

Boundary treaty signed

Canada and the United States have ratified a treaty that will result in the Gulf of Maine maritime boundary dispute being referred to an international tribunal for binding settlement.

The treaty was brought into force, November 20, when instruments of ratification were exchanged in Ottawa by Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and Richard Smith, Minister at the United States Embassy.

The treaty and a special agreement annexed to it provide for the final determination of the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine area by a five-member chamber of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. If, for any reason, the International Court of Justice does not constitute the Chamber in accordance with the treaty and with the special agreement within six months, either Canada or the United States may terminate the special agreement. In that event an arbitration agreement, also annexed to the treaty, will come into force and the dispute will then be referred to a five-member international arbitral tribunal that would be specially constituted by Canada and the United States to hear the case.

Judge nominated

Under the statute of the International Court of Justice, a country that is not represented on the court may nominate one of its nationals to sit as judge *ad hoc* in any case involving that country. The



Richard Vroom

Dr. MacGuigan (left) and Mr. Smith shake hands following exchange of documents.

Canadian government will nominate Maxwell Cohen, a law professor at McGill University in Montreal and former Canadian chairman of the International Joint Commission to act as a judge in this case.

The Gulf of Maine area in dispute includes the valuable fishing grounds of Georges Bank. The single maritime boundary to be established will delimit both the fishing zone and the continental shelf appertaining to each country in this area.

The treaty referring the boundary dispute to binding third-party settlement was originally signed in Washington in March 1979 and was part of a package together with the East Coast Fishery Resource Agreement. The latter agreement, which provided for joint management and reciprocal access by both countries in respect of the Georges Bank fisheries was withdrawn from the U.S. Senate in March 1981 after failing to obtain the Senate's consent over a two-year period.

Canada-Ivory Coast meeting

The first session of the Canada-Ivory Coast bilateral joint commission was held in Ottawa, November 17-19.

The Ivory Coast delegation was led by Ivory Coast Minister of Foreign Affairs Siméon Aké, while the Canadian delegation was led by Minister of State for Finance Pierre Bussières.

The two parties examined current co-operation projects and looked at potential directions for the next co-operation program. The Ivory Coast side expressed its satisfaction with the Canadian decision to continue to provide support for projects under way and to increase its financial and technical assistance by introducing new mechanisms of co-operation.

The Canadian and Ivory Coast delegations also looked at commercial relations between the two countries and agreed to try and increase and equalize their volume of exchange. They said they would like to see an air agreement between the two countries in addition to agreements on investment guarantees and double taxation and on industrial co-operation.

The Ivory Coast side said it was pleased with Canada's desire to participate in the creation of joint ventures at the small- and medium-sized business level.

The two sides also discussed cultural relations.

During his visit, Mr. Aké was received by Governor General Edward Schreyer,

Speaker of the Senate Jean Marchand and Speaker of the House of Commons Jeanne Sauvé. Mr. Aké also had talks with Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion Pierre De Bané, Minister of National Health and Welfare Monique Bégin, Minister of Transport Jean-Luc Pépin and Minister of State for Finance Pierre Bussières.

New videotex projects

The federal Department of Communications has announced the creation of a videotex (two-way television) research centre that will create a 10,000-page data base in French.

The videotex centre will be at the Ecole Polytechnique on the University of Montreal campus and will use a computer supplied by Digital Equipment of Canada Limited of Ottawa.

The three-year agreement calls for the department to put \$2.5 million into the project. The new research centre will create a data base to provide information in text and graphics on education, government, social programs and public affairs.

Improved data base

The team of videotex researchers wants to enlarge and better the data base, identify new methods of organizing information retrieval and examine possibilities for computer-aided design.

The announcement follows one earlier of a similar experiment in French being conducted by Telecable Videotron Incorporated and the paper *La Presse*, both of Montreal.

In addition, Infomart of Toronto, the company responsible for marketing Telidon, has announced that one of the first commercial applications of Telidon will begin in the United States early in 1982.

Agricultural businesses and related industries in the San Joaquin Valley will be using Telidon to obtain weather information, reports from commodity markets, conduct financial analysis models, banking, purchasing and other activities. The service will be offered through the *Bakersfield Californian*, a daily California newspaper with a circulation of more than 71,000 in the San Joaquin Valley. A similar project called Project Grassroots was started in Manitoba earlier this year.