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# news release

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Date

JUNE 28, 1983

For release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

84/83

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## CANADA FILES SECOND WRITTEN ARGUMENT IN GULF OF MAINE BOUNDARY CASE

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The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada has filed with the International Court of Justice its second set of written arguments (in a document known as a "Counter-Memorial") in the case concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine area. This case centres on a dispute between Canada and the United States as to the dividing line between their respective continental shelves and 200-mile fishing zones on the Atlantic coast. The same dividing line will also apply to the 200-mile exclusive economic zone recently proclaimed by President Reagan.

Both the Canadian and United States Counter-Memorials were filed on June 28, 1983 with the Registrar of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The first written pleadings in this case (the "Memorials") were submitted to the Court on September 27, 1982.

The Canadian Counter-Memorial rebuts the contentions made in the United States Memorial regarding the United States and Canadian boundary claims in the Gulf of Maine area. It reaffirms the Canadian view that the equidistance line claimed by Canada represents an equitable solution that takes account of all the relevant circumstances.

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By agreement between Canada and the United States, their respective Memorials and Counter-Memorials are not to be made public until the opening of the oral proceedings in this case. It is expected that these proceedings will be held in The Hague in early 1984. One further exchange of written pleadings (known as the "Reply") may take place before that time.

The Gulf of Maine area maritime boundary case will be heard by a special five-member Chamber of the International Court of Justice. The President of the Chamber is Judge Roberto Ago of Italy. The other members are Judge André Gros (France), Judge Hermann Mosler (Federal Republic of Germany), Judge Stephen Schwebel (United States) and Judge ad hoc Maxwell Cohen (Canada). The Agent for Canada in the case is L. H. Legault, Q.C., Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs; the U.S. Agent is Davis Robinson, Legal Adviser to the State Department.