

The following information has been communicated unofficially to the Press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice.

The International Court of Justice held to-day (Thursday, November 17th, 1949) a public hearing in the Corfu Channel Case between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the People's Republic of Albania.

In its Judgment of April 9th, 1949, the Court had declared, inter alia, that Albania was responsible for the explosions which occurred on board two British warships.

To-day's hearing was devoted to the final phase of the case: the assessment of compensation due by Albania to the United Kingdom.

On opening the meeting, the Acting President, M. Guerrero, explained that President Basdevant, on a mission in New York, was kept away from the Court, and that illness prevented Judge Fabela from attending. He then called on Judge Krylov who wished to put a question to the Agent of the United Kingdom.

The President then called on Sir Eric Beckett, Agent of the Government of the United Kingdom and Sir Frank Soskice, Solicitor General of the United Kingdom.

The Albanian Government was not represented at the hearing.

After the oral pleadings, the President declared that the Court had decided to appoint two experts to verify that the figures presented by the Government of the United Kingdom were correct.

The experts to be designated in an Order which the Court intends to make in a few days will be Rear Admiral Berck and M. de Rooy, Director of Naval Constructions, both of Dutch nationality.

The Hague, November 17th, 1949.

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