

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

The International Court of Justice will sit as from September 25th, 1951, at the Peace Palace in The Hague for the hearings in the Fisheries Case between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Norway.

The proceedings in this case were instituted in September, 1949, by a British Application. The two parties have, since then, on dates fixed by the Court with their agreement, filed in the Registry an unusually large amount of documents. The Rejoinder, the last of the pleadings, was filed by the Norwegian Government on April 30th, 1951.

The representatives of the two Governments in Court will be:

For the United Kingdom:

Agent: Sir Eric Beckett, K.C.M.G., K.C., Legal Adviser, Foreign Office,
together with the following as Counsel:

The Right Honourable
Sir Frank Soskice, K.C., M.P., Attorney-General.

Professor C.H.M. Waldock, C.M.G., O.B.E., K.C., Chichele Professor
of Public International Law
in the University of Oxford.

Mr. R.O. Wilberforce, Member of the English Bar.

Mr. D.H.N. Johnson, Assistant Legal Adviser, Foreign Office.

and accompanied by the following as Advisers:

Commander R.H. Kennedy, O.B.E., R.N. (retired) Hydrographic
Department, Admiralty.

Mr. W.H. Evans, Hydrographic Department, Admiralty.

Høyesterettsadvokat Annaeus Schjødt, Legal Adviser to the British
Embassy in Oslo.

Mr. W.S. Hanna, Military Branch, Admiralty.

Mr. A.S. Armstrong, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries.

For Norway:

Agent and Counsel:

M. Sven Arntzen,

accompanied by:

M. Maurice Bourquin, Professor at the University of Geneva and
at the Graduate Institute of
International Studies.

together with ...

together with the following experts:

MM. W. Coucheron-Aamot, Captain of the Norwegian Royal Navy,
for the demonstration of maps, etc.

Paal Berg, former President of the Supreme Court of Norway.

C.J. Hambro, President of the Odelsting.

Frede Castberg, Professor at the University of Oslo.

Lars J. Jorstad, Minister plenipotentiary,

Chr. Meyer, Captain of the Norwegian Royal Navy,

Gunnar Rollefson, Director of the Research Bureau of the
Norwegian Department of Fisheries,

Reidar Skau, Judge of the Supreme Court of Norway,

Trygve Utheim, Prefect of the district of Møre and Romsdal,

E.A. Colban, Chief of Division in the Norwegian Royal
Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

Jens Evensen, of the Norwegian Bar,

André Salomon, Doctor of Law, domiciled in Geneva,

and M. Sigurd Ekeland, Secretary to the Norwegian Royal Ministry for
Foreign Affairs, as Secretary.

All the Members of the International Court of Justice will take their seats on this occasion, with the exception of Judge Fabela and Judge Krylov, who are prevented by reasons of their health from coming to The Hague.

The submissions of the United Kingdom Government were set out in its Application. The Government's claim is that the Norwegian Government in laying down, in the extreme north of the country, base-lines for the purpose of delimiting the fishery zone reserved for the exclusive use of nationals, has not followed the principles of international law applicable to the circumstances; it follows that maritime zones of a considerable area are closed to British fishing vessels, whereas they form part of the high seas and should, as such, be open to fishing by all nations. The United Kingdom Government therefore invites the Court to declare the relevant principles of international law and, thereafter, to define the base lines from which the Norwegian Government is entitled to reserve a fishing zone.

The Norwegian Government has in its pleadings rejected the British argument; it claims that the decisions which it has taken are in no way inconsistent with the rules of international law.

The Hague, September 22nd, 1951.
