



ANNOUNCES

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Continental Shelf (Tunisia/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Filing of Counter-Memorials by the Parties, and of an Application by
the Government of Malta for permission to intervene

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

In the case concerning the dispute between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two States, the agents of the Parties have filed their Counter-Memorials within the time-limits fixed by an Order of 3 June 1980, i.e., 1 December 1980 for Tunisia and 2 February 1981 for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Counter-Memorials were exchanged at a meeting with the President of the Court on 2 February.

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On 30 January 1981 the Government of Malta filed an Application for permission to intervene in the case under Article 62 of the Statute of the Court. This Article reads as follows:

"1. Should a State consider that it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision of the case, it may submit a request to the Court to be permitted to intervene.

2. It shall be for the Court to decide upon this request."

The Government of Malta indicates in its Application that the purpose of its intervention in the case between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would be to enable it to submit its views to the Court on legal issues raised therein before the Court proceeds to judgment.

Under Article 83 of the Rules of Court, the Application for permission to intervene is communicated forthwith to the Parties, and a time-limit is fixed for them to present written observations. The President has fixed 26 February 1981 as this time-limit.

It will be for the Court to decide as a matter of priority whether the intervention is allowed. Should an objection be filed, it will hear the Parties and Malta before deciding.

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