1884 International Meridian Conference in Washington, DC, established Greenwich in London, England, as the prime meridian of longitude and established Universal Time

AI Overview

The 1884 International Meridian Conference in Washington, D.C., selected the meridian passing through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, as the universal 0° prime meridian and the basis for standard time reckoning.

Key Details of the Conference

- **Date & Location:** Held in October 1884 in Washington, D.C., at the invitation of U.S. President Chester A. Arthur.
- **Participation:** Attended by 41 delegates representing 25 or 26 nations.
- **The Prime Meridian:** Designated the transit circle at the Royal Observatory Greenwich as 0° longitude because roughly two-thirds of global shipping charts already used it.
- **Universal Time:** Proposed a universal mean solar day starting at mean midnight from the prime meridian.
- **The Vote:** Passed with 22 votes in favour, 1 against (San Domingo), and 2 abstentions (France and Brazil), though full global and legal adoption took several decades.

- **Modern Status:** The historic Greenwich meridian was later superseded for precise satellite navigation by the International Reference Meridian (IRM / IERS Reference Meridian), which sits a short distance away.