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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Communiqué

*unofficial
for immediate release*

No. 83/2

28 June 1983

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

Filing of Counter-Memorials

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

Canada and the United States filed their Counter-Memorials today in the Registry within the time-limit as fixed by an Order of 5 November 1982.

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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 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 first pleadings (the Memorials) had been filed on 27 September 1982. It is possible that the filing of the second pleadings which took place today will be followed by that of another round of pleadings (Replies). Provision is made for this possibility in the Special Agreement by which Canada and the United States brought their dispute before the Chamber.

*Rebuttal
Memorials 25 June 1983*