

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

The Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by a resolution adopted at its 42nd session on November 18th, 1955, acting within the framework of Article XIII of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation, decided to challenge the decisions rendered by the Tribunal on April 26th, 1955, in the Leff, Duberg and Wilcox cases and on October 29th, 1955, in the Bernstein case, and to refer the question of their validity to the International Court of Justice.

Accordingly, the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by a resolution adopted at its 42nd Session on November 25th, 1955, decided to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following questions:

" - Having regard to the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization,

- Having regard to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and to any other relevant texts,

- Having regard to the contracts of appointment of Messrs. Duberg and Leff and Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Bernstein :

I - Was the Administrative Tribunal competent, under Article II of its Statute, to hear the complaints introduced against the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 5 February 1955 by Messrs. Duberg and Leff and Mrs. Wilcox, and on 28 June 1955, by Mrs. Bernstein?

II - In the case of an affirmative answer to Question I :

a) Was the Administrative Tribunal competent to determine whether the power of the Director-General not to renew fixed-term appointments has been exercised for the good of the service and in the interest of the Organization?

b) Was the Administrative Tribunal competent to pronounce on the attitude which the Director-General, under the terms of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, ought to maintain in his relations with a Member State, particularly as regards the execution of the policy of the Government authorities of that Member State?

III - In any case, what is the validity of the decisions given by the Administrative Tribunal in its Judgments Nos. 17, 18, 19 and 21?"

The relevant Request for an Advisory Opinion was received in the Registry of the Court on December 2nd, 1955.

The Hague, December 5th, 1955.