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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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2 March 1989

Elettronica Sicula S.p.A. (ELSI)
(United States of America v. Italy)

Progress and conclusion of public hearings

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

The public hearings held by the Chamber of the Court dealing with the case concerning Elettronica Sicula S.p.A. (ELSI), which opened on 13 February 1989, were concluded today, 2 March 1989.

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During the first round of oral arguments, held between 13 and 23 February, statements on behalf of the United States of America were made by the Honorable Mr. Abraham D. Sofaer and Mr. Michael J. Matheson, Co-Agents; Mr. Timothy E. Ramish, Deputy-Agent; the Honorable Mr. Richard N. Gardner and Mr. Sean D. Murphy Counsel and Advocates; and Messrs. Franco Bonelli and Elio Fazzalari, Advisers.

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The United States of America presented two witnesses and an expert.

On 13 and 14 February Mr. Charles Adams (witness) was examined by the Honorable Mr. Abraham D. Sofaer and cross-examined by Mr. Keith Highet of Italy. Judge Schwebel put a question to him.

On 14 February. Mr. John Clare (witness) was examined by Ms. Melinda P. Chandler of the United States and cross-examined by Mr. Keith Highet. A question was put to him by Judge Sir Robert Jennings.

On 16 February the Chamber heard a statement by Mr. Timothy Lawrence (expert), who was later questioned by Mr. Michael Joachim Bonell of Italy.

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Mr. Michael J. Matheson, Co-Agent, read the final submissions of his Government.

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Statements on behalf of Italy were made by Mr. Luigi Ferrari Bravo, Agent and Counsel; Mr. Riccardo Monaco, Co-Agent and Counsel; Mr. Ignazio Caramazza, Co-Agent and Advocate; Messrs. Michael Joachim Bonell, Francesco Capotorti, Giorgio Gaja, Keith Highet and Berardino Libonati, Counsel and Advocates.

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Italy presented an expert, Mr. Alan Derek Hayward, who made a statement on 22 February and to whom questions were put by President Ruda and Judge Schwebel.

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Mr. Luigi Ferrari Bravo, the Agent of Italy, read the final submissions of his Government.

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During and at the end of the first round of oral arguments questions were put to the Agents of both Parties by President Ruda and Judges Oda, Schwebel and Sir Robert Jennings.

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The second round of oral arguments took place on 27 February and 2 March 1989. The speakers were:

- on behalf of the United States of America, Mr. Michael J. Matheson, Co-Agent; Ms. Melinda P. Chandler, Counsel and Advocate; and Mr. Giuseppe Bisconti, Adviser.

Mr. Bisconti also gave evidence on matters within his personal knowledge and was cross-examined with regard to those matters by Mr. Keith Highet.

Mr. Timothy Lawrence (expert) also made a statement.

- on behalf of Italy, Mr. Luigi Ferrari Bravo, Agent and Counsel; Mr. Ignazio Caramazza, Co-Agent and Advocate; Messrs. Francesco Capotorti, Giorgio Gaja, Keith Highet and Berardino Libonati, Counsel and Advocates.

Mr. Matheson, Co-Agent of the United States of America and Mr. Ferrari Bravo, Agent of Italy, confirmed the final submissions of their Governments as they had been presented at the conclusion of their respective first rounds of oral pleadings.

Questions were put to the Co-Agent of the United States of America by President Ruda and Judges Oda, Schwebel and Sir Robert Jennings.

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The oral arguments now being completed, the Chamber will begin to consider its Judgment. The date of the public sitting at which the Judgment is to be read will be announced in an ensuing press communiqué.