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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Communiqué

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Members of the Court and Staff 10.30
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Applicability of the Obligation to Arbitrate under Section 21
of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement of 26 June 1947

Oral proceedings held

The following information is made available to the Press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice.

In the course of the accelerated procedure applied by the International Court of Justice in connection with the request submitted on 2 March 1988 by the General Assembly of the United Nations for an advisory opinion on the question whether the United States is obliged to have recourse to arbitration under Section 21 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, the Court, at public sittings on 11 and 12 April 1988, heard the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Mr. Carl-August Fleischhauer, make comments on behalf of the Organization and reply to questions put from the bench by Judges Oda, Schwebel, Guillaume and Shahabuddeen.

The General Assembly's request arose from the situation which had developed following the signing of the 1987 Anti-Terrorism Act adopted by the United States Congress, a law which, if implemented, would result in the closure of the office of the Observer Mission to the United Nations maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Court is now deliberating its decision.