



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Certain Property
(Liechtenstein v. Germany)

Fixing of the time-limit within which the Principality of Liechtenstein may present a written statement on the preliminary objections made by the Federal Republic of Germany

THE HAGUE, 26 July 2002. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Judge Gilbert Guillaume, has fixed the time-limit within which the Principality of Liechtenstein may present a written statement on the preliminary objections made by the Federal Republic of Germany in the case concerning Certain Property (Liechtenstein v. Germany).

By an Order of 12 July 2002, the President, taking account of the views of the Parties, fixed 15 November 2002 as the time-limit for the filing of that written statement.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

On 27 June 2002, Germany filed certain preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court to deal with the case and to the admissibility of the claims of Liechtenstein. The proceedings on the merits of the dispute were accordingly suspended pursuant to Article 79, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Court and a time-limit had to be fixed for the presentation by Liechtenstein of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections.

History of the proceedings

On 1 June 2001 Liechtenstein instituted proceedings against Germany relating to a dispute concerning “decisions of Germany, in and after 1998, to treat certain property of Liechtenstein nationals as German assets having been ‘seized for the purposes of reparation or restitution, or as a result of the state of war’ — i.e., as a consequence of World War II —, without ensuring any compensation for the loss of that property to its owners, and to the detriment of Liechtenstein itself”.

In its Application, Liechtenstein requested the Court “to adjudge and declare that Germany has incurred international legal responsibility and is bound to make appropriate reparation to Liechtenstein for the damage and prejudice suffered”. Liechtenstein further requested “that the nature and amount of such reparation should, in the absence of agreement between the parties, be assessed and determined by the Court, if necessary, in a separate phase of the proceedings”.

As a basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Liechtenstein invoked Article 1 of the European Convention for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, signed at Strasbourg on 29 April 1957.

The full text of the Court's Order will shortly be available on the Court's website at the following address: **www.icj-cij.org**.

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