



news release

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CANADA FILES SECOND WRITTEN ARGUMENT IN GULF OF MAINE BOUNDARY CASE

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada has filed with the International Court of Justice its second set of written arguments (in a document known as a "Counter-Memorial") in the case concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine area. This case centres on a dispute between Canada and the United States as to the dividing line between their respective continental shelves and 200-mile fishing zones on the Atlantic coast. The same dividing line will also apply to the 200-mile exclusive economic zone recently proclaimed by President Reagan.

Both the Canadian and United States Counter-Memorials were filed on June 28, 1983 with the Registrar of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The first written pleadings in this case (the "Memorials") were submitted to the Court on September 27, 1982.

The Canadian Counter-Memorial rebuts the contentions made in the United States Memorial regarding the United States and Canadian boundary claims in the Gulf of Maine area. It reaffirms the Canadian view that the equidistance line claimed by Canada represents an equitable solution that takes account of all the relevant circumstances.

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