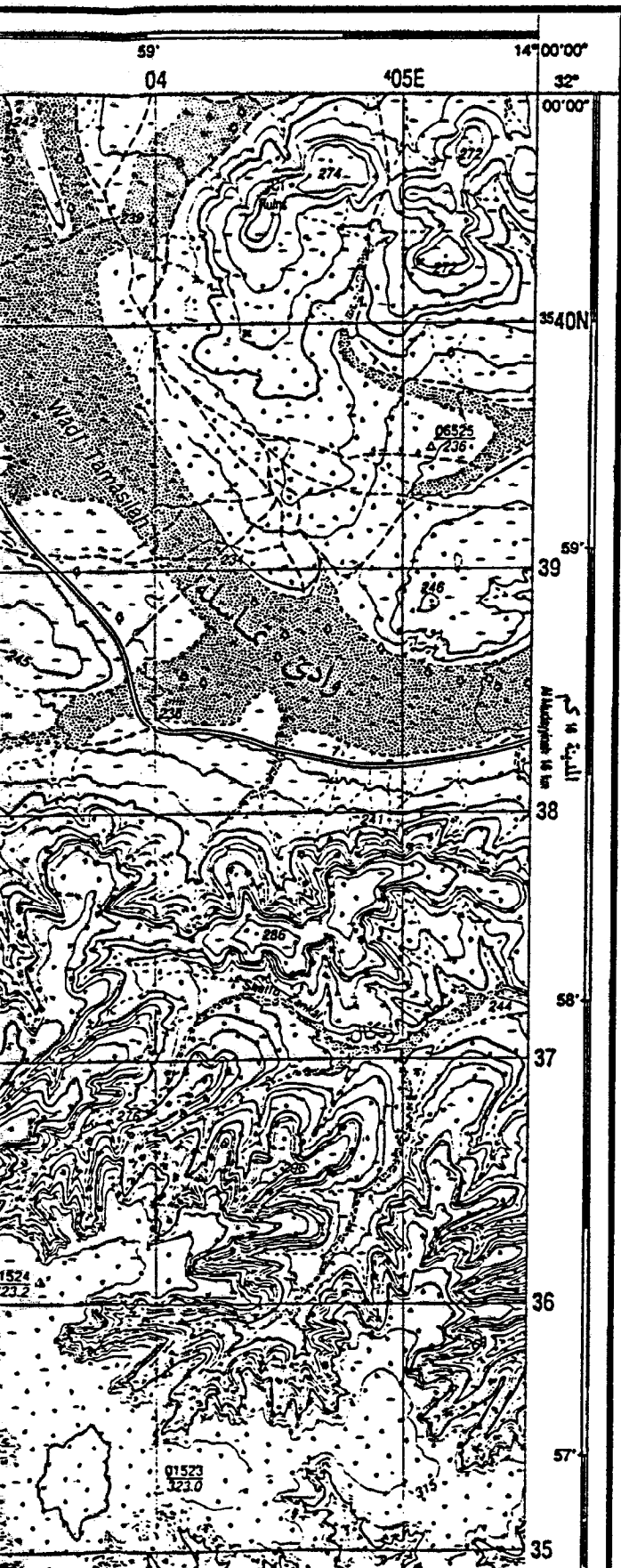


# رأس المعمورة RAS EL MAAMURA

25 00 لوحة رقم 3113-444







LEGEND الاصطلاحات

SETTLEMENTS مناطق سكنية

Building: Small, Large		مبنى: كبير، صغير
Built-up area, Streets		منطقة مبنية، شوارع
Through street, Footbridge		جسر للمشاة، شارع لحركة المرور السريعة
Wall		سور
Other permanent fence		سياج دائم آخر
Mosque, Shrine, Tomb		قبره، ضريح، جامع
Memorial, Cemetery		مقبرة، نصب تذكاري
School, Hospital		مستشفى، مدرسة
Ruins: Small, Large		مبان مهدامة: كبيرة، صغيرة
Antiquities, Fort		حصن، آثار
Stadium, Hippodrome		ميدان فرسية، ميدان رياضي
Greenhouse, Encampment		خيم، صوبات
Barrack, Underground dwelling		مسكن تحت الأرض، إشارات مزقنة

INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS منشآت صناعية

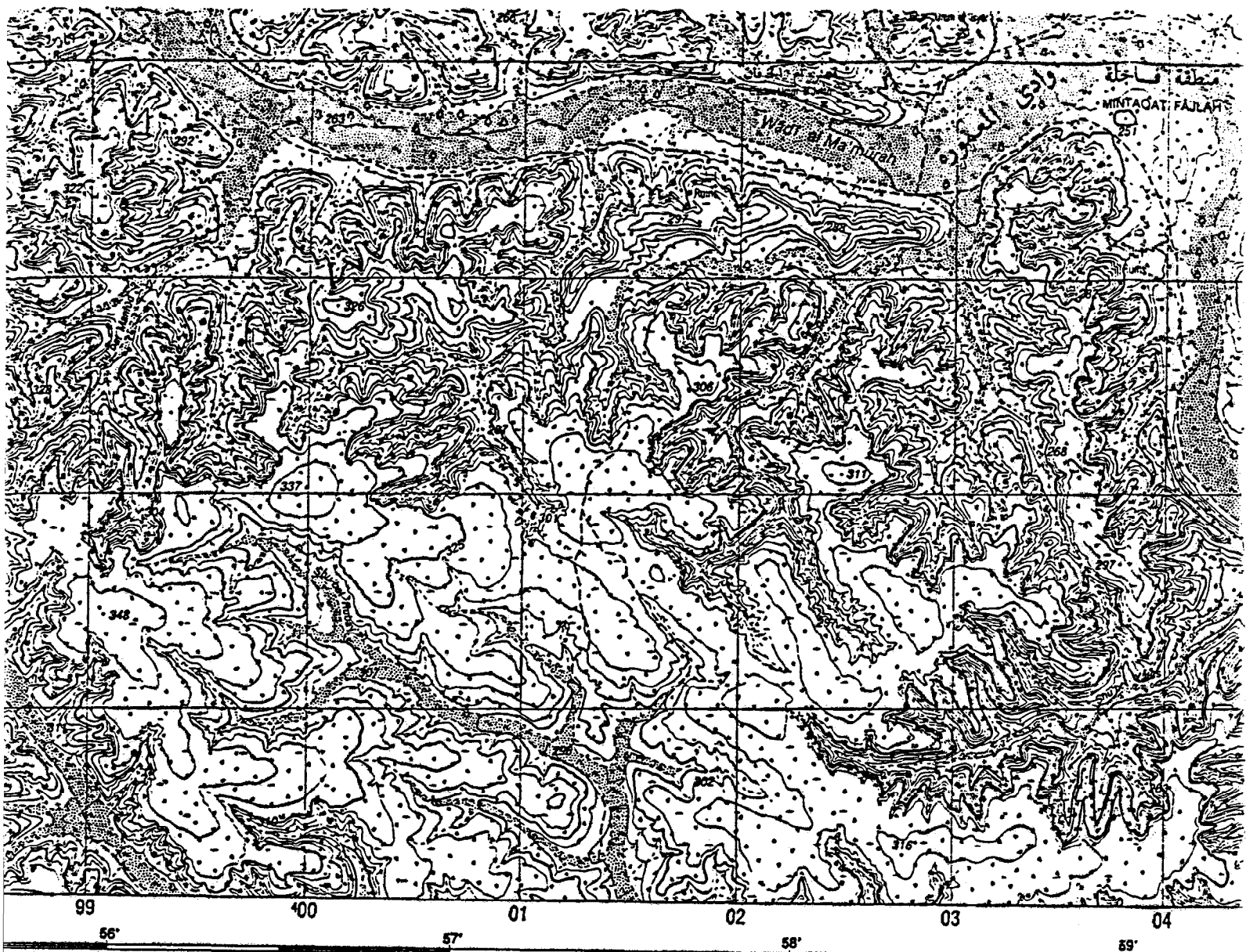
Transformer, Electric substation		محطة كهرباء فرعية، محول
Power transmission line with pylons		خط كهرباء للجهود العالي هل أصملة
Local HV line		خط كهرباء عملي للجهود العالي
Telephone line		خط هاتف
Aerial mast, Relay station		محطة ترحيل، سارية
Well: Oil, Gas		بئر: غاز، نفط
Emptied oil or gas well		بئر نفط أو بئر غاز فارغة
Tank: Oil, Gas		خزان: غاز، نفط
Pumping station: Oil, Gas		محطة ضخ: غاز، نفط
Overground pipeline: Oil, Gas		خط أنابيب نفط أو غاز فوق سطح الأرض
Underground pipeline: Oil, Gas		خط أنابيب نفط أو غاز تحت الأرض
Open-cast mine: Used, Disused		منجم مكشوف: غير مستعمل، جاري استغلاله
Quarry, Gravel-pit		مخبر حصى، مخبر

ROADS طرق

Dual carriageway		طريق رئيسي مزدوج
Main road, Width of surface		طريق رئيسي معبد، عرض سطح الطريق
Secondary road, 10metre stone		طريق ثانوي معبد، علامة كيلومترية
Local surfaced road		طريق عملي معبد
Local unsurfaced road		طريق عملي غير معبد
Main desert track		مسلك صحراوي رئيسي
Track		مسلك
Trail		درب
Road under construction		طريق تحت الإنشاء
Parking, Petrol station		محطة وقود، محطة سيارات
Bridge, Culvert, Hardened ford		ممر صلب، ممر، جسر
Embankment: Ground, Concrete		حافة: خرسانية، ترابية
Cutting: Ground, Concrete		تقطع: خرساني، ترابي

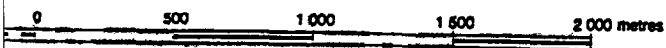
RAILWAYS سكة حديدية

Multi-track railway, electrified		خط سكة حديدية متعدد مكهرب
Multi-track railway, unelectrified		خط سكة حديدية متعدد غير مكهرب



