



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Case concerning the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations**  
**(Paraguay v. United States of America)**

**Fixing of time-limits for the filing of written pleadings**

THE HAGUE, 9 April 1998. Today, Vice-President Weeramantry of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), exercising the functions of the presidency in the case, fixed by an Order the time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in the case concerning the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (Paraguay v. United States of America).

Paraguay shall file a Memorial by 9 June 1998 and the United States a Counter-Memorial by 9 September 1998.

The Vice-President fixed these time-limits taking into account the agreement between the Parties and the Order on provisional measures issued today by the Court in which it declared that "it is appropriate that the Court, with the co-operation of the Parties, ensure that any decision on the merits be reached with all possible expedition". The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

Paraguay instituted proceedings against the United States on 3 April 1998 in a dispute concerning alleged violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963 with respect to the case of Mr. Angel Francisco Breard, a Paraguayan national convicted of murder in Virginia (United States) whose execution is scheduled for 14 April 1998.

Paraguay maintains that Mr. Breard was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to death without Virginia advising him of his right to assistance by the consular officers of Paraguay, as required by the Vienna Convention. Accordingly, Paraguay asked the Court to adjudge and declare that it is entitled to restitutio in integrum, that is, the re-establishment of the situation that existed before the United States failed to provide the required notification. In view of the urgency of the case, Paraguay also requested the Court to indicate provisional measures to the effect that the United States should refrain from executing Mr. Breard before the Court could consider Paraguay's claims. Paraguay made clear that it does not seek the release of Mr. Breard.

In its Order on provisional measures rendered today, the Court called on the United States to "take all measures at its disposal" to prevent the execution of Mr. Breard, pending a final decision of the Court in the proceedings instituted by Paraguay.

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