

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

The International Court of Justice will meet on Monday, September 23rd, 1957. In the afternoon of that day, it will hold a public hearing for the opening of the oral proceedings in the case concerning right of passage through Indian territory.

This case was instituted on December 22nd, 1955, by an Application of the Government of the Portuguese Republic against the Government of the Republic of India.

After the filing of the Application, the Court fixed time-limits for the presentation of the first two pleadings, namely, the Memorial of the Portuguese Government and the Counter-Memorial of the Government of India. On November 10th, 1956, that is, within the time-limit fixed for the filing of the Counter-Memorial, the Agent for the Government of India, after restating the intention of his Government to file a Preliminary Objection to the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court in this case, requested that the time-limit fixed for the presentation of this pleading should be extended for not less than six months. The Government of Portugal having stated that it was prepared to trust the Court's discretion to make the extension as short as required by the interest of justice, the Court decided to extend the time-limit in question to April 15th, 1957. On that date a document setting out certain Preliminary Objections to the jurisdiction of the Court was filed by the Government of India. The Court then fixed a time-limit for the presentation of the Observations and Submissions of the Portuguese Government, and this time-limit was subsequently extended at the request of the latter Government. The Observations and Submissions of the Portuguese Government in regard to the Preliminary Objections raised by the Government of India were filed on August 15th, 1957, that is, within the time-limit thus prescribed, and the case is therefore now ready for hearing.

The Hague, August 21st, 1957.