

ANNOUNCEMENTS

'CANADA FILES COUNTER-MEMORIAL IN CANADA-FRANCE MARITIME BOUNDARY CASE'

(A Canadian Government News Release of 1 February 1991)

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.

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

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GUINEA-BISSAU BRINGS A NEW CASE AGAINST SENEGAL

The following information has been made available by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

On 12 March 1991, the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the Republic of Senegal in a dispute concerning the delimitation of all the maritime territories of those two States.

In its Application, Guinea-Bissau recalls that, by an Application dated 23 August 1989, it referred to the Court a dispute concerning the existence and validity of the Arbitral Award made on 31 July 1989 by the Arbitration Tribunal formed to determine the maritime boundary between the two States (see Press Communiqué No. 89/17 of 24 August 1989).

Guinea-Bissau claims that the objective of the request laid before the Arbitration Tribunal was the delimitation of the maritime territories appertaining respectively to one and the other State, without excluding from the jurisdiction of the Tribunal any of the categories of territory over which the contemporary Law of the Sea now permits a coastal state to exercise rights, but that it was obvious, when the result of the Arbitration was made known on 31 July 1989, that it was not such as to make possible a definitive delimitation of all the maritime areas over which the Parties had rights and that, at the close of the proceedings pending before the Court and whatever might be their outcome, the delimitation of all the maritime territories would still not have been effected.

While reserving the right to supplement and amend its submissions during the subsequent proceedings, the Government of Guinea-Bissau asks the Court to adjudge and declare:

‘What should be, on the basis of the international law of the sea and of all the relevant elements of the case, including the future decision of the Court in the case concerning the Arbitral “Award” of 31 July 1989, the line (marked on a map) delimiting the whole of the maritime territories appertaining respectively to Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.’