OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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GUIDANCE ON THE DEPICTION OF THE MACAU SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

The Decree of the State Council of the People's Republic of China No. 665, published on December 17, 2015, provides a new map of the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR). This map adjusts the previous alignment of the land boundary and adds, as a matter of internal administration, a maritime component to the land boundary of the SAR. All U.S. Government maps should henceforth depict this new alignment.

Background: Pursuant to the Sino-Portuguese Agreement of April 13, 1987, Macau became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China on December 20, 1999. At the time of the handover, the State Council published a map showing a partial line of separation between the Macau SAR and Guangdong Province.

This Guidance Bulletin replaces Guidance Bulletin No. 25. Decree No. 665 also repeals the previous partial map published by the State Council at the time of the handover.

Boundary Symbol: Use an "other line of separation" line symbol. This line type must be different from those used for either international boundaries or internal administrative divisions, and visually subordinate to those used for international boundaries.

The extent of the Macau SAR is shown in Figure 1. The territory of the Macau border gate, between Macau and Zhuhai City in Guangdong Province, is now under the jurisdiction of the Macau SAR. This is a change from the previous alignment. Construction of artificial islands has also affected the alignment of the line. Additionally, the Macau SAR now includes 85 square kilometers of maritime space. Despite the inclusion of maritime space in the decree, this is not a maritime boundary but a land boundary and should not be identified or depicted as a maritime boundary.

Digital files for the new line of separation are available from the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, Department of State.

Label: The entity should be labeled "Macau Special Administrative Region" or "Macau SAR", depending upon map scale, in a typeface other than that used for independent states or internal administrative divisions.

Notes and Disclaimers: Use the standard disclaimer for "other line of separation" depiction: "Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative" when scale permits.

Lee Sche

Lee R. Schwartz, Geographer



