



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel. (070 - 392 44 41). Cables: Intercourt, The Hague.

Telefax (070 - 364 99 28). Telex 32323.

**Communiqué**

unofficial  
for immediate release

Members of the Court + Staff 13-10-92  
Post Office Peace Palace 13-10-92

No. 92/24  
9 October 1992

**Case concerning Maritime Delimitation  
between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal**

**Fixing of time-limits for pleadings postponed pending  
negotiations for possible settlement of the dispute**

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

At the time when proceedings were instituted in this case (see Press Communiqué No. 91/8, 13 March 1991), proceedings were still in progress in the case instituted by Guinea-Bissau against Senegal on 23 August 1989, concerning the Arbitral Award of 31 July 1989.

Article 31 of the Rules of Court provides that

"In every case submitted to the Court, the President shall ascertain the views of the parties with regard to questions of procedure. For this purpose he shall summon the agents of the parties to meet him as soon as possible after their appointment, and whenever necessary thereafter,"

and Article 44, paragraph 1, of the Rules provides that

"1. In the light of the information obtained by the President under Article 31 of these Rules, the Court shall make the necessary orders to determine, inter alia, the number and the order of filing of the pleadings and the time-limits within which they must be filed."

However, as was made clear in the Application instituting the new case, the question of the Court's jurisdiction to entertain it would appear in a different light according to the Court's decision in the first case, on the validity of the Award of 31 July 1989. Accordingly, with the agreement of the Parties, no action was taken to fix time-limits for the pleadings in the new case, pending the Court's decision in the first case.

Judgment in the first case was given on 12 November 1991 (see Press Communiqué No. 91/32). After the two Governments concerned had had time to study that Judgment, the President of the Court convened a meeting with the representatives of the Parties on 28 February 1992, at which

however they requested that no time-limit be fixed for the initial pleadings in the case, pending the outcome of negotiations on the question of maritime delimitation; those negotiations were to continue for six months in the first instance, after which, if they had not been successful, a further meeting would be held with the President.

No indications having been received from the Parties as to the state of their negotiations, the President convened a further meeting with the Agents on 6 October 1992. The Agents stated that some progress had been made toward an agreement, and a joint request was made by the two Parties that a further period of three months, with a possible further extension of three months, be allowed for continuation of the negotiations. The President agreed to this, and expressed satisfaction at the efforts being made by the Parties to resolve their dispute by negotiation, in the spirit of the recommendation made in the Judgment of 12 November 1991 (see Press Communiqué No. 91/32, p. 11).

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