



# communiqué

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## DATE SET FOR OPENING OF ORAL PROCEEDINGS IN GULF OF MAINE MARITIME BOUNDARY 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 that the oral proceedings in the Gulf of Maine maritime boundary case between Canada and the United States are expected to commence in The Hague on April 2, 1984, according to information released by the International Court of Justice on March 5.

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan will attend the proceedings in The Hague to open the case for Canada on April 2.

The Agent for Canada in the case is L.H. Legault, Q.C., Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs. The names of other counsel appearing on behalf of Canada will be announced shortly. The Agent for the United States is Davis Robinson, Legal Adviser to the Department of State.

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 hearings follow three rounds of written pleadings submitted in September 1982, June 1983 and December 1983. The decision to be rendered by the Court 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 Georges Bank. Canada claims almost one-half of the Bank and the United States asserts a claim to its entirety.