

No. 99/22
28 May 1999

Legality of Use of Force
(Yugoslavia v. Belgium) (Yugoslavia v. Canada) (Yugoslavia v. France)
(Yugoslavia v. Germany) (Yugoslavia v. Italy) (Yugoslavia v. Netherlands)
(Yugoslavia v. Portugal) (Yugoslavia v. Spain) (Yugoslavia v. United Kingdom)
(Yugoslavia v. United States of America)

Provisional measures

Court to give its decisions on Wednesday 2 June 1999 at 10.00 a.m.

THE HAGUE, 28 May 1999. On Wednesday 2 June 1999, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will give its decisions on the requests for the indication of provisional measures submitted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in the above-mentioned cases.

A public sitting will take place at 10.00 a.m. at the Peace Palace in The Hague during which the Vice-President of the Court, Judge Christopher Weeramantry, exercising the functions of the presidency in the ten cases, will announce the Court's decision in each case.

Special admission procedure

The admission procedure for this public sitting is similar to that established for the hearings of 10-12 May 1999.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and representatives of international organizations are kindly requested to call the Court switchboard (tel: + 31 70 302 23 23) by Tuesday 1 June 1999 in order to confirm that they will attend.

Members of the public are asked to do the same. They are, however, reminded that the number of seats reserved for them in the Great Hall of Justice is restricted to 50.

Representatives of the Press are kindly requested to fill in the enclosed accreditation form and to return it by Tuesday 1 June 1999 to the Information Office (fax: + 31 70 302 23 38).

Background information

In its request for the indication of provisional measures, Yugoslavia asked the Court to order the States involved to "cease immediately [their] acts of use of force" and to "refrain from any act of threat or use of force" against the FRY.

At the opening of the hearings, on Monday 10 May 1999, five judges ad hoc took the oath (Article 31 of the Court's Statute provides that parties which do not have any judge of their nationality on the Bench may appoint a judge ad hoc). They are Messrs. Milenko Kre_a (Yugoslavia), Patrick Duinslaeger (Belgium), Marc Lalonde (Canada), Giorgio Gaja (Italy) and Santiago Torres Bernárdez (Spain).

The Court then heard the Parties. Yugoslavia, as the applicant State, spoke first for two hours in a common statement for all ten cases. It was followed by the respondent States in English alphabetical order. Each State had one hour to submit its arguments. The first round of oral arguments was concluded on Tuesday 11 May 1999. A second round of oral arguments was held on Wednesday 12 May 1999, Yugoslavia having one hour at its disposal and the respondent States 15 minutes each.

Yugoslavia filed its requests for the indication of provisional measures on 29 April 1999 when it instituted proceedings before the Court against the ten above-mentioned States, accusing them of bombing Yugoslav territory in violation of their obligation not to use force against another State (for further details, see Press Communiqué 99/17).

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sitting 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 confiscated.

2. The tables reserved for members of the Press are situated on the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

3. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the sitting. 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 Orders will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

5. At the end of the sitting, press releases (one for each case) and the full text of the Orders will be distributed in the Press Room.

6. The above-mentioned documents will be simultaneously available on the Court's website (<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, 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.

ACCREDITATION FORM
FOR THE PUBLIC SITTING OF 2 JUNE 1999
AT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

(PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS)

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Please return this form **BY TUESDAY 1 JUNE 1999** to the Information Office of the International Court of Justice

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