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# news release

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Date OCTOBER 12, 1984

84/142

For release

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE RENDERS DECISION  
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IN GULF OF MAINE CASE  
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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Honourable John Crosbie, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable John Fraser, and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable Pat Carney, commented today on the decision by a Chamber of the International Court of Justice in The Hague in the case between Canada and the United States concerning the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine area.

Although the full implications for Canada of the Court's decision are still being examined, the Ministers have noted with satisfaction that the boundary confirms Canadian jurisdiction over a substantial part of Georges Bank. In particular, it assures the maintenance of Canadian fisheries on which the livelihood of many communities in southwest Nova Scotia depends.

In accordance with the terms of the Special Agreement both Parties have accepted that the decision of the Court is final and binding.

In order to implement the Court's decision in a smooth and orderly manner the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States have agreed that fishing vessels will be given fourteen days from the date of the Court's decision, ending at 2400 hours on October 26, to leave the formerly disputed waters which now fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the other country. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is currently notifying Canadian fishermen of the geographical coordinates of the new boundary.

The case centred on a dispute over the rich fishery resources and the potential hydrocarbon resources of Georges Bank, a large detached bank lying seaward of the Gulf of Maine off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Massachusetts.

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