

you know, this dispute has been before the International Court for a number of years and the decision came in February 1970. The Division has been concerned with various aspects of the claim since it arose in the late 1940's. At first there were efforts to settle it through diplomatic channels. When these failed, the beneficial interests sought and obtained the espousal of the claim before the International Court by their national state, namely Belgium. The Canadian authorities followed closely the court proceedings as the outcome was of direct interest to Canada. Since receipt of the decision those in the Division and elsewhere in the government concerned with the case have been seized with the implications of the decision both for the settlement of this particular dispute and more generally for existing international law and state practice concerning the espousal of beneficial corporate interests.