

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

On 27 December 1961 the Registry of the International Court of Justice received from the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations a resolution of the General Assembly of 20 December 1961 requesting an Advisory Opinion of the Court on the following question:

"Do the expenditures authorized in General Assembly resolutions 1583 (XV) and 1590 (XV) of 20 December 1960, 1595 (XV) of 3 April 1961, 1619 (XV) of 21 April 1961 and 1633 (XVI) of 30 October 1961 relating to the United Nations operations in the Congo undertaken in pursuance of the Security Council resolutions of 14 July,¹ 22 July² and 9 August 1960³ and 21 February⁴ and 24 November 1961⁵ and General Assembly resolutions 1474 (ES-IV) of 20 September 1960 and 1599 (XV), 1600 (XV) and 1601 (XV) of 15 April 1961, and the expenditures authorized in General Assembly resolutions 1122 (XI) of 26 November 1956, 1089 (XI) of 21 December 1956, 1090 (XI) of 27 February 1957, 1151 (XII) of 22 November 1957, 1204 (XII) of 13 December 1957, 1337 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, 1441 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 and 1575 (XV) of 20 December 1960 relating to the operations of the United Nations Emergency Force undertaken in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 997 (ES-I) of 2 November 1956, 998 (ES-I) and 999 (ES-I) of 4 November 1956, 1000 (ES-I) of 5 November 1956, 1001 (ES-I) of 7 November 1956, 1121 (XI) of 24 November 1956 and 1263 (XIII) of 14 November 1958, constitute 'expenses of the Organization' within the meaning of Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations?

1. Official records of the Security Council, Fifteenth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1960, document S/4387.
2. Ibid., document S/4405.
3. Ibid., document S/4406.
4. Ibid., Sixteenth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1961, document S/4741.
5. Ibid., document S/5002."

Pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, the President has decided that the States Members of the United Nations are likely to be able to furnish information on the question. By Order of 27 December 1961, he has fixed 20 February 1962 as the time-limit for the submission of written statements, the subsequent procedure being reserved for further decision. A special and direct communication notifying Members of the United Nations of the foregoing is being despatched by the Registrar.

The Hague, 28 December 1961.