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Communiqué unofficial

for immediate release

93/30 13 September 1993

Request by WHO for an Advisory Opinion

Order fixing time-limits

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

As mentioned in Press Communiqué 93/26 of 3 September 1993 the World Health Assembly adopted, on 14 May 1993, Resolution WHA 46.40, which requested an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the following question:

"In view of the health and environmental effects, would the use of nuclear weapons by a State in war or other armed conflict be a breach of its obligations under international law including the WHO Constitution?"

The letter from the Director-General of the World Health Organization transmitting the request was received in the Registry of the Court on 3 September 1993.

The Court, by an Order of 13 September 1993, fixed 10 June 1994 as the time-limit within which written statements relating to the question may be submitted to the Court by the World Health Organisation and by those of its member States who are entitled to appear before the Court.

The subsequent procedure is reserved for further decision.