

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

On April 9th, 1951, the Greek Minister at The Hague filed an Application with the Registry of the International Court of Justice instituting proceedings before the Court against the Government of the United Kingdom in regard to the rights of N.E. Ambatielos, a Greek national.

According to the terms of the Application, M. Ambatielos, a Greek shipowner, who had concluded a contract with the United Kingdom Government in 1919 for the purchase of nine steamships, suffered prejudice owing to the non-delivery of the said ships within the specified time-limits. It is alleged that he was unable to obtain recognition of his rights in the competent British courts; that the latter failed to observe, in regard to his case, certain essential rules of British procedure, thus contravening the international customary law and the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of November 10th, 1886, between Great Britain and Greece; and that the Hellenic Government, having adopted the cause of its national, then proposed a recourse to arbitration to the Government of the United Kingdom, in application of one of the clauses of the above-mentioned treaty. This proposal is stated to have been refused, thus bringing into operation another international act—the Greco-Britannic Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of July 11th, 1926,—and thereby opening the way to a recourse to the International Court of Justice.

The Application concludes by requesting the Court to declare that effect must be given to the arbitral procedure referred to in the Treaty of 1886.

The Hellenic Government's Application has been communicated to the United Kingdom, and the other customary notifications in regard to it will be made forthwith.

The Hague, April 13th, 1951.

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