

**118. THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO THE REGISTRAR**

8 May 1984.

I have the honour to transmit herewith Canada's reply to the question<sup>1</sup> posed by the President of the Chamber to Mr. Fortier on 5 May 1984.

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*Response to the Question of the President of the Chamber, 5 May 1984*

The Yarmouth Arch is a deep geological structure beginning under the middle of Georges Bank. It trends from there northeastward to the Yarmouth area of Nova Scotia (hence its name). Some scientists consider that the Yarmouth Arch demonstrates the continuity between Nova Scotia structural trends and those under Georges Bank (J. A. Wade: "Stratigraphy of Georges Bank Basin", Canadian Counter-Memorial<sup>2</sup>, Annexes, Vol. I, p. 19, para. 33 and note 34).

More important, the Yarmouth Arch is an uplifted feature of older crustal rocks that partially separates two basins of younger sedimentary rocks: namely, the Scotian Basin, lying under the Scotian Shelf, the Northeast Channel and eastern Georges Bank; and, Georges Bank Basin, lying under western Georges Bank, the Great South Channel and areas further southwest. It is fair to say that without the Yarmouth Arch, there would be no separate Georges Bank Basin, and the Scotian Basin would extend from Newfoundland to south of Nantucket.

Sedimentary basins are significant because they contain the geological features in which hydrocarbons are found.

In light of these facts, the Canadian Memorial, Counter-Memorial and Reply and Canada's argument in these oral proceedings have suggested that to the extent discontinuities exist in the otherwise continuous continental shelf of eastern North America, they are not under the Northeast Channel, but under Georges Bank where the Scotian Basin and Georges Bank Basin are partially separated, at approximately the middle of the Bank, by the Yarmouth Arch (Canadian Memorial<sup>3</sup>, para. 80; Canadian Counter-Memorial<sup>2</sup>, paras. 173-174; Canadian Counter-Memorial<sup>2</sup>, Annexes, paras. 33, 38 and 40; Canadian Reply<sup>4</sup>, para. 168; VI, p. 109).

The Yarmouth Arch, the Scotian Basin and Georges Bank Basin are best illustrated in Figure 16 of the Canadian Counter-Memorial (reproduced as Figure 52 of the oral proceedings).

**119. THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE REGISTRAR**

8 May 1984.

In accordance with Article 56 of the Rules of Court, I enclose documents to which the United States proposes to refer during the second round of the oral

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<sup>1</sup> P. 125, *supra*.

<sup>2</sup> III.

<sup>3</sup> I.

<sup>4</sup> V.