



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Aerial Incident of 10 August 1999 (Pakistan v. India)

Conclusion of the hearings on the issue of the jurisdiction of the Court

The Court is ready to consider its Judgment

THE HAGUE, 6 April 2000. The public hearings in the case concerning the Aerial Incident of 10 August 1999 (Pakistan v. India) at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which started on Monday 3 April 2000, were concluded today, enabling Members of the Court to start their deliberations.

The Court has to decide whether it has jurisdiction to deal with the merits of the dispute. India has challenged that jurisdiction by raising preliminary objections.

The Court's Judgment will be delivered in three to four months' time. It will be read during a public sitting at a date to be announced later.

During the hearings, the delegation of Pakistan was led by Mr. Amir A. Shadani, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Pakistan in the Netherlands, Acting Agent, and the delegation of India by H.E. Mr. Prabhakar Menon, Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, Agent.

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Internal Judicial Practice of the Court with respect to deliberations

As outlined in the Internal Judicial Practice of the Court with respect to deliberations, Members of the Court will soon hold a preliminary discussion at which the President will outline the issues which require discussion and decision by the Court.

After initial consideration, a full deliberation will be held during which, on the basis of the views expressed, a Drafting Committee will be chosen by secret ballot. That Committee will consist of two judges holding the majority view and the President if he shares that view.

The draft text prepared by the Drafting Committee will go through two readings. Meanwhile, judges who wish to do so may prepare a separate or dissenting opinion. The final vote will be taken after adoption of the final text in the second reading.

The transcripts of the hearings of 3 to 6 April 2000, as well as the written pleadings, are available on the Court's website (address: <http://www.icj-cij.org>).

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