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Two new cases are brought to the Court:
Nicaragua institutes proceedings against Costa Rica and against Honduras

The following information is communicated to the press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

On 28 July 1986 the Republic of Nicaragua filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice two Applications, one instituting proceedings against the Republic of Costa Rica and the other instituting proceedings against Honduras. Both Applications refer to the provisions of Article XXXI of the Pact of Bogota, and to the declarations whereby the States concerned accepted the jurisdiction of the Court as provided for in Article 36 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

In its Application instituting proceedings against Costa Rica, Nicaragua records specific frontier incidents and armed attacks, of increasing frequency and intensity since 1982, organized by contras on its territory from the territory of Costa Rica. The Application mentions various attempts by the Government of Nicaragua to avoid any confrontation between the two States and to achieve a peaceful solution; it states that these efforts failed because Costa Rica took no specific measures against the contras. On the basis of the facts set out in its Application, Nicaragua then claims that Costa Rica has incurred legal responsibility for the breach of major obligations arising under the United Nations Charter and other multilateral treaties, and for the breach of certain well-established obligations of customary international law. The applicant Party, reserving the right to supplement or to amend its Application - and subject to the presentation to the Court of the relevant evidence and legal argument - concludes by requesting the Court to adjudge and declare as follows:

"(a) that the acts and omissions of Costa Rica in the material period constitute breaches of the various obligations of customary international law and the treaties specified in the body of this Application for which the Republic of Costa Rica bears legal responsibility;

(b) that...

(b) that Costa Rica is under a duty immediately to cease and to refrain from all such acts as may constitute breaches of the foregoing legal obligations;

(c) that Costa Rica is under an obligation to make reparations to the Republic of Nicaragua for all injury caused to Nicaragua by the breaches of obligations under the pertinent rules of customary international law and treaty provisions."

Finally, Nicaragua reserves the right to present a request to the Court for the indication of interim measures of protection.

In its Application instituting proceedings against Honduras, Nicaragua refers not only to border incidents and armed attacks - of increasing frequency and intensity since 1980 despite its reiterated protests - organized by contras on its territory from the territory of Honduras; it also alleges specifically, among other things, that assistance has been given to the contras by the armed forces of Honduras, that the latter have directly participated in military attacks against its territory, and that the Government of Honduras has threatened to use force against it. On the basis of the facts set out in its Application, Nicaragua then claims that Honduras has incurred legal responsibility for the breach of major obligations arising under the United Nations Charter and other multilateral treaties, and for the breach of certain well-established obligations of customary international law. The applicant Party, reserving the right to supplement or to amend its Application, and subject to the presentation to the Court of the relevant evidence and legal argument, concludes by requesting the Court to adjudge and declare as follows:

"(a) that the acts and omissions of Honduras in the material period constitute breaches of the various obligations of customary international law and the treaties specified in the body of this Application for which the Republic of Honduras bears legal responsibility;

(b) that Honduras is under a duty immediately to cease and to refrain from all such acts as may constitute breaches of the foregoing legal obligations;

(c) that Honduras is under an obligation to make reparation to the Republic of Nicaragua for all injury caused to Nicaragua by the breaches of obligations under the pertinent rules of customary international law and treaty provisions."

Finally, Nicaragua reserves the right to present a request to the Court for the indication of interim measures of protection.

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The texts of the two Applications instituting proceedings are available to journalists, who can obtain them from the Registry of the Court.
