



news release

Date MARCH 16, 1984

84/47

For release

LEGAL COUNSEL NAMED IN GULF OF MAINE CASE

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, announced today the names of Counsel appearing on behalf of Canada at the International Court of Justice in the Gulf of Maine maritime boundary case. The oral proceedings will open in The Hague, Netherlands, on April 2, 1984 and are expected to continue until mid-May.

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General will open the Canadian case. Also appearing as Counsel on behalf of Canada will be: Mr. W.I.C. Binnie, Q.C., Associate Deputy Minister of Justice; Professor Derek W. Bowett, Q.C., Cambridge University; Professor Ian Brownlie, Q.C., Oxford University; Mr. Yves Fortier, Q.C., Member of the Quebec Bar and Past President of the Canadian Bar Association; Professor Dr. Gunther Jaenicke, University of Frankfurt-am-Main; Professor Ronald St. J. Macdonald, Q.C., Dalhousie University; Professor Antonio Malintoppi, University of Rome; and Professor Prosper Weil, University of Paris.

The Canadian delegation to the oral proceedings will be led by Ambassador L.H. Legault, Q.C., Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs and Agent and Counsel for Canada in the case. The Deputy-Agent for Canada, Mr. Blair Hankey of the Department of External Affairs, will also appear as Counsel. Mr. Allan Willis of the Department of Justice will serve as Counsel and Special Adviser.

The hearings follow three rounds of written pleadings submitted in September 1982, June 1983 and December 1983. The decision to be rendered by the Court

.../2

will settle a dispute between Canada and the United States over the location of the boundary that divides the continental shelf and the 200-mile fishing zones of the two countries off the coasts of the Maritime Provinces and the New England States. The case centres on the rich fishery resources and potential hydrocarbon resources of George Bank. Canada claims almost one-half of the Bank and the United States asserts a claim to its entirety. Depending upon the actual location of the boundary, up to 30,000 square nautical miles of ocean space within the 200-mile zones of the Parties may be allocated, and the future delimitation of an additional 20,000 square nautical miles of continental shelf beyond 200 miles may also be affected.

The 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 of the Chamber 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 decision of the Court will be final and binding upon both countries.