Scale 1:25 000 مقياس

دليل اللوحات المجاورة  
INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS



AT 2.5 METRE INTERVALS  
THE MEDITERRANEAN

المسافة بين خطوط المناسيب 5 أمتار  
مع خطوط ثانوية يبعد 2.5 متر  
المنسوب الراسي : متوسط منسوب البحر المتوسط

PROJECTION  
DATUM 79

إسقاط مركاتور الدولي المستعرض  
المنسوب الألفي : اللبي - الأوربي 79

THE UNIVERSAL  
TIONAL SPHEROID

المخطوط المرفقة بلون أسود تبين الكيلومتر الواحد لارتفاع مركاتور  
الدولي المستعرض. المنطقة 33 الكراون الدولي

3213-112	3213-111	3214-222
3113-443	3113-444	3114-333
3113-442	3113-441	3114-332

الطبعة 1 - مصلحة المساحة  
Edition 1 - S.D.L.

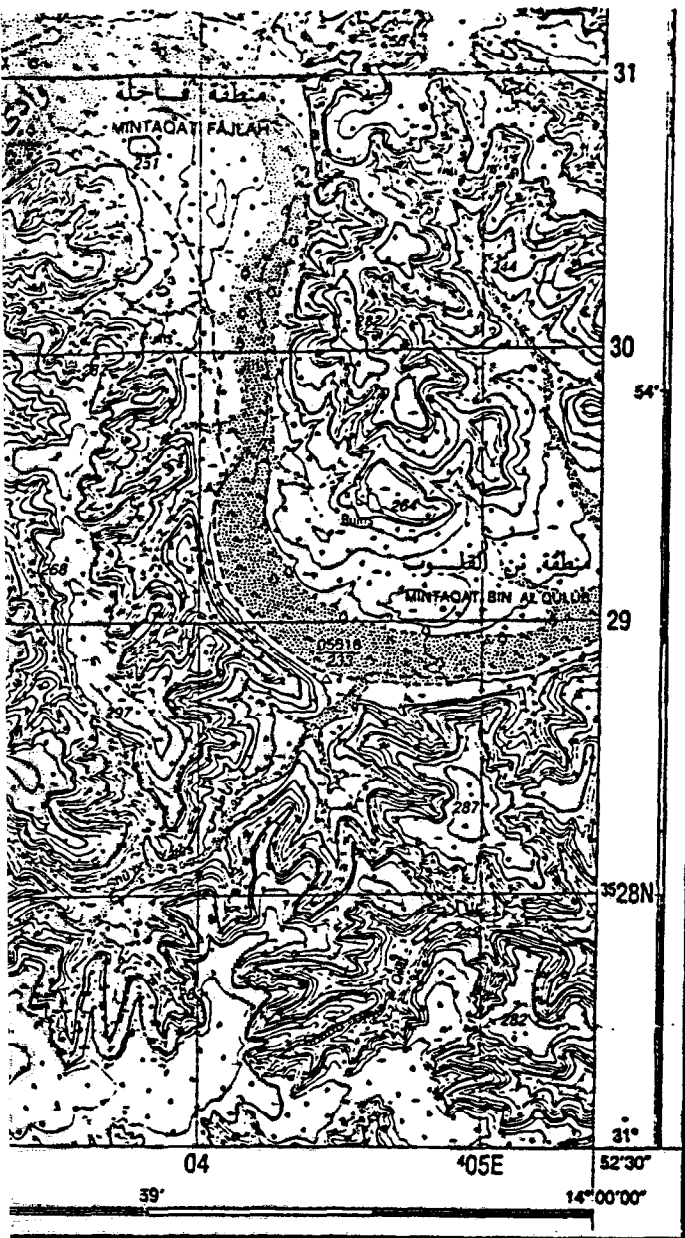
Department of G.S.P.L.A.J.

أعدت تحت إشراف مصلحة المساحة - ج.ع.ل.ش.إ.ع.

40 000 in 1991

من صور جوية التقطت في سنة 1991 م بمقياس 1:40 000

250 لوحة رقم 3113-444



Palm trees with other cultivations		أشجار نخيل مع مزروعات أخرى
Coniferous forest		غابة صنوبرية
Leafy forest		غابة غير صنوبرية
Park		حدائق
Bushes, Scrub		أشجار منخفضة، شجيرات
Grazing land		مراع
Sand hummocks with low growth		رواب رملية مع أعشاب قصيرة

### WATER FEATURES

Pond, Dirty-water pond		بركة ماء ملوثة بالنفط، بركة
Saline lake, Dry lake		بحيرة جافة، بحيرة مالحة
Sabkhan		سبخة
Dam, Dam with road		سد مع طريق، سد
Levee, Levee with road		حاجز مع طريق، حاجز
Seasonal streams (wadl beds)		واد موسمي ضيق
Wadi valleys		واديان
Indefinite wadi valley		واد غير محدد
Vanished wadi, Spring		عين، واد متلاشي
Well: Perennial, Dry		بئر: جافة، دائمة
Well: Deep-water, Artesian		بئر: أرتوازية، عميقة
Water bore-hole, Rain-water collector		صهريج للمياه، بئر منقطة
Water tank, Water pumping station		عملة ضخ مياه، خزان مياه
Overground water pipeline		خط أنابيب ماء سطحي
Underground water pipeline		خط أنابيب ماء تحت الأرض
Great Man-made River		النهر الصناعي العظيم
Water tower, Fountain		نافورة، برج للمياه

