

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

The International Court of Justice which is at present engaged on the case of Right of Passage over Indian territory (Portugal v. India), has now taken a number of decisions determining the procedure in other cases pending before the Court.

Case of the Constitution of the Maritime Safety Committee

This case had been referred to the Court for an Advisory Opinion pursuant to a resolution adopted on 19 January 1959 by the Assembly of IMCO (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization). The following question was put to the Court:

"Is the Maritime Safety Committee of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, which was elected on 15 January 1959, constituted in accordance with the Convention for the Establishment of the Organization?"

A time-limit had been set for the submission of written statements by the States members of the Organization. This opportunity was taken advantage of by the Governments of Belgium, France, Liberia, the United States of America, China, Panama, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands and India. The States members of the Organization were then notified that hearings in this matter would begin as soon as possible after 17 April 1960. The following Governments have declared their intention of attending these hearings: The United States of America, Italy, Liberia, Panama, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the Governments of Norway and Pakistan reserved their replies.

The Court has now decided that the hearings in this matter will begin on Tuesday, 26 April 1960 at 10.30. It has also decided that the representatives of States which have expressed the desire to be heard will be called upon in the following order: first, the representatives of States which challenge the validity of the election of 15 January 1959, namely, Liberia, Panama and the United States of America; after that, the representatives of States which do not challenge the validity of the election, namely, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Case of the Aerial Incident of 27 July 1955 (United States of America v. Bulgaria)

This incident, it will be remembered, was the subject of three cases brought before the Court against Bulgaria, one of them by Israel, another by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the third by the United States of America.

The first of these cases elicited preliminary objections from the Bulgarian Government. The Court passed upon these objections on 26 May 1959; admitting the first Bulgarian objection - according to which the Bulgarian declaration of 1921 accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice could not be held to involve acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice - , the Court declared that it had no jurisdiction. In the second of these

cases, the one instituted by the United Kingdom Government, the applicant party withdrew its claim and the Court struck the case off its list.

The third case was also the subject of preliminary objections lodged by the Bulgarian Government and the Court has now fixed Wednesday, 1 June 1960 at 10.30 as the date for the beginning of the hearings of these objections.

Case of the Arbitral Award made by the King of Spain on 23 December 1906 (Honduras v. Nicaragua).

This case was submitted to the Court on 1 July 1958 by an Application of the Honduran Government made against the Government of Nicaragua. The time-limits for the written proceedings were set after consultation with the parties and the case is now ready for hearing. The Court has fixed 15 September 1960 for the beginning of these hearings.

The Hague, 21 March 1960