

ARCHIVES

I.C.J.

Communiqué No. 63/6

(Unofficial)

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

Today, 19 September 1963, at 4 p.m., the International Court of Justice held the first of the public hearings on the Preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court, raised by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the case concerning the Northern Cameroons (Cameroon v. United Kingdom).

After opening the sitting and briefly recalling the stages in the written proceedings covered since the institution of the proceedings by Cameroon by an Application filed on 30 May 1961 (see Communiqué No. 61/16), the President of the Court proceeded to the installation of the judge ad hoc designated by Cameroon in accordance with Article 31, paragraph 2 of the Statute, namely Monsieur Philémon Beb a Don, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Cameroon in Paris.

The President then announced that Judge Córdova, who was prevented by the state of his health from being present at The Hague, would be unable to sit in the present proceedings.

Having noted the presence in Court of the representatives of the Parties, the President called upon the Agent for the Government of the United Kingdom, Sir Francis Vallat.

Sir Francis Vallat made a preliminary declaration to beg leave for the Attorney-General to address the Court. The President called upon the Attorney-General, Sir John Hobson, who began the presentation of the case on behalf of the United Kingdom. He will continue his speech at the hearing tomorrow, 20 September, which will open at 10.30 a.m.

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Note for representatives of the Press with regard to communiqués issued during the hearings in the case concerning the Northern Cameroons

Since representatives of the Press can be present at each sitting and obtain at the end of each day the verbatim record of the day's proceedings, the Registry does not propose to publish during the hearings, daily communiqués which merely indicate the names of the speakers and the date of the next hearing. However, an exception will be made whenever the next hearing is fixed for a date other than the following working day.

As a general rule the Court will not sit on Saturday morning during these proceedings.

The Hague, 19 September 1963