

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

On October 16th, 1957, the Minister of Israel in the Netherlands handed to the Registrar of the International Court of Justice an Application instituting proceedings against the People's Republic of Bulgaria in respect of an aerial incident which occurred on July 27th, 1955.

The Application recalls that on that date an aircraft belonging to an Israeli airline company was shot down on Bulgarian territory by units of the Bulgarian Security Forces. The fifty-one passengers and seven crew members were killed. The Government of Israel has claimed damages from the Bulgarian Government through diplomatic channels. The negotiations not having proved successful, it requests the Court to declare that Bulgaria is responsible under international law for the damage caused and to determine the amount of compensation due.

The Application adds that a number of the victims were nationals of other countries and the Government of Israel understands that the States of which these victims were nationals have also submitted claims against the Bulgarian Government.

For the purpose of establishing the jurisdiction of the Court, the Application invokes the declarations by the two States involved accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, namely, the Declaration of Israel deposited with the Secretariat of the United Nations on October 17th, 1956, in respect of all legal disputes "concerning situations or facts which may arise subsequent to 25 October, 1951", and the Declaration of Bulgaria in respect of which an instrument of ratification was deposited on August 12th, 1921, recognising as compulsory the jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice in relation to any other Member or State accepting the same obligation.

The Hague, October 17th, 1957.

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