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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Communiqué

unofficial
for immediate release

No. 95/17

27 June 1995

Legality of the Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons
in Armed Conflict
(Request for Advisory Opinion by the
World Health Organization)

Hearings to open on 30 October 1995

Submission of written comments

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

The Court will hold public sittings opening at 10 a.m. on Monday 30 October 1995 for the purpose of hearing oral statements or comments in respect of the question which the World Health Organization submitted to it for advisory opinion namely:

"In view of the health and environmental effects, would the use of nuclear weapons by a State in war or other armed conflict be a breach of its obligations under international law including the WHO Constitution?"

These oral proceedings will also cover the request for advisory opinion submitted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the question of the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.

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As indicated in Press Communiqué No. 94/15, the President of the Court, by an Order of 20 June 1994, extended to 20 September 1994 the time-limit within which written statements might be submitted to the Court by the World Health Organization and by those of its member States who are entitled to appear before the Court (Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute).

By the same Order, the President fixed 20 June 1995 as the time-limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements might submit written comments on the other written statements (Article 66, paragraph 4, of the Statute of the Court).

Written statements were filed by Australia, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

By 20 June 1995 written comments had been filed by France, India, Malaysia, Nauru, the Russian Federation, the Solomon Islands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The written proceedings in this case were thus concluded.

The written statements and comments are not yet available to the Press and public; under Article 106 of the Rules of Court, the Court or the President may decide that such statements shall be made accessible to the public on or after the opening of the oral proceedings.

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sitting will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Members of the Press will be entitled to attend 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 of the courtroom.

2. Photographs may be taken before the opening, during the first five minutes of the sitting; and also for a few minutes towards the end. 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 Court's proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

4. Members of the Press who wish to make phone calls may use the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Palace.

5. Mr. A. Th. Witteveen, Secretary in charge of information matters (tel. No. 3022336), or, in his absence, Mrs. N. C. El-Erian, Information Officer (tel. No. 3022337), will be available to deal with any requests for information by members of the Press.