### MISCELLANEOUS

Doppler print, Horizontal point		نقطة أفقية، نقطة دوبلر
Bench mark, Pillar		عمود، عملة تسوية
International boundary		حدود دولية
Saladyan boundary		حدود بلدات
Metereological station, Rain gauge		مقياس أمطار، عملة أرصاد جوية
Sand-breaker		مصعد للرمال
Airport runway		مدرج مطار
Landing strip		مهبط

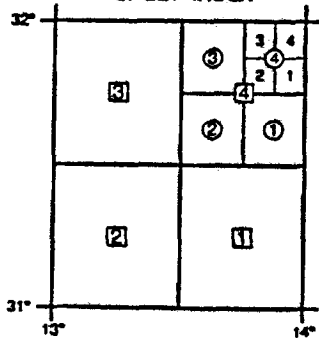
### SEASHORE

Sand beach, Scarp		شاطئ رمل، منحدر
Land subject to inundation		أرض معرضة للفيضان
Foreshore flat (sand or mud)		شاطئ أمامي سطحي
Depth contours, Stony shore		شاطئ صخري، خطوط عمق
Boulder rock, Clifty shore		شاطئ منحدر، صخر جلمودي
Limit of danger, Reef		حاجز صخري، حد الخطر
Rock: Sunken, Aweigh, Exposed		صخر: بارز، يفشل الماء، مغمور
Wreck: Sunken, Exposed		حطام سفينة: بارز، مغمور
Buoy, Light buoy		طافية ضوئية، طافية
Beacon, Lighthouse		منارة، منارة بحرية صغرية
Leading line		خط دليلي
Breakwater, Jetty		حاجز، كاسر الأمواج
Pier, Quay		رصيف ميناء، ركيزة

### دليل اللوحات

3-111	3214-222
3-444	3114-333
1-441	3114-332

### دليل اللوحات



1:100 000	4	3113-4
1:50 000	4	3113-44
1:25 000	4	3113-444

الطبعة 1-مصر  
-S.O.L

ج.ع.ل.ش.إ.ع. 1:25 000 لوحة رقم 44

## ABSTRACT

The paper presents a short discription about the departemental structure of the Survey Department of Libya (SDL), its role in the geodetic work in the country, then it gives a historical background on the major geodetic activities, followed by some technical discussions on these activities, and the problems encountered during execution of such work and those hindering the geodetic development in the country. Finally some thoughts and remarks on the realization of an integrated geodetic network for the whole continent of Africa are discussed.

## SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF LIBYA (SDL)

SDL was founded in 1971 as a department under the ministry of planning, now under the General People's Committee of Planning. SDL in its departmental structure contains four technical divisions; the department of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the department of Cartography, the department of Reseach and Development, and the department of Geodesy. The department of Geodesy is soley responsible for all the geodetic activities in the country.

## GEODETTIC HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The geodetic work in Libya is relatively recent if to exclude the geodetic activities during the Italian colonization. The first major geodetic work was the triangulation chain established by the American Army Map Service (AMS) in the late fifties and early sixties. This work was the geodetic base for many development projects that followed, untill the late seventies when a network of 45 first order points distributed around the country at about every 250 Kms. This network was established and observed by the Institute Geographic National

(IGN) of France using the Transit Satellite System, and astronomical observations. Some of these points were connected together and tied to the AMS network by ground traversing and by geometric levelling. This network was referred to as the Supernet.

