

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

To-day, September 17th, 1953, the International Court of Justice held two public hearings to deal with the dispute between the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the islets and rocks of the Minquiers and Ecrehos.

The Court sat under the presidency of its Vice-President, M. J.G. Guerrero, since its President, Sir Arnold McNair, is a national of one of the Parties in the case. Two Members of the Court were not sitting: Judge Zoricic and Sir Benegal Rau were prevented from doing so by the state of their health. Furthermore, M. Golunski had resigned from the Court last July.

The Government of the French Republic was represented before the Court by:

Professor André Gros, Legal Adviser to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as Agent, assisted by M. Burnay, Conseiller d'Etat; Admiral Durand de Saint-Front, M. Prosper Weil, Professor at the Law Faculty of Grenoble, and M. Pierre Duparc, Assistant Keeper of Archives at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as Expert Advisers.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was represented by:

Mr. R.S.B. Best, Third Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office, as Agent, assisted by Sir Lionel Heald, Q.C., M.P., Attorney-General, Mr. C.S. Harrison, O.B.E., Attorney-General for the Island of Jersey, Mr. G.G. Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., Legal Adviser, Foreign Office, Professor E.C.S. Wade, Downing Professor of the Laws of England in the University of Cambridge, and Mr. D.H.N. Johnson, Assistant Legal Adviser, Foreign Office, as Counsel, and by Mr. J.D. Lambert, Research Department, Foreign Office, as Expert Adviser.

Pursuant to the agreement between the Parties, the Acting President called upon the Agent of the United Kingdom Government, who asked that the Attorney-General be permitted to open the case for the United Kingdom.

Sir Lionel Heald began his speech.

He will continue his speech at the sitting which will begin tomorrow, September 18th, at 10.30 a.m.

The Hague, September 17th, 1953.

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