



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Nigeria files a request for an interpretation of the Judgment of 11 June 1998
on Preliminary Objections**

Cameroon to submit written observations by 3 December 1998

THE HAGUE, 29 October 1998. On 28 October 1998, Nigeria filed a request for an interpretation of the Judgment delivered on 11 June 1998 by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the preliminary objections raised by Nigeria in the case brought against it by Cameroon concerning the land and maritime boundary dispute between these two countries.

This is the first time that the ICJ has been seised of a request for the interpretation of a judgment on preliminary objections while the proceedings on the merits are still pending.

Since a request for the interpretation of a judgment is made either by an application or by the notification of a special agreement, it gives rise to a new case. Nigeria's request, which does not fall into the category of incidental proceedings, does not therefore form part of the current proceedings in the case concerning the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroon v. Nigeria).

In its request, Nigeria sets out that "One aspect of the case before the Court is the alleged international responsibility borne by Nigeria for certain incidents said to have occurred at various places in Bakassi and Lake Chad and along the length of the frontier between those two regions". Nigeria contends that Cameroon has made "allegations involving a number of such incidents in its Application of 29 March 1994, its Additional Application of 6 June 1994, its Observations of 30 April 1996 on Nigeria's Preliminary Objections, and during the oral hearings held from 2-11 March 1998", and that Cameroon has also said that it "would be able to provide information as to other incidents on some unspecified future occasion".

In the view of Nigeria, the Court's Judgment "does not specify which of these alleged incidents are to be considered as part of the merits of the case" and accordingly, "the meaning and scope of the Judgment requires interpretation" as provided by Article 98 of the Rules of Court.

The full text of Nigeria's submissions reads as follows:

"Nigeria requests the Court to adjudge and declare that the Court's Judgment of 11 June 1998 is to be interpreted as meaning that:

so far as concerns the international responsibility which Nigeria is said to bear for certain alleged incidents:

- (a) the dispute before the Court does not include any alleged incidents other than (at most) those specified in Cameroon's Application of 29 March 1994 and Additional Application of 6 June 1994;
- (b) Cameroon's freedom to present additional facts and legal considerations relates (at most) only to those specified in Cameroon's Application of 29 March 1994 and Additional Application of 6 June 1994; and
- (c) the question whether facts alleged by Cameroon are established or not relates (at most) only to those specified in Cameroon's Application of 29 March 1994 and Additional Application of 6 June 1994."

Nigeria's request has been transmitted to Cameroon. Judge Oda, Senior Judge, acting President of the Court, has fixed 3 December 1998 as the time-limit for Cameroon to file written observations.

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