



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: www.icj-cij.org

Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2007/9

23 March 2007

Maritime Delimitation between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Honduras)

Conclusion of the public hearings; Court ready to begin its deliberation

THE HAGUE, 23 March 2007. The public hearings in the case concerning Maritime Delimitation between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Honduras) were concluded today. The Court will now start its deliberation.

At the hearings, which opened on 5 March 2007 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court, the delegation of Nicaragua was led by H.E. Mr. Carlos José Argüello Gómez, Ambassador of Nicaragua to the Netherlands, as Agent. The delegation of Honduras was led by H.E. Mr. Max Velásquez Díaz, Ambassador of Honduras to the French Republic, and by H.E. Mr. Roberto Flores Bermúdez, Ambassador of Honduras to the United States of America, as Agents.

The Court's Judgment will be rendered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

Final submissions of the Parties

At the conclusion of the oral proceedings, the Parties presented the following final submissions to the Court:

For Nicaragua:

"May it please the Court to adjudge and declare that:

The bisector of the lines representing the coastal fronts of the two Parties as described in the pleadings, drawn from a fixed point approximately 3 miles from the river mouth in the position 15° 02' 00" N and 83° 05' 26" W, constitutes the single maritime boundary for the purposes of the delimitation of the disputed areas of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the region of the Nicaraguan Rise.

The starting-point of the delimitation is the thalweg of the main mouth of the river Coco such as it may be at any given moment as determined by the Award of the King of Spain of 1906.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Court is required to decide the question of sovereignty over the islands and cays within the area in dispute."

For Honduras:

“May it please the Court to adjudge and declare that:

1. The islands Bobel Cay, South Cay, Savanna Cay and Port Royal Cay, together with all other islands, cays, rocks, banks and reefs claimed by Nicaragua which lie north of the 15th parallel are under the sovereignty of the Republic of Honduras.
2. The starting-point of the maritime boundary to be delimited by the Court shall be a point located at 14° 59.8' N latitude, 83° 05.8' W longitude. The boundary from the point determined by the Mixed Commission in 1962 at 14° 59.8' N latitude, 83° 08.9' W longitude to the starting-point of the maritime boundary to be delimited by the Court shall be agreed between the Parties to this case on the basis of the Award of the King of Spain of 23 December 1906, which is binding upon the Parties, and taking into account the changing geographical characteristics of the mouth of the river Coco (also known as the river Segovia or Wanks).
3. East of the point at 14° 59.8' N latitude, 83° 05.8' W longitude, the single maritime boundary which divides the respective territorial seas, exclusive economic zones and continental shelves of Honduras and Nicaragua follows 14° 59.8' N latitude, as the existing maritime boundary, or an adjusted equidistance line, until the jurisdiction of a third State is reached.”

The verbatim records of the hearings held between 5 and 23 March 2007 are available on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org). The history of the proceedings can be found in Press Release No. 2006/31 of 19 July 2006.

Information Department:

Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Secretary of the Court, Head of the Department (+31 70 302 23 36)

Messrs. Boris Heim and Maxime Schouppe, Information Officers (+31 70 302 23 37)

Ms Joanne Moore, Assistant Information Officer (+31 70 302 23 94)

E-mail address: information@icj-cij.org