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CANADA FILES COUNTER-MEMORIAL IN CANADA-FRANCE MARITIME BOUNDARY BASE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Kim Campbell, announced that Canada filed today with the Registrar of an International Court of Arbitration its second written pleading (a document known as a "Counter-Memorial") in the case concerning the delimitation of maritime areas appertaining to Canada and France off the coasts of Newfoundland and St. Pierre and Miquelon. The Counter-Memorial was filed in accordance with the Canada-France Arbitration Agreement of March 30, 1989.

Both the Canadian and the French Counter-Memorials were filed on February 1, 1991, with the Registrar in New York City. The first written pleadings in this case (the "Memorials") were filed with the Registrar on June 1, 1990.

Under the Arbitration Agreement, the written pleadings may not be made public until the opening of the oral proceedings and each Party is to communicate to the public its own written pleadings. The oral proceedings will be held in New York City on dates to be determined by the Court. The Arbitration Agreement provides for the possibility of a further written pleading.

The maritime boundary delimitation case will be considered by an *ad hoc* Court of Arbitration consisting of five members. The President of the Court is Mr. Eduardo Jiménez de Aréchaga. He was appointed by both Parties, as were Mr. Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz and Mr. Oscar Schachter. Mr. Prosper Weil was appointed by the Government of France and Mr. Allan E. Gotlieb was appointed by the Government of Canada. The Agent for the Government of Canada is Mr. François A. Mathys and the Agent for the Government of France is Mr. Jean-Pierre Puissochet.

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The Court's decision is expected to be delivered at the end of 1991 or early in 1992.

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