

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice has been communicated to the Press :

To-day, 28th October, 1950, the Chargé d'affaires of France at The Hague filed with the Registry of the International Court of Justice, on behalf of the Government of the French Republic, an Application instituting proceedings before the Court against the Government of the United States of America concerning the rights of United States nationals in Morocco.

The Application states that the Government of the United States of America has protested to the French Government against measures taken in December, 1948, by the Shereefian Government subjecting to licence such imports to Morocco which do not involve an official allocation of currency and limiting these imports to certain products indispensable to the Moroccan economic system. The Government of the United States has pointed out that these measures, which had been taken under the system of exchange control set up in 1939, affected, in an essential point, the rights which the American Government regards as pertaining to it under its treaties with Morocco; involving the treaty of 16th September, 1836, it contends that no Moroccan laws or regulations can be applied to American nationals without its previous consent.

In its Application, the French Government asks the Court to declare that the Government of the United States is not within its right in making such a claim. American nationals are not entitled to enjoy a preferential treatment, and should be subject to the laws and regulations in force within the Shereefian Empire, in particular as regards imports not involving currency.

The Application of the French Government, which invokes the declarations by which the French and American Governments have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, has been notified to Washington to-day by the Registry.

The Hague, 28th October, 1950.

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