



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the National Group of Canada met in Ottawa yesterday to nominate candidates for the elections to replace five retiring judges on the International Court of Justice which will take place during the Ninth Session of the General Assembly this autumn.

Under the Statute of the Court candidates for election to the Court must be nominated by national groups appointed for this purpose by states which are parties to the Statute. In June of this year the Canadian Government appointed the following persons to constitute the National Group of Canada:

The Honourable Mr. Justice Rand,
Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Cecil A. Wright, Esq., Q.C. LL.D.,
Dean of the School of Law, University of Toronto.

F. Philippe Brais, Esq., Q.C., MLC.,
Barrister and Solicitor, Montreal.

M. H. Wershof, Esq.,
Legal Adviser of the Department of External Affairs.

National Groups are authorized to nominate only four candidates for election to the Court, whose names are communicated to the Secretary General of the United Nations. The Secretary General notifies member governments of the United Nations of all nominations prior to the actual elections which are conducted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Candidates who obtain an absolute majority of votes in the Assembly and in the Security Council are considered as elected.

The Statute of the Court provides that the Court shall consist of fifteen members, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. A Canadian at present sits on the Court in the person of Mr. Justice John E. Read, whose present term of office expires in 1958.

Members of the Canadian National Group hold office for six years and serve without honorarium. The present group is drawn from the various branches of the legal profession in Canada - the Bench, the practising Bar, Law Faculties and Government Service.
