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PRESS RELEASE

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Ottawa, August 23, 1948.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the National Group of Canada has met at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate qualified persons in a position to accept the duties of a judge of the International Court of Justice as provided for by the Statute of the Court.

The International Court of Justice is a tribunal of fifteen judges established by the Charter to decide, in accordance with international law, such disputes as states may wish to submit to it and to deliver such advisory opinions as may be requested by the competent organs and agencies of the United Nations. The judges are elected for a period of nine years. However, Article 13 of the Statute of the Court provides that of the judges elected at the first election (held on February 6, 1946) the terms of five judges shall expire at the end of three years, and the terms of five more judges shall expire at the end of six years.

According to the Statute of the Court, each country is required to nominate a National Group to select candidates. In May, 1948, the Canadian Government appointed the following persons to constitute the National Group of Canada:

The Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret,
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada;

The Honourable J. C. McRuer,
Chief Justice of the High Court of Ontario;

The Honourable Thane A. Campbell,
Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island;

The Honourable W. M. Martin,
Chief Justice of Saskatchewan.

John T. Hackett, Esq., K.C., M.P., President of the Canadian Bar Association, consented to act as adviser to the Group.

National Groups are authorized to nominate only four candidates for election to the Court, though there will be five vacancies to be filled. Under the Charter of the United Nations, these vacancies are to be filled by elections conducted by the General Assembly and the Security Council before February 7, 1949. It is expected that they will be filled during the third session of the General Assembly which opens in Paris on September 21, 1948. The National Group of Canada has nominated the following persons as candidates for election to the Court and it has advised the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its nominations.

Judge J. E. Read	(Canada)
Judge Hsu Mo	(China)
Judge Abdel Hamid Badawi Pasha	(Egypt)
Sir Benegal Narsinga Rau	(India)

Attached are brief biographies of the persons nominated by the National Group of Canada.

READ, John Erskine

John Erskine Read was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 5, 1888, and brought up in that city. He went through Dalhousie University at Halifax, took his bachelor of arts degree in 1909, had a year of scholarship at Columbia Law School in New York City and then three years as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

Mr. Read attended University College at Oxford and chose the Honor School of Jurisprudence, took his bachelor of civil law degree in 1913 and returned to Halifax to practise law. At the beginning of World War I he enlisted as a private in the 25th Battalion, but was discharged on account of poor eyesight. He was later commissioned in the field artillery and went overseas with the first replacements for the First Division in France. He was mentioned in despatches, was wounded and spent 18 months in hospital.

After the war, Mr. Read lectured at Dalhousie Law School. He became dean of the law school and Munro professor of law. In 1929 he left the university to assume the position of legal adviser to the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, a position he held until February 1946. As legal adviser he appeared as counsel for the government before the International Joint Commission, the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In December 1944, Mr. Read was raised to a rank equivalent to that of Ambassador.

He was elected a Judge of the International Court of Justice in February, 1946.

HSU MO

Hsu Mo, who was born at Soochow, China, on October 22nd, 1893, was educated at Peiyang University, Tientsin and George Washington University, Washington, D.C., graduating with the degrees of LL.B. and M.A. He afterwards received the degree of LL.D. (honoris causa) from Melbourne University in Australia. In 1918 he passed the Judicial Examination held in Peking and in the following year he passed the Diplomatic and Consular Service Examinations with the highest honours.

He was Professor of International Law and International Relations in Nankai University, Tientsin, and then Dean of the College of Arts of that University, 1922-1925. While teaching, he wrote Notes on China's Diplomatic History and contributed many articles on political and legal subjects to Chinese newspapers and magazines. In 1926 he received the appointment of Judge, and subsequently Presiding Judge, of the Criminal Chamber of the District Court in Shanghai and then that of President of the District Court in Chinkiang.

From 1928 to 1931 he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, successively as Counsellor, Director of the European-American Department and Director of the Asiatic Department. In 1931 he was appointed Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and held that post continuously for ten years, being, at the same time, Dean of the School of Diplomacy of the Central Political Institute.

From 1941-1944 Hsu Mo was Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary with ambassadorial rank to Australia, and during 1945-1946 he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Turkey.

He participated at Washington in the work of the United Nations Committee of Jurists to prepare a draft Statute of the International Court of Justice, in April, 1945. Subsequently he was Adviser to the Chinese Delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco.

In February, 1946, he was elected a Judge of the International Court of Justice.

BADAWI PASHA, Abdel Hamid

Abdel Hamid Badawi Pasha was born in 1887 at Mansourah, Egypt.

He obtained the degree of LL.D.; and from 1922 to 1936 acted as legal adviser to the Government of Egypt. During the years 1926 to 1940 he was Chief Legal Adviser.

In 1937 he attended the Montreux Conference. He held the position of Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1945 to 1946; was Chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the San Francisco Conference in 1945; also in that year was representative to the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations.

In 1946 he attended the General Assembly in London, and the Security Council.

He was elected a Judge of the International Court of Justice in February, 1946.

RAU, Sir (Benegal) Narsinga

B.A. Madras; B.A., Cantab; C.I.E., 1934; knighted in 1938; Indian Civil Service; Constitutional Adviser to the Governor-General.

He was born February 26, 1887, and was educated at the Presidency College, Madras, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1910, became District and Sessions Judge at Murshidabad, 1919 till 1920, District and Sessions Judge at Sylhet and Cachar, 1920-1925, Secretary to the Government of Assam Legislative Department and to the Assam Legislative Council, 1925-1933, Joint Secretary to the Government of India Legislative Department, 1934-1935; Officiating Judge at the High Court, Calcutta, 1935; he was on special duty with the Government of India for the revision of the Indian Statute Book, 1933-1938; he was Officiating Reforms Commissioner, 1938, and Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, 1939, Chairman of the G.I.B. Railway, Court of Inquiry, 1940. He was on the Hindu Law Committee in 1941, the INDUS Commission, 1941-42. He retired in February, 1944, and became Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, 1944-45. He was on special duty in the Governor-General's Sect. (Reforms) in 1945.
