



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2004/14
16 March 2004

Certain Property (Liechtenstein v. Germany)

Preliminary Objections

The Court will hold public hearings from 14 to 18 June 2004

THE HAGUE, 16 March 2004. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning Certain Property (Liechtenstein v. Germany) from Monday 14 to Friday 18 June 2004 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court.

It should be pointed out that, following preliminary objections to jurisdiction and admissibility raised by Germany on 27 June 2002, the proceedings on the merits were suspended pursuant to Article 79 of the Rules of Court. The purpose of the forthcoming hearings is thus to hear the oral statements of the Parties on those preliminary objections.

History of the proceedings

On 1 June 2001 Liechtenstein filed an Application instituting proceedings against Germany relating to a dispute concerning “decisions of Germany, in and after 1998, to treat certain property of Liechtenstein nationals as German assets having been ‘seized for the purposes of reparation or restitution, or as a result of the state of war’ — i.e., as a consequence of World War II —, without ensuring any compensation for the loss of that property to its owners, and to the detriment of Liechtenstein itself”.

In its Application, Liechtenstein requests the Court “to adjudge and declare that Germany has incurred international legal responsibility and is bound to make appropriate reparation to Liechtenstein for the damage and prejudice suffered”. Liechtenstein further requests “that the nature and amount of such reparation should, in the absence of agreement between the parties, be assessed and determined by the Court, if necessary, in a separate phase of the proceedings”. As a basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, Liechtenstein invokes Article 1 of the European Convention for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, signed at Strasbourg on 29 April 1957.

By an Order of 28 June 2001, the Court fixed 28 March 2002 and 27 December 2002, respectively, as the time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Liechtenstein and of a Counter-Memorial by Germany. The Memorial was filed within the time-limit thus fixed.

On 27 June 2002, as Germany had filed preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of Liechtenstein’s Application, the proceedings on the merits were suspended (Art. 79 of the Rules of Court). Within the time-limit of 15 November 2002, as fixed by

the President of the Court, Liechtenstein filed a written statement of its observations and submissions with regard to the preliminary objections raised by Germany.

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