
News Release

September 7, 1995

No. 158

AGENT APPOINTED IN FISHERIES JURISDICTION CASE (SPAIN VERSUS CANADA)

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Justice Minister Allan Rock today announced that Philippe Kirsch, QC, Legal Adviser to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, has been appointed Agent for Canada in the Fisheries Jurisdiction (Spain v. Canada) Case, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. As Agent, Mr. Kirsch will be responsible to both ministers for the conduct of Canada's case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague.

On March 28, 1995, Spain filed an application with the ICJ against Canada concerning the recent fisheries dispute in the northwest Atlantic. Taking into account Canada's objections regarding the Court's jurisdiction to entertain the dispute, the President of the Court has ordered Spain to file its written pleadings concerning jurisdiction by September 29, 1995, and Canada to respond by February 29, 1996. Subsequent procedures have been reserved for further decision by the Court. Canada will appear before the Court to address the jurisdictional question.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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