

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REPORTS OF JUDGMENTS,  
ADVISORY OPINIONS AND ORDERS

CASE CONCERNING UNITED STATES  
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STAFF  
IN TEHRAN

(UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. IRAN)

ORDER OF 24 DECEMBER 1979

**1979**

COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE

RECUEIL DES ARRÊTS,  
AVIS CONSULTATIFS ET ORDONNANCES

AFFAIRE RELATIVE AU PERSONNEL  
DIPLOMATIQUE ET CONSULAIRE  
DES ÉTATS-UNIS A TÉHÉRAN

(ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE c. IRAN)

ORDONNANCE DU 24 DÉCEMBRE 1979

Official citation:

*United States Diplomatic and Consular Staff in Tehran,  
Order of 24 December 1979, I.C.J. Reports 1979, p. 23.*

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Mode officiel de citation:

*Personnel diplomatique et consulaire des Etats-Unis à Téhéran,  
ordonnance du 24 décembre 1979, C.I.J. Recueil 1979, p. 23.*

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YEAR 1979

24 December 1979

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## ORDER

The President of the International Court of Justice,

Having regard to Article 48 of the Statute of the Court, and to Articles 31, 44 and 45 of the Rules of Court,

Having regard to the Application by the United States of America filed in the Registry of the Court on 29 November 1979, instituting proceedings against the Islamic Republic of Iran in respect of a dispute concerning the situation in the United States Embassy in Tehran and the seizure and holding as hostages of members of the United States diplomatic and consular staff in Iran ;

Whereas on the day on which the Application was received in the Registry, the Government of Iran was notified by telegram of the filing thereof, and of the submissions therein made, and in accordance with Article 40, paragraph 2, of the Statute, a copy of the Application was the same day communicated to the Government of Iran ;

Having regard to the letter of 9 December 1979, transmitted by telegram, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran, setting out the position of the Government of Iran with respect to the proceedings, and maintaining (*inter alia*) on various grounds that the Court cannot and should not take cognizance of the case ;

Whereas the Government of Iran did not appoint an agent, and was not represented at the hearing on 10 December 1979, on the request by the United States of America dated 29 November 1979 for the indication of

provisional measures, of which hearing it had been notified by telegrams of 29 November and 3 December ;

Having regard to the Order made by the Court on 15 December 1979, by which the Court indicated provisional measures in the case, pursuant to Article 41 of the Statute, which indication in no way prejudices the question of the jurisdiction of the Court to deal with the merits of the case or any question relating to the merits themselves ;

Having ascertained the views of the Applicant, and having given the Respondent an opportunity of stating its views ;

Taking into account the circumstances of the case,

Fixes as follows the time-limits for the written proceedings :

15 January 1980 for the Memorial of the United States of America ;

18 February 1980 for the Counter-Memorial of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with liberty for the Islamic Republic, if it appoints an Agent for the purpose of appearing before the Court and presenting its observations on the case, to apply for reconsideration of such time-limit ;

And reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in English and in French, the English text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this twenty-fourth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Court, and the others transmitted to the Government of the United States of America, and to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively.

*(Signed)* Humphrey WALDOCK,  
President.

*(Signed)* S. AQUARONE,  
Registrar.