

(Unofficial)

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice has been communicated to the press:

The International Court of Justice will meet on Monday the 16th of March 1959 at 4 p.m. at the Peace Palace at the Hague.

The sitting will be the first in the oral hearings in the case of the Aerial Incident of July 27th, 1955 submitted to the Court on October 16th, 1957 by Application of the Government of Israel against the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The proceedings will deal with the Preliminary Objections to the jurisdiction of the Court raised by the defendant.

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It will be recalled that the case was brought on account of the destruction, on July 27th, 1955, over the territory of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, of a civil constellation aircraft belonging to El Al Israel Airlines, Ltd., with consequential loss of life and property. Following the deposit of the Application the Court fixed time-limits for the filing of the first two pleadings, the Memorial of the Israeli Government and the Counter-Memorial of the Government of Bulgaria. The time-limit fixed for the filing of the Counter-Memorial expired on December 9th, 1958. Within that time-limit the Government of Bulgaria filed certain Preliminary Objections to the jurisdiction of the Court. The proceedings on the merits were thereupon suspended by virtue of Article 62 of the Rules of Court and a time-limit expiring February 3rd, 1959, was fixed within which the Government of Israel might present a written statement of its Observations and Submissions on the Objections. This document was filed within the prescribed time-limit and the case was then ready for a hearing.

At the hearing on March 16th the Court will first proceed to the installation of Mr. Justice David Goitein, of the Supreme Court of Israel, and of Mr. Yaroslav Jourek, a member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations who, in accordance with Article 31 of the Statute of the Court, have been designated by the Government of Israel and the Government of Bulgaria, respectively, to sit as Judges ad hoc in this case.

The Court will then call on the Parties which will be represented as follows:-

The Government of Israel:

Mr. Shabtai Rosenne, Legal Advisor to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel as Agent,

assisted by:

Mr. M. Shneerson,

Mr. M. Shneerson, Minister Plenipotentiary, Israelian Embassy
in Paris,

Mr. J.H. Lazarus, Assistant Attorney-General,

Mr. F. Landau, Assistant State-Attorney, and

Mr. T. Meron, Assistant to the Legal Adviser of the Ministry
for Foreign Affairs,

as Counsel;

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

Dr. Nissim Mevorah, as Agent,

assisted by:

Mr. Evgueni Kamenov, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Bulgaria in France,

as Counsel, and by:

Mr. Pierre Cot, Professeur agrégé of the French Law Faculties,

as Advocate.

The Hague, March 9th, 1959.