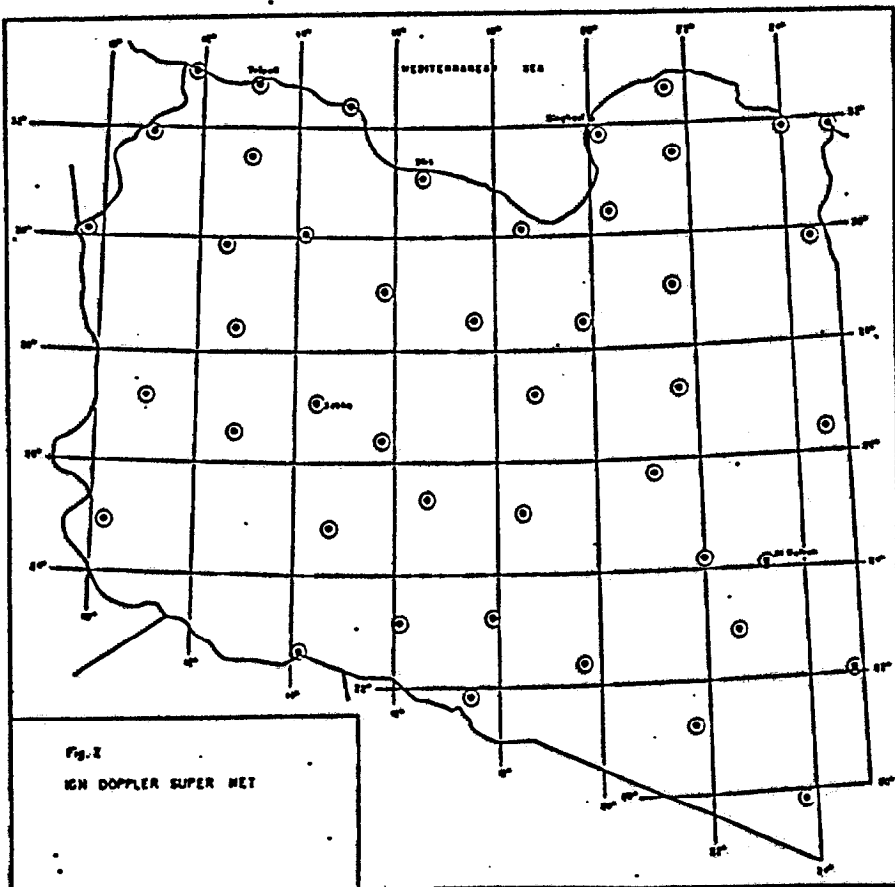
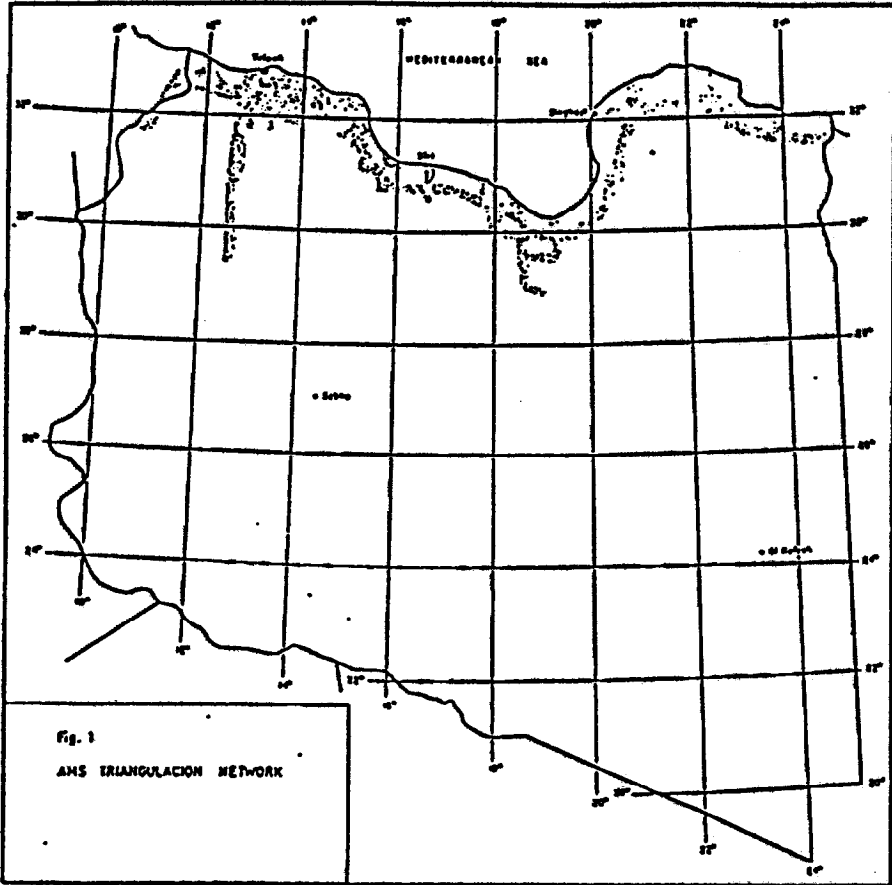
In the early eighties SDL started the National Cartographic Project. This project is to map the whole territory of Libya, This task triggered the need for new extensive geodetic work, which was conducted by two international companies; Aero-Service Corporation (ASC) executed 670 second order doppler points and 942 first order traverse stations, and Pol-Service Geokart conducted 7,468 levelling bench-marks and 63 first order gravimetric stations distributed around the country, and constructed 4 marigraphic stations along the mediterranean coast.

#### FIRST MAJOR GEODETIC WORK

In the 1956 an arc of first order basic triangulation, was initiated extending from the vicinity of 'Azizia' south to the 'Great Stony Desert' and easterly along the entire coastline untill it terminates at the Libya-Egypt border as shown in Fig. 1 This triangulation arc was connected to the triangulation stations 'Tadjera' and 'Kef Smounia' near Medenine in Tunisia. All computations were made on the International Spheroid, European Datum. After the final adjustment, the results were considered of first, second or third order of accurcy. This geodetic work was completed in 1961.

#### SECOND MAJOR GEODETIC WORK

In 1976 the monumentaion of the Supernet's 45 points around the country as shown in Fig. 2 was started, these points were observed using JMR satellite recievers and the Transit Satellite System. Astronomical observation to determine geographic latitude, longitude, and azimuth were also made on all of the Supernet points. Some of these points were tied to each other and



to AMS network by ground traversing and by geometric levelling.

