

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

In the case concerning Judgments of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation upon complaints made against the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Court has just fixed a time-limit for the filing of further written statements.

The matter was referred to the Court for an Advisory Opinion by the Executive Board of UNESCO. This international organization is one of those which, in respect of its own staff members, has recognized the jurisdiction of the Administrative Tribunal established by the International Labour Organisation for hearing complaints by its officials against the Administration, alleging non-observance of the terms of appointment of officials, or any other relevant provision of the Staff Regulations. Article XII of the Statute of this Administrative Tribunal provides that in any case in which one of the international organizations concerned challenges a decision of the Tribunal confirming its jurisdiction, or considers that a decision of the Tribunal is vitiated by a fundamental fault in the procedure followed, it may seize the International Court of Justice, whose opinion shall be binding. As regards the present request for an Opinion, the Judgments involved concern four officials of UNESCO whose contracts of employment were not renewed, who appealed to the Administrative Tribunal which found in their favour.

In December 1955, when the Request for an Opinion was received from the Executive Board of UNESCO, the President of the Court decided, in pursuance of Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute, that the States Members of UNESCO and the organizations referred to above, were likely to be able to furnish information on the questions referred to the Court and would therefore be entitled to present written statements. For this purpose April 30th, 1956 was fixed as a time-limit. Within that time-limit the Court received from UNESCO a written statement to which was appended a statement of the observations and submissions of the officials concerned; written statements were also received from the Governments of the United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of China. These statements were communicated by the Registrar to all the States and organizations referred to above.

Since the Court does not contemplate holding oral hearings in this case, the new time-limit which has just been fixed and which expires on June 30th, 1956 will enable any of the Governments and organizations referred to above which desire to do so to comment in writing upon the written statements that have been filed.

The Court will begin its deliberations in this case at the beginning of September 1956.

The Hague, May 31st, 1956.

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