

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice has been communicated to the Press.

To-day, March 16th, 1959, at 4 p.m. the International Court of Justice began its hearings on the preliminary objections raised by the Bulgarian Government in the case concerning the Aerial Incident of July 27th, 1955 (Israel y. Bulgaria).

After opening the hearing, the President of the Court called upon M. David Goitein, member of the Supreme Court of Israel, and M. Jaroslav Zourek, member of the United Nations Commission on International Law, chosen by the Governments of Israel and Bulgaria respectively to sit as Judges ad hoc in the case, to make the solemn declaration provided for in Article 20 of the Statute of the Court. Having made the relevant declarations, they were declared duly installed.

The President then called upon M. Nissim Mevorah, the Agent for the Bulgarian Government, who explained how the statement of the Bulgarian case would be divided between the members of the Delegation. He asked that M. Pierre Cot, Professor in the French Faculty of Law, should be allowed to speak first.

The President called on M. Pierre Cot who, before beginning his argument, once more expressed to the Government and people of Israel the regrets of the Government and people of Bulgaria together with their condolences on the dreadful air catastrophe of July 27th, 1955.

M. Pierre Cot then began the statement of the Bulgarian case and will continue it at the hearing which will open on Tuesday, March 17th, at 10.30 a.m.

The Hague, March 16th, 1959.

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