

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

The International Court of Justice today (Saturday, October 20th, 1951) held a hearing in the course of which Sir Eric Beckett, Agent for the United Kingdom Government, concluded that Government's oral Reply in the Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries Case.

Sir Eric Beckett presented his Government's revised conclusions in the case as follows:

The United Kingdom submits that the Court should decide that the maritime limits which Norway is entitled to enforce as against the United Kingdom should be drawn in accordance with the following principles:

- (1) That Norway is entitled to a belt of territorial waters of fixed breadth - the breadth cannot, as a maximum, exceed 4 sea miles.
- (2) That, in consequence, the outer limit of Norway's territorial waters must never be more than 4 sea miles from some point on the base line.
- (3) That, subject to (4), (9) and (10) below, the base line must be low-water mark on permanently dry land (which is part of Norwegian territory) or the proper closing line (see (7) below) of Norwegian internal waters.
- (4) That, where there is a low-tide elevation situated within 4 sea miles of permanently dry land, or of the proper closing line of Norwegian internal waters, the outer limit of territorial waters may be 4 sea miles from the outer edge (at low tide) of this low-tide elevation. In no other case may a low-tide elevation be taken into account.
- (5) That Norway is entitled to claim as Norwegian internal waters, on historic grounds, all fjords and sunds which fall within the conception of a bay as defined in international law (see (6) below), whether the proper closing line of the indentation is more or less than 10 sea miles long.
- (6) That the definition of a bay in international law is a well-marked indentation, whose penetration inland is in such proportion to the width of its mouth as to constitute the indentation more than a mere curvature of the coast.
- (7) That, where an area of water is a bay, the principle which determines where the closing line should be drawn, is that the closing line should be drawn between the natural geographical entrance points, where the indentation ceases to have the configuration of a bay.
- (8) That a legal strait is any geographical strait which connects two portions of the high seas.
- (9) (a) That Norway is entitled to claim as Norwegian territorial waters, on historic grounds, all the waters of the fjords and sunds which have the character of a legal strait.

(b) Where the maritime belts drawn from each shore overlap at each end of the strait, the limit of territorial waters is formed by the outer rims of these two maritime belts. Where, however, the maritime belts so drawn do not overlap, the limit follows the outer rims of each of these two maritime belts, until they intersect with the straight line, joining the natural entrance points of the strait, after which intersection the limit follows that straight line.

(10) That, in the case of the Vestfjord, the outer limit of Norwegian territorial waters at the south-westerly end of the fjord is the Pecked Green Line shown on Charts Nos. 8 and 9 of Annex 35 of the Reply.

(11) That Norway, by reason of her historic title to fjords and sunds (See (5) and (9a) above), is entitled to claim, either as internal or as territorial waters, the areas of water lying between the island fringe and the mainland of Norway. In order to determine what areas must be deemed to lie between the island fringe and the mainland, and whether these areas are internal or territorial waters, the principles of (6), (7) (8) and (9)(b) must be applied to indentations in the island fringe and to indentations between the island fringe and the mainland - those areas, which lie in indentations having the character of bays, and within the proper closing lines thereof, being deemed to be internal waters and those areas, which lie in indentations having the character of legal straits, and within the proper limits thereof, being deemed to be territorial waters.

(12) That Norway is not entitled, as against the United Kingdom, to enforce any claims to waters not covered by the preceding principles. As between Norway and the United Kingdom, waters off the coast of Norway north of parallel $66^{\circ} 28.8' N.$, which are not Norwegian by virtue of the above-mentioned principles, are high seas.

(13) That the Norwegian Royal Decree of 12th July, 1935, is not enforceable against the United Kingdom to the extent that it claims as Norwegian waters (internal or territorial waters), areas of water not covered by (1) - (11).

(14) That Norway is under an international obligation to pay to the United Kingdom compensation in respect of all the arrests since 16th September, 1948, of British fishing vessels in waters which are high seas by virtue of the application of the preceding principles.

Alternatively to Nos. (1) to (13) (if the Court should decide to determine by its judgment the exact limits of the territorial waters which Norway is entitled to enforce against the United Kingdom), that Norway is not entitled as against the United Kingdom to claim as Norwegian waters any areas of water off the Norwegian coasts north of parallel $66^{\circ} 28.8' N.$ which are outside the Pecked Green Line drawn on the charts which form Annex 35 to the Reply.

Alternatively to Nos. (8) to (11) (if the Court should hold that the waters of the Indreleia are Norwegian internal waters), the following are substituted for Nos. (8) to (11):

I. That, in the case of the Vestfjord, the outer limit of Norwegian territorial waters at the south-westerly end of the fjord is a line drawn 4 sea miles seawards of a line joining the Skomvaer lighthouse at Rost to Kalsholmen lighthouse in Tennholman until the intersection of the former line with the arcs of circles in the Pecked Green Line shown on Charts 8 and 9 of Annex 35 of the Reply.

II. That Norway, by reason of her historic title to fjords and sunds is entitled to claim as internal waters the areas of water lying between the island fringe and the mainland of Norway. In order to determine what areas must be deemed to lie between the island fringe and the mainland, the principles of Nos. (6) and (7) above must be applied to the indentations in the island fringe and to the indentations between the island fringe and the mainland - those areas which lie in indentations having the character of bays and within the proper closing lines thereof, being deemed to lie between the island fringe and the mainland.

On the request of Mr. Arntzen, Agent for the Norwegian Government, the next hearing of the Court will be held on Wednesday, October 24th, at 4 p.m. At that time the Agent and Counsel of the Norwegian Government will begin their oral Rejoinder, at the end of which the oral proceedings in the Fisheries Case will terminate.

The Hague, October 20th, 1951.