



ARCHIVES

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, The Hague · Tel. 39 23 44 · Cables: Intercourt, The Hague

**communiqué**

*unofficial  
for immediate release*

*Number of addresses: 999*

No. 71/7  
14 May 1971

Request for an Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences for  
States of the Continued Presence of South Africa in Namibia  
(South West Africa) notwithstanding  
Security Council Resolution 276 (1970)

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

The International Court of Justice has rejected two requests by the Government of South Africa, one concerning the possible holding of a plebiscite in Namibia (South West Africa) and the other the supply of further factual material on the situation in the Territory. After examining the matter, the Court does not find itself in need of further arguments or information.

Today, 14 May, the President has written notifying the Court's decision to the representatives of those States and organizations which presented oral statements to the Court in the proceedings concerning the advisory opinion requested by the Security Council on the Legal Consequences for States of the Continued Presence of South Africa in Namibia (South West Africa) notwithstanding Security Council resolution 276 (1970).

The first request rejected concerned a suggestion for the holding of a plebiscite in Namibia (South West Africa) under the joint supervision of the Court and the South African Government. Announced in a letter of 27 January 1971, this was put forward in a further letter of 6 February and enlarged upon by the South African representative at public sittings on 16 February and 5, 10 and 17 March. Views on the proposal were heard from the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, Finland, India, Pakistan and the United States, at the sittings of 9, 10, 11 and 15 February, and 8 and 9 March.

The second request was to be allowed to supply the Court with further factual material concerning the situation in Namibia (South West Africa), following the written and oral statements already presented by South Africa on the points of law raised by the question put to the Court by the Security Council. This was notified in the letters of 27 January and 6 February and enlarged upon at the sittings of 5, 16 and 17 March.

At the public sitting of 17 March the President stated that the Court would have to defer its decision on the two requests.

The date on which the Court will deliver its advisory opinion will be announced in due course.