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5004 - A-40*

PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 67

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ottawa, August 23, 1948.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the National Group of Canada has met at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate qualified persons in a position to accept the duties of a judge of the International Court of Justice as provided for by the Statute of the Court.

The International Court of Justice is a tribunal of fifteen judges established by the Charter to decide, in accordance with international law, such disputes as states may wish to submit to it and to deliver such advisory opinions as may be requested by the competent organs and agencies of the United Nations. The judges are elected for a period of nine years. However, Article 13 of the Statute of the Court provides that of the judges elected at the first election (held on February 6, 1946) the terms of five judges shall expire at the end of three years, and the terms of five more judges shall expire at the end of six years.

According to the Statute of the Court, each country is required to nominate a National Group to select candidates. In May, 1948, the Canadian Government appointed the following persons to constitute the National Group of Canada:

The Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret,
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada;

The Honourable J. C. McRuer,
Chief Justice of the High Court of Ontario;

The Honourable Thane A. Campbell,
Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island;

The Honourable W. M. Martin,
Chief Justice of Saskatchewan.

John T. Hackett, Esq., K.C., M.P., President of the Canadian Bar Association, consented to act as adviser to the Group.

National Groups are authorized to nominate only four candidates for election to the Court, though there will be five vacancies to be filled. Under the Charter of the United Nations, these vacancies are to be filled by elections conducted by the General Assembly and the Security Council before February 7, 1949. It is expected that they will be filled during the third session of the General Assembly which opens in Paris on September 21, 1948. The National Group of Canada has nominated the following persons as candidates for election to the Court and it has advised the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its nominations.

Judge J. E. Read	(Canada)
Judge Hsu Mo	(China)
Judge Abdel Hamid Badawi Pasha	(Egypt)
Sir Benegal Narsinga Rau	(India)

Attached are brief biographies of the persons nominated by the National Group of Canada.