

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

During the sitting held by the International Court of Justice to-day, May 23rd, in the Case of Certain Norwegian Loans (France v. Norway) Mr. Arntzen Agent and Advocate of the Norwegian Government has concluded the statement of the argument of the Norwegian Government. He has presented the following submissions:

"On the Preliminary Objections:

WHEREAS:

1. The subject of the dispute as defined in the Application is within the domain of municipal law and not of international law, whereas the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court in relation to the Parties involved is restricted, by their Declarations of November 16th, 1946 and March 1st, 1949, to disputes concerning international law;

2. As to that part of the claim which relates to the bond certificates issued by the Mortgage Bank of Norway and the Small Holding and Workers' Housing Bank of Norway, these two Banks have a legal personality separate from that of the Norwegian State; the action cannot therefore be brought against that State as a borrower; whereas moreover the jurisdiction of the Court is limited to disputes between States;

3. The holders of bond certificates for whose protection the French Government considers itself entitled to institute international proceedings have not first exhausted the local remedies.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,

Rejecting all submissions to the contrary,

To adjudge and declare that the claim put forward by the Application of the French Government of July 6th, 1955, is not admissible.

On the Merits:

WHEREAS the claim of the French Government is without foundation,

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,

Rejecting all submissions to the contrary,

To dismiss the claim of the French Government."

The next sitting will open at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 24th when Mr. André Gros, Agent of the Government of the French Republic will present his oral argument in reply.

The Hague, May 23rd, 1957.

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