

adopted by them for that purpose, the line of boundary along the middle of the River St. Croix from its mouth to its source as defined and established by the existing Treaty provisions and the proceedings thereunder, above referred to, with the agreed understanding, however, that the line of boundary through said river shall be a water line throughout and shall follow the centre of the main channel or thalweg as naturally existing, except where such course would change, or disturb, or conflict with the national character of an island as already established by mutual recognition and acquiescence, in which case the line shall pass on the other side of any such island, following the middle of the channel nearest thereto, or, if the Commissioners find that the national character of any island is in dispute, the question of its nationality shall be submitted by them to their respective Governments, with a chart or map certified jointly by said Commissioners, showing the depth and volume of the water at its high and low stages between such island and the river banks on each side and indicating the course of the main channel of the river as it passes such island, together with a descriptive statement by said Commissioners showing the reasons for selecting such channel as the main channel; and in all such cases the High Contracting Parties agree that the location of the boundary with respect to each island in dispute shall be determined and settled in accordance with the following rules:

(1) The nationality of each island in dispute shall be determined by the predominance of the claims established on either side to such island, arising from the exercise of jurisdiction and sovereignty over it, including such exercise of jurisdiction by the local governments on either side of the line.

(2) The burden of proving the nationality of any such island shall be upon the party seeking to change the general course of the boundary as above prescribed so as to include such island on its side of the boundary.

(3) The selection by the Commissioners of the main channel passing such island shall not be conclusive upon the parties hereto and is subject to review, but the burden of proving the main channel to be other than the one selected shall be upon the party proposing the change.

The Government proposing such change in the prescribed course of the boundary shall, upon the submission of the question of the nationality of any island or islands by the Com-