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CANADIAN CANDIDATE FOR WORLD COURT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, said today that she welcomed the candidacy of Judge Jules Deschênes in the upcoming elections to the World Court. Judge Deschênes is a former Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec and a former Judge of the Court of Appeal of Quebec. Judge Deschênes was selected by the Canadian National Group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is responsible for making Canadian nominations to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"I was very pleased that the National Group selected Judge Deschênes. He is a first-rate candidate," said Mrs. McDougall. "Judge Deschênes' experience in legal matters at home and abroad provides him with just the right sort of qualifications to take a seat on the bench of the Court."

The World Court is based in the Hague and comprises 15 judges, each elected for a nine-year term. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN) and has the role of deciding, on the basis of international legal rules, disputes submitted to it by states. Elections are held concurrently in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

After consulting widely with organizations and individuals across Canada, including the law faculties of all Canadian universities, the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal and other national and provincial legal bodies, the National Group selected Judge Deschênes to run in the elections, which will take place in the autumn of 1993. If successful, Judge Deschênes would be the first Canadian representative on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) since Judge John Read in the mid-1950s.

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