



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Communiqué

*unofficial
for immediate release*

No. 81/11
10 September 1981

Continental Shelf (Tunisia/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Hearing to open on Wednesday 16 September 1981 at 10 a.m.

The following information is made available to the Press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

The Court is to hold public sittings beginning on Wednesday 16 September 1981 at 10 a.m. in the Continental Shelf case between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. It will be hearing argument concerning the delimitation of the continental shelf as between those two States, which is the underlying issue in the present dispute.

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The case is before the Court by virtue of a Special Agreement concluded between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 10 June 1977. During the written proceedings each Party has filed a Memorial, a Counter-Memorial and a Reply within time-limits fixed in Orders made by the President of the Court having regard to the terms of the Special Agreement and the wishes expressed by the Parties. With the filing of the Replies the case became ready for hearing.

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In the course of the written proceedings the Government of Malta, considering that it had an interest of a legal nature which might be affected by the decision in the case, submitted an application for permission to intervene, but after hearing the arguments of Malta and the Parties the Court decided, in a Judgment delivered on 14 April 1981, that Malta's request could not be granted.

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Since the Court did not include upon the Bench any judge of the nationality of the Parties, each of them has chosen a judge ad hoc in accordance with Article 31 of the Statute. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya chose Mr. E. Jiménez de Aréchaga and Tunisia Mr. J. Evensen. Both made the solemn declaration required by Article 20 of the Statute at a public sitting on 19 March 1981 and will not have to repeat it on 16 September.

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Press conference 13.30
Post office 13.30

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Under the Special Agreement concluded by Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 10 June 1977 the Court is requested to render its judgment in the following matter:

"What principles and rules of international law may be applied for the delimitation of the area of the continental shelf appertaining to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to the area of the continental shelf appertaining to the Republic of Tunisia, and the Court shall take its decision according to equitable principles, and the relevant circumstances which characterize the area, as well as the new accepted trends in the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Also, the Court is further requested to clarify the practical method for the application of these principles and rules in this specific situation, so as to enable the experts of the two countries to delimit these areas without any difficulties." (English text furnished by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.)

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sittings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Members of the press will be entitled to attend them on presentation of an admission card, which may be obtained upon application. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

2. Photographs may be taken before the opening and during the first five minutes of the sitting. Filming for cinema or television purposes is however subject to special authorization.

3. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the oral proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

4. Members of the Press may use only the four public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Palace.

5. Mr. C. Poux, First Secretary of the Court (telephone extension 233), or, in his absence, Mr. Noble (extension 248) will be available to deal with any requests for information by members of the Press.
