



communiqué

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SIGNATURE OF AN ARBITRATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE
IN RESPECT OF FILLETING WITHIN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE BY
FRENCH TRAWLERS REGISTERED IN SAINT-PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, and Roland Dumas, minister for External Relations of the French Republic, today announced that Canada and France have signed an arbitration agreement in order to settle their dispute in respect of filleting within the Gulf of St. Lawrence by French trawlers registered in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon.

Under Article 10 of the Agreement between Canada and France on their Mutual Fishing Relations, signed at Ottawa on March 27, 1972, any dispute over its application may be submitted by either party to a Commission consisting of a national expert nominated by each of the parties and of a third expert designated by mutual agreement.

The arbitration agreement thus establishes an arbitral tribunal composed of Professor Donat Pharand of the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, Professor Jean-Pierre Quéneudec of the Faculty of Law, University of Paris and Professor Paul de Visscher of the Faculty of Law, University of Louvain, who shall act as Chairman of the Tribunal.

The arbitration agreement provides for a two-phased written procedure followed by oral proceedings and a schedule over a period of approximately nine months, at the outcome of which an arbitral award is expected in early summer 1986.