



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Legality of the Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed Conflict (Request for Advisory Opinion by the World Health Organization)

Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (Request for Advisory Opinion by the General Assembly of the United Nations)

Progress and conclusion of hearings

The public hearings concerning the request for an advisory opinion submitted by the World Health Organization on the question of the Legality of the Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed Conflict as well as the request submitted by the United Nations General Assembly on the question of the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, which opened on Monday 30 October 1995, were concluded on Wednesday 15 November.

During the hearings statements were made:

- on behalf of the World Health Organization, by Mr. Claude-Henri Vignes, Legal Counsel (on the request submitted by WHO only);
- on behalf of Australia, by Mr. Gavan Griffith, Q.C., Solicitor-General of Australia, and by the Honourable Gareth Evans, Q.C., Senator, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of Egypt, by Mr. Georges Abi-Saab, Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Member of the Institute of International Law;
- on behalf of France, by Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Director of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Mr. Alain Pellet, Professor of International Law, University of Paris X and Institute of Political Studies, Paris;
- on behalf of Germany, by Mr. Hartmut Hillgenberg, Director-General of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of Indonesia, by H.E. Mr. Johannes Berchmans Soedarmanto Kadarisman, Ambassador of Indonesia to the Netherlands;
- on behalf of Mexico, by H.E. Ambassador Sergio González Gálvez, Undersecretary of Foreign Relations;
- on behalf of Iran, by H.E. Mr. Mohammad J. Zarif, Deputy Minister, Legal and International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of Italy, by Mr. Umberto Leanza, Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Head of the Diplomatic Legal Service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Agent of the Italian Government before the International Courts;
- on behalf of Japan, by Mr. Takekazu Kawamura, Ambassador, Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by Mr. Takashi Hiraoka, Mayor of Hiroshima, and by Mr. Iccho Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki;
- on behalf of Malaysia, Dato' Mohtar Abdullah, Attorney-General, and by Ambassador Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York;
- on behalf of New Zealand, the Honourable Paul East, Q.C., Attorney-General of New Zealand, and by Mr. Allan Bracegirdle, Deputy Director of the Legal Division of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;

- on behalf of the Philippines, by Professor Merlin M. Magallona, Dean, College of Law, University of the Philippines, Agent, and by H.E. Mr. Rodolfo S. Sanchez, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Netherlands;
- on behalf of Qatar, by H.E. Mr. Najeeb ibn Mohammed Al-Nauimi, Minister of Justice;
- on behalf of the Russian Federation, by Mr. A. G. Khodakov, Director, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of San Marino, by Mrs. Federica Bigi, Official in charge of Political Directorate, Department of Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of Samoa, by H.E. Mr. Neroni Slade, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, New York, by Mr. Roger Clark, Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers University School of Law, Camden, New Jersey, and by Mrs. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva;
- on behalf of the Marshall Islands, by the Honourable Theodore G. Kronmiller, Legal Counsel, Embassy of the Marshall Islands to the United States, and by Mrs. Lijon Eknilang, Council Member, Rongelap Atoll Local Government;
- on behalf of Solomon Islands, by the Honourable Victor Ngele, Minister for Police and National Security, by Mr. Jean Salmon, Professor of Law, Université libre de Bruxelles, by Mr. James Crawford, Whewell Professor of International Law, University of Cambridge, by Mr. Eric David, Professor of Law, Université libre de Bruxelles, and by Mr. Philippe Sands, Lecturer in Law, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, and Legal Director, Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development;
- on behalf of Costa Rica, by Mr. Carlos Vargas-Pizarro, Legal Counsel and Special Envoy of the Government of Costa Rica;
- on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, by the Right Honourable Sir Nicholas Lyell, Q.C., M.P., Her Majesty's Attorney-General;
- on behalf of the United States of America, by Mr. Conrad K. Harper, Agent and Legal Adviser, US Department of State, by Mr. Michael J. Matheson, Principal Deputy Legal Adviser, US Department of State, and by Mr. John H. McNeill, Senior Deputy General Counsel, US Department of Defense;
- on behalf of Zimbabwe, by Mr. Jonathan Wutawunashe, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Brussels.

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Questions were put:

- with regard to the request for an advisory opinion by WHO only, by Judge Koroma, to the representative of WHO;
- with regard to both requests:
 - * by Vice-President Schwebel, to France, Mexico, Iran and Solomon Islands;
 - * by Judges Shi and Vereshchetin, to all delegations.

In this regard the President pointed out that replies were to be given in writing, within 15 days, and that the Court considered that, even if questions were put to a particular State or to WHO they were deemed by the Court and by those asking them as being addressed as well to any other State taking part in the oral proceedings.

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The Court will now begin to consider its advisory opinions. The date of the public sitting at which the advisory opinions are to be read will be announced in a Press Communiqué.
