

ARCHIVES

I.C.J.

Communiqué No. 62/24
(Unofficial)

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

Today, 2 October 1962, at 4 p.m., the International Court of Justice held the first of the public hearings on the Preliminary Objections to the jurisdiction of the Court, raised by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in the South West Africa cases (Ethiopia v. South Africa; Liberia v. South Africa).

After opening the sitting and briefly recalling the stages in the written proceedings covered since the institution of the cases by Ethiopia and Liberia by two Applications filed on 4 November 1960 (see Communiqués No. 61/15 and 62/23), the President of the Court proceeded to the installation of the two judges ad hoc designated by the Parties in accordance with Article 31, paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Statute, namely Sir Louis Mbanefo, Chief Justice of the High Court, Eastern Region of Nigeria, designated by Ethiopia and Liberia acting in concert, and the Honourable Jacques Theodore van Wyk, Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, designated by the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The President then announced that Judge Córdova, who was prevented by the state of his health from being present at The Hague, would be unable to sit in the present proceedings.

Having noted the presence in Court of the representatives of the Parties, the President called upon the Agent for the Government of the Republic of South Africa, Dr. J. P. verLoren van Themaat, S.C.

Dr. verLoren van Themaat opened the case on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. He was followed by Mr. D. P. de Villiers, S.C., Member of the South African Bar, who began his address to the Court on the first and second Preliminary Objections. He will continue at the hearing tomorrow, 3 October, which will open at 10.30 a.m.

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Note for representatives of the Press with regard to
communiqués issued during the hearings in the South
West Africa cases

Since representatives of the Press can be present at each sitting and obtain at the end of each day the verbatim record of the day's proceedings, the Registry does not propose to publish during the hearings, daily communiqués which merely indicate the names of the speakers and the date of the next hearing. However, an exception will be made whenever the next hearing is fixed for a date other than the following working day.

As a general rule the Court will not sit on Saturday morning during these proceedings.

The Hague, 2 October 1962.