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CANADA FILES WRITTEN ARGUMENTS IN
CANADA-FRANCE MARITIME BOUNDARY CASE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Kim Campbell, announced that Canada, filed today with the Registrar of an International Court of Arbitration its first written pleadings (in a document known as a "Memorial") in the case concerning the delimitation of maritime areas appertaining to Canada and France off the coasts of Newfoundland and St. Pierre and Miquelon. The Memorial was filed in accordance with the Canada-France Arbitration Agreement of March 30, 1989.

Under the Arbitration Agreement, the written pleadings may not be made public until the opening of the oral proceedings and each Party is to communicate to the public its own written pleadings. The oral proceedings will be held in New York city on dates to be determined by the Court. A further exchange of written pleadings, known as a "Counter-Memorial", will take place early next year.

The maritime delimitation case will be considered by an ad hoc Court of Arbitration consisting of five members. The president of the Court is Mr. Eduardo Jiménez de Aréchaga. He was appointed by both Parties as were Mr. Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz and Mr. Oscar Schachter. Mr. Prosper Weil was appointed by the Government of France and Mr. Allan E. Gotlieb was appointed by the Government of Canada. The Agent for the Government of Canada is Mr. F.A. Mathys and the Agent for the Government of France is Mr. Jean-Pierre Puissechet.

The Court's decision is expected to be delivered at the end of 1991 or early in 1992.