



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

The public hearings scheduled to open on Monday 10 November 2003 have been postponed

THE HAGUE, 7 November 2003. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has postponed the hearings that were to open on 10 November 2003 in the case concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda).

In a letter dated 5 November 2003, the Democratic Republic of the Congo raised the question whether the case might be adjourned to a later date, in April 2004, in order to enable the diplomatic negotiations engaged by the Parties to be conducted in an atmosphere of calm. By a letter of 6 November 2003, Uganda indicated that it supported the proposal and adopted the request of the Congo.

By a letter dated 6 November 2003, the Registrar informed the Parties that the Court, acting under Article 54, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court, and taking account of the representations made to it by the Parties, had decided that the opening of the oral proceedings would be postponed but had also decided that it was impossible to fix a date in April 2004 for the adjourned hearings. As the Court's judicial calendar for the period from now until well into 2004 had been adopted some time ago, providing for the hearing of, and deliberation on, a number of other cases, the new date for the opening of the oral proceedings in the present case would be fixed in due course.

It is regrettable that the present unexpected situation will make it necessary for the Court to re-examine its schedule of work in order to make the most efficient and economical use of its judicial time.

History of the proceedings

For the history of the proceedings, please refer to press release No. 2003/24 on the website of the Court (www.icj-cij.org). Click on "Docket" and then on the hyperlink for the case concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda).

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