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I.C.J.

Communiqué No. 59/54
(Unofficial)

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice is communicated to the Press:

In the matter of the constitution of the Maritime Safety Committee, the International Court of Justice has received written statements or communications from the Governments of Belgium, France, Liberia, the United States of America, China, Panama, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands and India.

It will be recalled that this matter was referred to the Court for an Advisory Opinion pursuant to a resolution adopted on 19 January 1959 by the Assembly of IMCO (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization). The following question was put to the Court:

"Is the Maritime Safety Committee of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, which was elected on 15 January 1959, constituted in accordance with the Convention for the Establishment of the Organization?"

By Order of 5 August 1959, the President of the Court fixed 5 December 1959 as the time-limit for the submission of written statements by the States members of the Organization, which had been considered as likely to be able to furnish information on the question (Statute, Article 66, paragraph 2).

In addition to the statements and communications submitted by the Governments indicated above, the Court has been furnished with documentation transmitted by the Secretary-General of IMCO (Statute, Article 65, paragraph 2).

The members and the Secretary-General of the Organization have been notified by the Registry that hearings in this matter will begin as soon as possible after 17 April 1960. The exact date and time of the opening hearing will be fixed subsequently.

The Hague, 28 December 1959.