



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Kasikili/Sedudu Island (Botswana/Namibia)

Court to deliver its Judgment on Monday 13 December 1999

THE HAGUE, 7 December 1999. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will deliver its Judgment in the case concerning Kasikili/Sedudu Island (Botswana/Namibia) on Monday 13 December 1999.

A public sitting will take place at 10.00 a.m. in the Peace Palace in The Hague during which the President of the Court, Judge Stephen M. Schwebel, will read the Court's decision.

The Parties have requested the Court "to determine the boundary between Botswana and Namibia around Kasikili/Sedudu Island and the legal status of the island" situated in the Chobe River. They presented their arguments in writing, and also at public hearings held between 15 February and 5 March 1999.

Background information

On 29 May 1996 the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the Government of the Republic of Namibia jointly notified to the Registrar of the Court a Special Agreement between the two States signed at Gaborone (Botswana) on 15 February 1996, which came into force on 15 May 1996, for the submission to the Court of the dispute between them concerning the boundary around Kasikili/Sedudu Island and the legal status of the Island.

The Special Agreement refers to a Treaty between Great Britain and Germany on their respective spheres of influence, signed on 1 July 1890, and to the appointment, on 24 May 1992, of a Joint Team of Technical Experts "to determine the boundary between Namibia and Botswana around Kasikili/Sedudu Island" on the basis of that Treaty and of the applicable principles of international law.

Finding themselves unable to reach agreement on the question, the Joint Team of Technical Experts recommended "recourse to the peaceful settlement of the dispute on the basis of the applicable rules and principles of international law".

At the Summit Meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 15 February 1995, President Masire of Botswana and President Nujoma of Namibia agreed "to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice for a final and binding determination".

Under the terms of the Special Agreement, the Parties asked the Court to "determine, on the basis of the Anglo-German Treaty of 1 July 1890 and the rules and principles of international law, the boundary between Namibia and Botswana around Kasikili/Sedudu Island and the legal status of the island".

By an Order of 24 June 1996, the Court fixed 28 February 1997 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by each of the Parties and 28 November 1997 as the time-limit for the filing of their Counter-Memorials. These written pleadings were duly filed by Botswana and Namibia within the time-limits fixed.

By an Order of 27 February 1998, the Court, taking into account the agreement between the Parties, fixed 27 November 1998 as the time-limit for the filing of their respective Replies. These Replies were duly filed by both Parties.

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Mobile telephones and beepers are allowed in the courtroom **provided they are turned off or set on silent mode**. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2. 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.

3. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the hearings. Television crews may film, but advance notice should be given to the Information Office (see paragraph 8).

4. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the reading of the Court's decision will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

5. At the end of the sitting, a press release, a summary of the Judgment and its full text will be distributed in the Press Room.

6. All the above-mentioned documents will be simultaneously available on the Website of the Court (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).

7. Members of the Press who wish to make telephone calls may use the phone located in the Press Room for collect calls or the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Peace Palace.

8. Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary of the Court (tel: + 31 70 302 2336), and Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Information Officer (tel: + 31 70 302 2337), are available to deal with any requests for information and for making arrangements for television coverage.