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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Communiqué

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for immediate release*

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28 March 1984

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

Hearing to open on Monday 2 April 1984 at 3 p.m.

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

It is confirmed that the hearing in the case concerning Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in the Gulf of Maine Area between Canada and the United States will open on Monday 2 April 1984 at 3 p.m.

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Canada and the United States have submitted to a chamber of the International Court of Justice, specially constituted for the purpose, a dispute over delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two countries' respective fishing zones and continental shelves lying off the Atlantic coast in the Gulf of Maine area. The case was filed on 25 November 1981 by means 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; Judges Gros, Mosler and Schwebel; Judge ad hoc Cohen. The case represents the first time in the Court's history that the Parties have made use of the possibility enshrined in the Statute and Rules of Court of referring their dispute to a special chamber, instead of to the Court in plenary session.

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The oral proceedings which are to begin on 2 April 1984 have been preceded by a written phase during which Canada and the United States have submitted three rounds of pleadings. The first round, the

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Memorials...

Memorials, was filed on 27 September 1982; the second, the Counter-Memorials, on 28 June 1983; and the third, the Replies, on 12 December 1983.

The hearing is expected to last several weeks.

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sittings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Members of the Press will be entitled to attend them after presentation of a press identification card and provision of a photocopy thereof. The tables reserved for the Press are situated on the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

2. Photographs may be taken before the opening and during the first few minutes of the sitting. Filming for cinema or television purposes is however subject to special authorization.

3. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the oral proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

4. Members of the Press may use only the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Palace.

5. Mr. C. Poux, First Secretary of the Court (telephone extension 233), or, in his absence, Mr. Noble (extension 248) will be available to deal with any requests for information by members of the Press.
