

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

The International Court of Justice will hold a series of public hearings beginning Tuesday, April 10th, at 11 a.m., in order to hear oral statements relevant to the request for Advisory Opinion submitted to the Court by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the question of reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide. Oral statements will be made on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and on behalf of the Governments of the United Kingdom, France and Israel.

The Hague, 5th April, 1951.

A note giving a rough background of the case is communicated herewith (overleaf).

Note on the Request for Advisory Opinion on the question of  
Reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment  
of the Crime of Genocide.

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The questions submitted to the Court by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in its Resolution of the 16th November, 1950, are formulated as follows :

"In so far as concerns the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the event of a State ratifying or acceding to the Convention subject to a reservation made either on ratification or on accession, or on signature followed by ratification:

- I. Can the reserving State be regarded as being a party to the Convention while still maintaining its reservation if the reservation is objected to by one or more of the parties to the Convention but not by others ?
- II. If the answer to question I is in the affirmative, what is the effect of the reservation as between the reserving State and :
  - a) The parties which object to the reservation ?
  - b) Those which accept it ?
- III. What would be the legal effect as regards the answer to question I if an objection to a reservation is made :
  - a) By a signatory which has not yet ratified ?
  - b) By a State entitled to sign or accede but which has not yet done so ?"

One can see that these purely legal questions refer exclusively to reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; this was a multilateral Convention which was approved by the General Assembly on the 9th December, 1948, in Paris, and which came into effect on the 12th January, 1951.

After notices had been given by the Registrar, in conformity with Article 66 of the Statute of the Court, the Registry received written statements from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and from the Governments of the U.S.S.R., the Kingdom of Jordan, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Israel, Poland, the Republic of Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Rumania, the Ukrainian S.S.R., Bulgaria, the Byelorussian S.S.R., and the Republic of the Philippines, and also from two international organisations, namely, the International Labour Office and the Organization of American States.

Furthermore, when the oral discussions begin on the 10th April, Dr. Kerno, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of the Legal Department, will submit an oral statement to the Court on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Mr. G. G. Fitzmaurice, Second Legal Adviser to the British Foreign Office, M. Charles Rousseau, Professor at the Faculté de Droit in Paris, Assistant Legal Adviser to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Shabtai Rosenne, Legal Adviser to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will address the Court and expound the views held, on the question before the Court, by their respective Governments.

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