

His Excellency Philippe Couvreur  
Registrar  
International Court of Justice  
The Peace Palace  
Carnegieplein 2  
2517 KJ THE HAGUE

Bezuidenhoutseweg 67  
2594 AC The Hague  
The Netherlands

Date January 16, 2003  
Our ref. DIZ-IR/20-03  
Page 1/2

Contact Prof. dr. J.G. Lammers  
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Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the case concerning *Legality of Use of Force (Yugoslavia v. Netherlands)* and to your letter dated 20 December 2002, transmitting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's written observations and submissions of 18 December 2002 on the Preliminary Objections of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands regards the written observations and submissions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as amounting to acceptance of the Netherlands Preliminary Objections of July 2000 that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was not entitled to appear before the Court, nor had in any way validly accepted the jurisdiction of the Court or conferred jurisdiction on the Court over the claims brought by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia against the Netherlands, nor demonstrated that such claims were admissible.

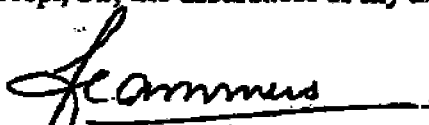
For the reasons advanced in the Preliminary Objectives of the Netherlands and in the light of the written observations and submissions submitted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its statement of 18 December 2002, the Netherlands requests the Court to adjudge and declare that it lacks jurisdiction over the proceedings brought by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that the claims brought by it against the Netherlands in these proceedings are inadmissible.

Ministerie van

**Buitenlandse Zaken**

In the alternative, if the Court were to conclude that, by its written observations and submissions of 18 December 2002, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has in fact informed the Court that is not going on with the proceedings (Article 89 of the Rules of the Court), the Netherlands hereby states that it has no objection to the discontinuance of the proceedings.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Johan G. Lammers  
Agent of the Kingdom of the Netherlands