After the final adjustment of this network was completed, it was concluded that; it would be better to have a new reference datum for the country instead of the European Datum that previously used by AMS. This new datum was called LYB79. Then all Supernet data was adjusted in this datum, the final standard deviations of coordinates were found in the order of 0.35m. which indicates a relative accuracy better than 1/600,000.

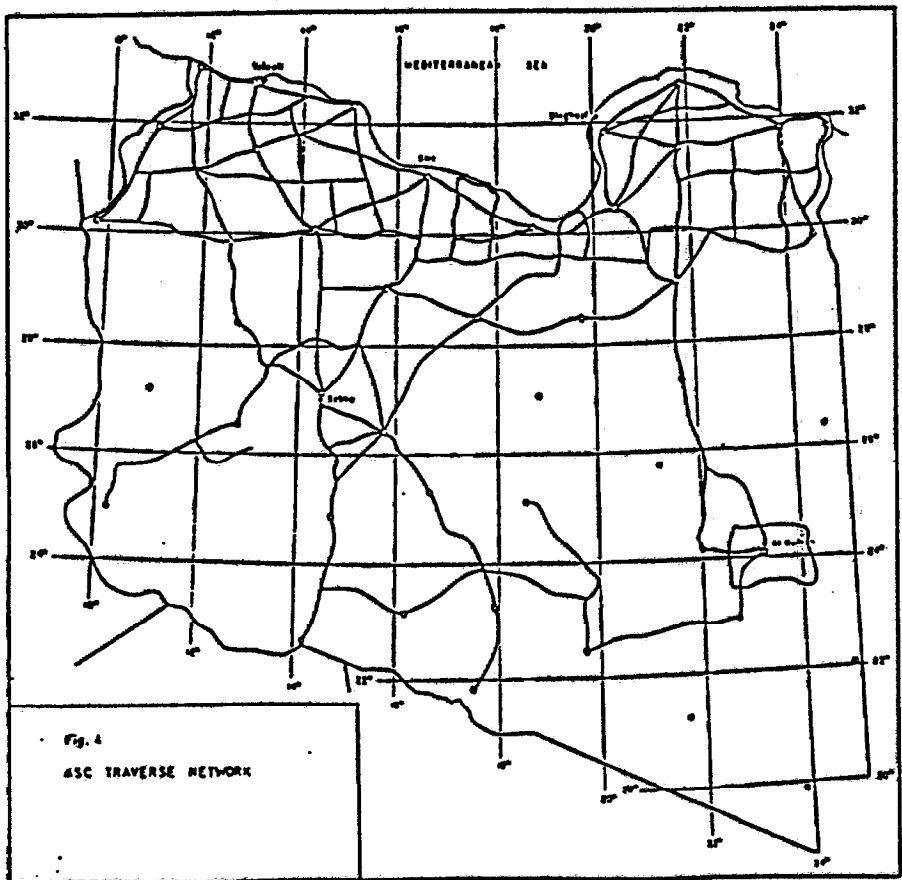
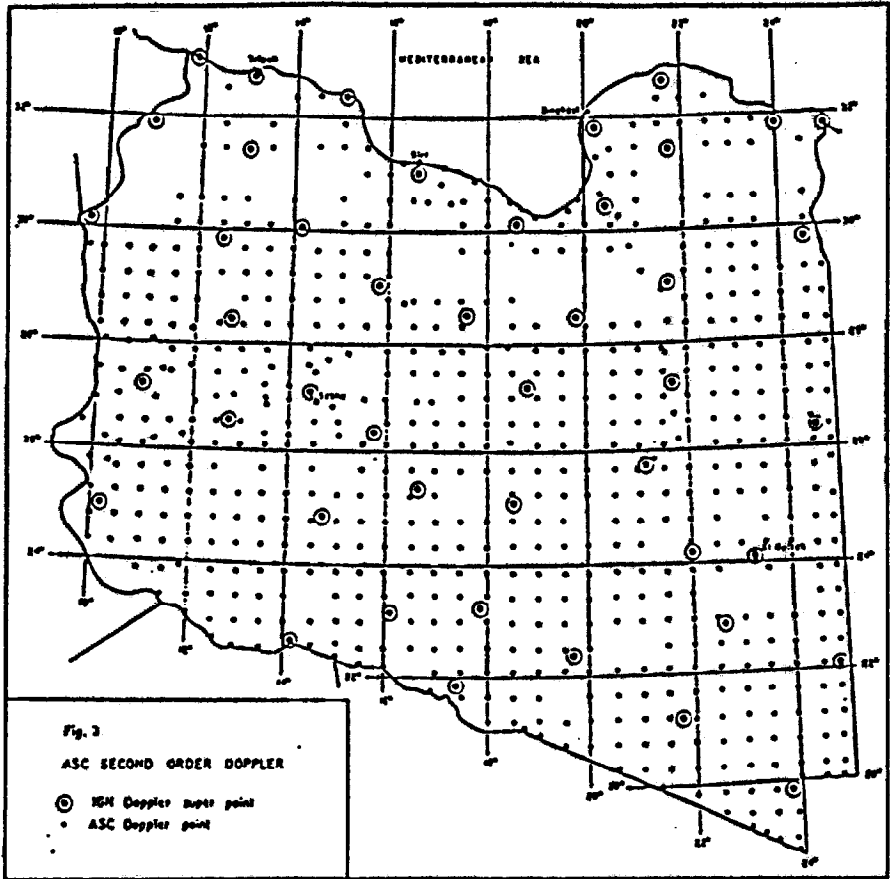
### THIRD MAJOR GEODETIC WORK

