

I.C.J.

Communiqué No. 51/16.  
(Unofficial)

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

The first two public sittings of the International Court of Justice in the Haya de la Torre case between the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Peru were held to-day, May 15th.

After opening the morning sitting, President Basdevant pronounced a funeral oration for Judge Azevedo, whose death occurred on May 7th last, and called upon the Court and the public to observe a minute of silence.

The Court then proceeded to install the two ad hoc Judges designated by Peru and Colombia, MM. Alayza y Paz Soldan and Caicedo Castilla respectively, who made the solemn declaration provided for under the Statute.

As is well known, the present case was brought before the Court by an Application of the Government of Colombia, filed in the Registry on December 13th, 1950, which stated that the Governments of Colombia and Peru had not been able to agree on what action should be taken pursuant to the Judgments of the Court dated November 20th and 27th, 1950, in the case concerning the right of asylum. The Colombian Government consequently requests the Court to state whether it is bound to deliver to the Peruvian Government, the political leader, Victor Raul Haya de la Torre who is at present a refugee in the Colombian Embassy at Lima. It is also known that, as Colombia had stated that its Application relied on the Havana Convention of 1928, the Cuban Government, which is a party to that Convention, addressed a letter to the Registrar dated February 15th, 1951 which the President of the Court has considered to constitute a declaration of intervention based on Article 63 of the Statute.

As the Peruvian Government contested the admissibility of the Cuban intervention, the Court heard to-day the observations which the Agents of the Governments concerned wished to present on the admissibility of that intervention.

M. Felipe Tudela y Barrera, Agent, and Professor Gidel, Counsel for the Government of Peru, presented the case of that Government. They were followed by M. Brigard, Counsel for the Government of Colombia and Madame Flora Diaz Parrado, Agent of the Cuban Government, Chargée d'Affaires of the Republic of Cuba at The Hague.

The next hearing, which will be devoted to the merits of the case, will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, May 16th at 10.30 a.m.

The Hague, May 15th, 1951.

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