

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice has been communicated to the Press.

It will be recalled that on December 6th, 1949, the General Assembly of the United Nations, by Resolution received in the Registry of the International Court of Justice on December 27th, 1949, requested an Advisory Opinion from the Court on the following question:

"What is the international status of the Territory of South-West Africa and what are the international obligations of the Union of South Africa arising therefrom, in particular:

- a) Does the Union of South Africa continue to have international obligations under the Mandate for South-West Africa and, if so, what are those obligations ?
- b) Are the provisions of Chapter XII of the Charter applicable and, if so, in what manner, to the Territory of South-West Africa ?
- c) Has the Union of South Africa the competence to modify the international status of the Territory of South-West Africa, or, in the event of a negative reply, where does competence rest to determine and modify the international status of the Territory ?"

By an Order the President of the Court appointed March 20th, 1950, as the date of expiry of the time limit within which written statements in this case might be filed by Members of the United Nations.

On the appointed date the Court received, in addition to very complete documentation supplied by the Secretariat of the United Nations, written statements from Egypt, the Union of South Africa, the United States of America, India and Poland.

The oral proceedings in this case will begin on Tuesday, May 16th, at 11 a.m. The Court will hear oral statements which will be presented on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the following States: the Union of South Africa and the Philippine Republic.

These two States will be represented respectively by: Dr. L.C. Steyn, K.C., Senior Law Advisor of the Department of Justice, Pretoria, assisted by Dr. L. Wessels, Law Advisor of the same Department; and Judge José Ingles, who is a Member of the Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the United Nations.

The representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations will be Dr. Ivan Kerno, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Legal Department, at Lake Success.

The Hague, 12th May, 1950.