This geodetic work was conducted for the National Cartographic Project, which was later divided between two international companies as follows:

#### 1- Aero-Service Corporation (ASC)

This company was awarded the contract to establish, measure, and adjust 670 second order doppler points, of which 619 totally new points and 51 were reobserved points as shown in Fig. 3 . ASC measured astronomical azimuths on 667 of these points. ASC was also awarded to conduct first and second order traverse lines of about 14,850 Kms. which ended by establishing 942 traverse stations and 138 full Laplace stations as shown in Fig. 4.

The doppler network was adjusted using Magnavox's MAGNET program, the final relative accuracy of this network was in the order of 1/150,000 or better. The traverse network was adjusted by the National Geodetic Survey of America's TRAV10 program in a simultaneous adjustment that contains 1,038 stations, 2,233 observed directions, 187 observed Laplace azimuths, 1,061 observed distances, and 66 control stations, the results of this traverse adjustment was generally better than 1/250,000.





## 2- Pol-Service Geokart

This company was awarded the contract to establish, measure, and adjust about 23,000 Kms. of leveling lines which translates to about 3,015 first order, 3,424 second order, 1,029 third order benchmarks as shown in Fig. 5.

This company was also awarded the contract to establish, measure, and adjust 63 first order gravimetric stations as shown in Fig. 6. Of this 63 stations, 11 were determined using specially manufactured pendulum. These stations were tied to Warsaw in 8 international Tripoli-Warsaw connections. The remainnig 52 points were determined using Worden Master Geodetic Gravity-Meter, these points were connected to the pendulum points. All points were adjusted in a common weighted adjustment, and the final results were presented with respect to New Potsdam System of 1971 and IGSN 1971. The average mean square error obtained in this adjustment was about 0.05 mgal.

