

I.C.J.

Communiqué No. 57/21.

(Unofficial)

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

Today, September 23rd, 1957, the International Court of Justice held the first of the public hearings of the Preliminary Objections to the jurisdiction of the Court, raised by the Government of India in the case of the Right of Passage over Indian Territory (Portugal v. India).

After opening the sitting and briefly recalling the stages in the written proceedings covered since the institution of the case by Portugal in December, 1955, the President of the Court (Mr. G. H. Hackworth) appointed Mr. Mahomed Ali Currim Chagla and Mr. Manuel Fernandes, designated respectively by the Governments of India and Portugal, to sit as judges ad hoc.

The President next noted the presence of the representatives of the Parties and announced that, in conformity with Article 51 of the Rules of Court, the Court had decided to hear first the Agent for the Government of India, that Government having lodged the Preliminary Objections. He called upon the Agent (Shri B. K. Kapur, Ambassador of India at The Hague), who requested that Shri M. C. Setalvad, Attorney General of India, should be authorised to open the case for the Government of India.

Shri M. G. Setalvad then made a general statement. At the hearing beginning at 10. 30 a.m. on September 24th, Professor C. H. M. Waldock will continue the statement for the Government of India.

The Hague, 23rd September, 1957.