



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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

Extension of time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 9 June 1998. The Vice-President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Judge Christopher G. Weeramantry, Acting President, extended by 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).

The time-limit for the filing of the Memorial of Paraguay has been extended to 9 October 1998 and the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the United States to 9 April 1999.

The Order was made in response to a request from Paraguay to extend to 9 August 1998 the time-limit for the filing of its Memorial. The United States reacted to this request by proposing additional time, to which Paraguay agreed.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the dispute

On 3 April 1998 Paraguay instituted proceedings against the United States 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 was scheduled for 14 April 1998 and who was eventually executed on that date.

Paraguay maintained 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 it clear that it did not seek the release of Mr. Breard.

In an Order which was adopted unanimously on 9 April 1998, 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. It also requested the United States to inform it of all the measures taken to that end.

In a second Order of the same date, the Vice-President of the Court fixed time-limits for the filing of written pleadings. Paraguay was to have filed a Memorial by 9 June 1998 and the United States a Counter-Memorial by 9 September 1998.

The Vice-President exercises the functions of the presidency in the case, as the President is a national of the United States.

Address of the Court's Website: <http://www.icj-cij.org>

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