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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Communiqué

unofficial
for immediate release

No. 90/7
30 May 1990

31-5-90 2000 (1000)
31-5-90, 454 (1000)

Land, Island and Maritime Frontier Dispute (El Salvador/Honduras)

Hearings to open on Tuesday 5 June 1990 on Nicaragua's Application for permission to intervene in the case

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

On 17 November 1989 the Republic of Nicaragua filed in the Registry of the Court an Application for permission to intervene in the above case. In an Order of 28 February 1990 the Court found that it was "for the Chamber formed to deal with the ... case to decide whether the application for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute filed by the Republic of Nicaragua ... should be granted" (see Press Communiqué No. 90/6 of 6 March 1990).

A public sitting, at which the Chamber will hear arguments on the application for permission to intervene, will open on Tuesday 5 June 1990, at 11 a.m., in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace at The Hague. The Chamber will be addressed by representatives of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras.

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Since the Court did not include upon the Bench any judge of the nationality of either El Salvador or Honduras, each proceeded to choose a judge ad hoc in accordance with Article 31 of the Statute. El Salvador chose Mr. N. Valticos and Honduras chose Mr. M. Virally. Both made the solemn declaration required by the Statute and the Rules of Court at the inaugural public sitting of the Chamber on 9 November 1987.

After the death of Mr. Virally, the Agent of Honduras, by a letter dated 9 February 1989, informed the Court that his Government had chosen Mr. Santiago Torres Bernárdez to sit as Judge ad hoc in the place of Judge Virally. By an Order dated 13 December 1989 the Court took note of the death of Judge Virally and the nomination of Mr. Torres Bernárdez and of a number of communications from the Parties, noted that it appeared that El Salvador had no objection to the choice of Mr. Torres Bernárdez, and that no objection to that choice appeared to the Court itself, and declared the Chamber to be composed as follows: Judge Sette-Camara, President; Judges Oda and Sir Robert Jennings; Judges ad hoc Valticos and Torres Bernárdez.

The new Judge ad hoc, whose succinct biography is appended to this Communiqué, will make the solemn declaration at the public sitting announced above.

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sitting will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Members of the Press will be entitled to attend on presentation of an admission card, which may be obtained upon application. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance of the courtroom.

2. Photographs may be taken before the opening, during the first five minutes of the sittings; and also for a few minutes towards the end. Filming for cinema or television purposes is however subject to special authorization.

3. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the oral proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

4. Members of the Press may use only the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Palace.

5. Mr. Witteveen, Secretary of the Court (telephone extension 233) or, in his absence, Mrs. El-Erian (telephone extension 234), will be available to deal with any requests for information by members of the Press.

Mr. Santiago TORRES BERNARDEZ

Born in Vigo (Spain) on 18 November 1929.

Member of the Bar of Madrid.

Adviser to the Spanish Foreign Ministry (questions relating to the peaceful settlement of international disputes).

Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

"Licenciado" (1952) and Doctor of Law (1959) of the University of Valladolid. "Diplômé d'études supérieures européennes" (1955) and Doctor of Law (1957) of the University of Saar.

Assistant at the Institute of International Law and International Relations of the University of Würzburg (1956-1958).

Legal Officer (1959-1975) and Deputy-Director (1975-1980) of the Codification Division at the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Organization. United Nations Expert on the Committee set up by the International Committee of the Red Cross to study the prohibition of weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects (1973). Member of the United Nations delegation to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of Humanitarian International Law applicable in Armed Conflicts (1974, 1976). United Nations Observer during the referendum to ratify the new treaties relating to the Panama Canal (1977).

Director of Studies at the Centre for Studies and Research of The Hague Academy of International Law (1970) and lecturer invited to the Buenos Aires session of the Academy External Programme (1972). Invited to teach at the Caracas session of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (1973).

Registrar of the International Court of Justice (1980-1986).

Registrar of the Arbitration Tribunal for the determination of the maritime boundary between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau (1988-1989).

Member of the Institute of International Law.

Member of the Société française pour le droit international, the International Law Association, the American Society of International Law and the Instituto Hispano-Luso-Americano de Derecho Internacional.
Honorary Member of the Asociación española de profesores de derecho internacional y relaciones internacionales.

A member of the teaching staff of the Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset (Madrid).

Awarded the Gran Cruz del Mérito Civil (Spain).

Author of numerous publications in the field of international law.