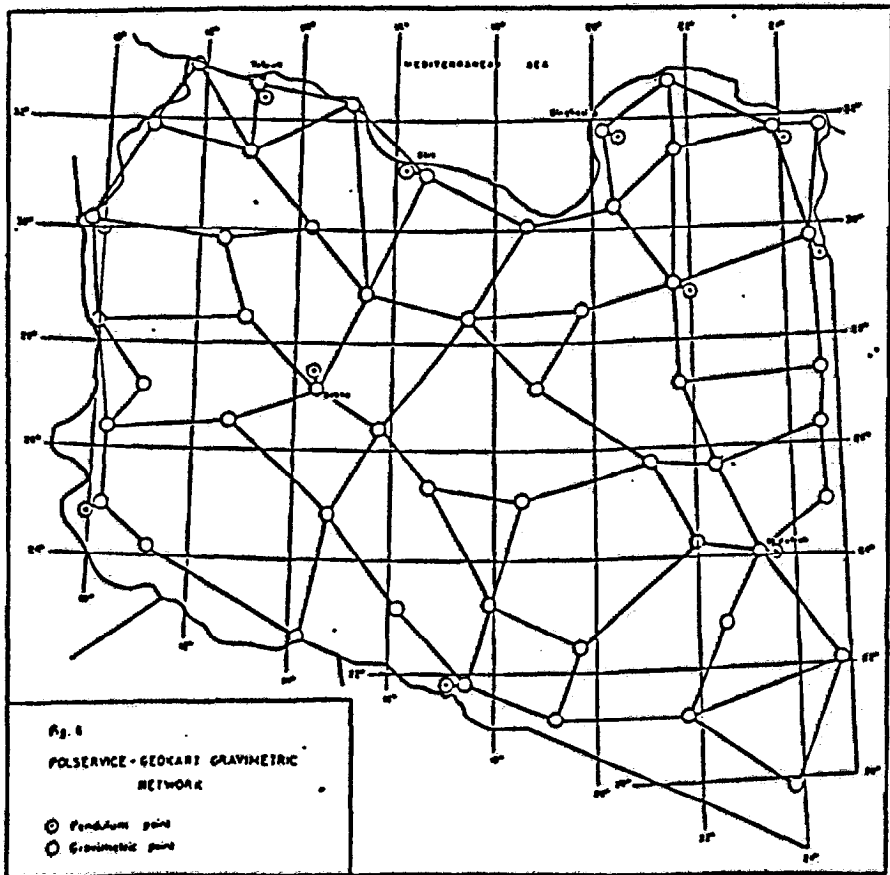
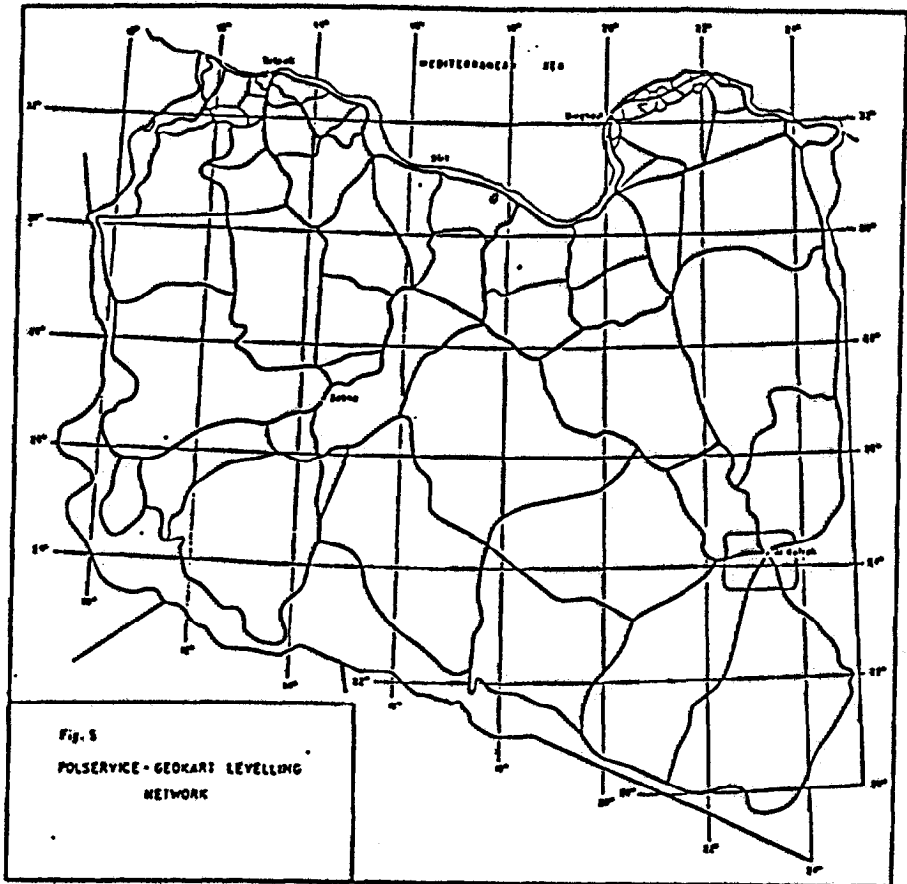
Pol-Service was also awarded the contract to construct 4 marigraphic stations in Tripoli, As-Sidrah, Binghazi, and Tubruq, and to continuously observe the level of the Mediterranean sea at these stations for a period of 24 months. After all data was collected and adjusted, it was found that the level of the sea decreases as a function of distance from west to east.

## PROBLEMS HINDERING THE GEODETIC WORK IN LIBYA

The problems hindering the geodetic work in Libya can be divided into many different categories, to name a few:

### 1- Natural Problems

Libya is a vast country, more than 90% of its territory is arid and desert land. This made it difficult for geodetic survey teams to travel, maintain adequate supply of food, fule, water, spare parts, ... etc.



## 2- Monumentation problems

Due to public un-awareness of the importance of the geodetic monument value this led to the distruction of many control points.

## 3- Different International Companies

As prieveously stated that most of the geodetic work if not all was conducted by different international companies, agencies, and/or institutions, and due to the lack of national detailed geodetic specifications, this created different types of procedures, specifications, and even different geodetic datums.

## FUTURE GEODETTIC WORK IN LIBYA

Libya covers an area of approximatly 1.75 million sq. Kms., which is about 6% of the African continent area. In order to map this vast country more geodetic survey is needed. The geodetic department in SDL is planning more densification of geodetic control to fulfill the geodetic requirement of the National Cartographic Project. It is also planning to use Global Positioning System (GPS) survey techniques during this densification program.

If proper computer facility are made available and adequate funding is allocated, SDL will conduct a common readjustment of all its exsisting geodetic data.

## AFRICAN INTEGRATED GEODETTIC NETWORK

Although it is very difficult to visualize one geodetic system for the whole continent of Africa, and even if such system will exists then it would be economically and technically very difficult for each country in Africa to transform all of its existing geodetic data and its cartographic information into this system. However some positive steps can be taken toward an integrated network as follows:

1- Request the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (OATC) to create a scientific committee to study, compute, and determine a geodetic reference system that best fit to the whole continent. This committee should also establish unified geodetic standards and specifications for all Africa.

2- All national and Pan African projects and studies which are on a large scale, such as hydrological, geological, seismological, ..... etc. should be presented in the African integrated geodetic reference system, and should be made available to all other countries that may benefit from it.

3- Encourage the exchange of geodetic experts, knowhow, and tie the African educational institutions.

#### SUMMARY

Although the existing Libyan geodetic network needs some kind of unification or common readjustment, this network is considered as a very accurate network which can be used for many scientific, cartographic, and development projects in the country. This network can contribute a great deal toward an integrated African geodetic network.