



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel. 92 44 41. Cables: Intercourt, The Hague

Telex 32323

Communiqué

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No. 81/3
13 March 1981

Continental Shelf (Tunisia/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Hearings to open on Thursday 19 March 1981 at 10 a.m.

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

The Court will hold public hearings beginning on Thursday 19 March 1981 at 10 a.m. in the Continental Shelf case between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. It will hear argument on the Application for permission to intervene in the case presented by the Government of Malta. The Court will be addressed by representatives of Malta, Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

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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 Memorials and Counter-Memorials within the time-limits fixed. 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. That 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 in 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 has indicated in its Application that the object of its intervention in the case is to enable it to submit its views to the Court on legal issues raised therein before the Court proceeds to judgment, and not to obtain any form of decision from the Court concerning Malta's continental shelf boundaries with either or both of the Parties.

The Parties have filed written observations, having been invited to do so in accordance with Article 83 of the Rules. Since objection has been made to Malta's application for permission to intervene, the Court will hear the State seeking to intervene and the Parties before deciding (Art. 84 of the Rules).

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At the beginning of the hearing of 19 March 1981, Judges Evensen and Jiménez de Aréchaga, chosen by the Government of Tunisia and the Government of Libya respectively to sit as judges ad hoc in the case, will make the solemn declaration provided for in Article 20 of the Statute of the Court. Biographical details of these two judges are attached.

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sittings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Members of the press will be entitled to attend them 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 to the courtroom.
 2. Photographs may be taken before the opening and during the first five minutes of the sitting. 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 oral proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.
 4. Members of the Press may use only the four public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Palace.
 5. Mr. C. Foux, First Secretary of the Court (telephone extension 233), or, in his absence, Mr. Noble (extension 248) will be available to deal with any requests for information by members of the Press.
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Jens EVENSEN

Born at Oslo on 5 November 1917.

Law degree, Oslo University; Doctor of laws, Harvard University.

Advocate, Supreme Court 1951.

Director-General of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1961-1973; Adviser on International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1979.

Chairman of the Norwegian Petroleum Council (1965-1979) and of various national committees.

Counsel for Norway before the International Court of Justice in the Fisheries and Certain Norwegian Loans cases; representative of Norway in the case concerning Certain Expenses of the United Nations; agent and counsel for Norway before the European Commission of Human Rights (1962-63; 1967-69) and various international tribunals.

Ambassador for negotiating the trade agreement with the European Communities, 1972.

Minister of Commerce, 1973-1974.

Minister for the Law of the Sea, 1974-1978.

Chairman of the Norwegian delegation to the Third UN Law of the Sea Conference (since 1973), one of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference. Representative of Norway in various United Nations bodies.

Associate Member of the Institute of International Law, 1971.

Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, 1978.

Member of the International Law Commission, 1979.

Eduardo JIMÉNEZ DE ARÉCHAGA

Born at Montevideo on 8 June 1918.

Doctor of Law, University of Uruguay (1942).

Professor of International Law at the Montevideo Law School (1946-1969).

Member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations (1961-1969) and Chairman of its fifteenth session (1963). Delegate of Uruguay to the two sessions of the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties and Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole (Vienna, 1968-1969).

Member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law. Member of the Institute of International Law. Manley O. Hudson medallist of the American Society of International Law (1978).

Counsel for Spain in the Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Company, Limited case before the International Court of Justice (1966-1969).

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1950-1952). Secretary of the National Council of Government (1952-1955). Minister of the Interior (1968).

Member of the International Court of Justice (1970-1979); President (1976-1979).

Author of numerous works and articles.
