



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Communiqué**

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for immediate release*

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Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in the  
Gulf of Maine Area  
(Canada/United States of America)

Filing of Replies

The following information is made available to the press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

Canada and the United States filed on 12 December 1983 their Replies in the Registry within the time-limit as fixed by an Order of 27 July 1983.

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Canada and the United States have submitted to a specially formed Chamber of the International Court of Justice a dispute over the boundary separating the fishery zones and continental shelves of the two countries off the Atlantic coast in the Gulf of Maine area. The proceedings were instituted on 25 November 1981 by the filing of a Special Agreement.

The Chamber was constituted by an Order of the Court adopted by 11 votes to 2 on 20 January 1982. It is composed as follows: Judge Ago, President of the Chamber; Judges Gros, Mosler and Schwebel; Judge ad hoc Cohen. This was the first time in the history of the Court that the parties to a dispute had made use of the possibilities, embodied in the Statute and Rules of the Court, of sending their case to a special chamber instead of to the full Court.

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The filing of the Replies brings to an end the exchange of pleadings between Canada and the United States. The first pleadings (the Memorials) had been filed on 27 September 1982 and the second (the Counter-Memorials) followed on 28 June 1983. The next stage of the case will be oral and consist in the submission of oral arguments by the Parties. A date for the opening of the oral proceedings will be fixed in due course.