

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

The International Court of Justice to-day (October 1st, 1951) held two hearings, in the course of which Sir Eric Beckett, K.C., Agent for the United Kingdom, and Mr. R.O. Wilberforce, of the English Bar, continued and concluded the British argument in the Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries case.

Sir Eric Beckett presented his Government's submissions in the case, while reserving the right to introduce modifications to these at the close of the oral proceedings. His submissions were as follows:

- (1) That Norway is entitled to a band of territorial waters of fixed breadth - the breadth cannot, as maximum, exceed 4 sea miles.
- (2) That in consequence the outer limit of Norway's territorial waters must never be more than 4 sea miles from some point on the base line.
- (3) That, subject to (4), (9) and (10) below, the base line must be low water mark on permanently dry land (which is part of Norwegian territory) or the proper closing line (see 7 below) of Norwegian internal waters.
- (4) That, where there is a low tide elevation situated within 4 sea miles of permanently dry land, or of the proper closing line of Norwegian internal waters, the outer limit of territorial waters may be 4 sea miles from the outer edge (at low tide) of this low tide elevation. In no other case may a low tide elevation be taken into account.
- (5) That Norway is entitled to claim as Norwegian internal waters on historic grounds all fjords and sunds, which fall within the conception of a bay as defined in international law, whether the proper entrance to the indentation is more or less than 10 miles wide.
- (6) That the definition of a bay in international law is a well-marked indentation, whose penetration inland is in such proportion to the width of its mouth, as to constitute the indentation more than a mere curvature of the coast.
- (7) That where an area of water is a bay, the principle which determines where the closing line should be drawn is that the closing line should be drawn between the natural geographical entrance points, where the indentation ceases to have the configuration of a bay.
- (8) That a legal strait is any geographical strait which connects two portions of the high seas.
- (9) That Norway is entitled to claim as Norwegian territorial waters, on historic grounds, all the waters of the fjords and sunds, which have the character of a legal strait. At each end of the strait, where the maritime belts drawn from each shore overlap, the limit of territorial waters is formed by the outer rims of these two maritime belts. Where, however, the maritime belts so drawn do not overlap, the limit follows the rims of each of these two maritime belts, until they intersect with the straight line joining the natural entrance of the strait, after which intersection the limit follows that straight line.

(10) That the proper closing line of the Vestfjord at the south-westerly end of the fjord is that shown on Charts Nos. 8 and 9 of Annex 35 to the Reply.

(11) That Norway by reason of her historic title to fjords and sunds, is entitled to claim either as internal or territorial waters, the areas of water lying between the island fringe and the mainland of Norway, and in order to determine what areas must be deemed to lie between the islands and the mainland, and whether they are territorial or internal waters, recourse must be had to Nos. 6 and 8 above, being the definitions of a bay and of legal straits.

(12) That Norway is not entitled as against the United Kingdom to enforce any claim to waters not covered by the preceding principles. As between Norway and the United Kingdom waters off the coast of Norway north of parallel  $66^{\circ} 28.8' N.$  which are not Norwegian by virtue of the above-mentioned principles, are high seas.

(13) That Norway is under an international obligation to pay to the United Kingdom compensation in respect of the arrests of all British fishing vessels in waters which are high seas by virtue of the application of the preceding principles.

The next hearings will be devoted to the Norwegian arguments. At the request of the Norwegian Agent, the first of these hearings has been fixed for Friday, October 5th. It will begin at 10.30 a.m.

The Hague, October 1st, 1951.

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