

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice has been communicated to the Press :

On December 27th, 1949, the International Court of Justice received a letter from the Secretary General of the United Nations transmitting the resolution of December 6th, 1949, in which the General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following question :

"What is the international status of the Territory of South West Africa and what are the international obligations of the Union of South Africa arising therefrom, in particular

- (a) Does the Union of South Africa continue to have international obligations under the mandate for South West Africa and if so what are those obligations ?
- (b) Are the provisions of Chapter XIII of the Charter applicable, and if so, in what manner, to the Territory of South West Africa ?
- (c) Has the Union of South Africa the competence to modify the international status of the Territory of South West Africa, or, in the event of a negative reply, where does competence rest to determine and modify the international status of the Territory ?"

The President of the International Court of Justice made on December 30th, 1949, an Order fixing March 20th, 1950, as the time-limit for filing written statements on the question by Members of the United Nations.

The Hague, December 30th, 1949.

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