



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel. 92 44 41 Cables: Intercourt, The Hague

Communiqué

*unofficial
for immediate release*

No. 78/5
4 October 1978

Aegean Sea Continental Shelf:

Opening of Oral Proceedings

The following information is made available to the press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

On Monday 9 October 1978, at 10 a.m., the International Court of Justice will open public sittings in the Great Hall of Justice at the Peace Palace, The Hague, in order to hear argument on the question of its jurisdiction to deal with the dispute between Greece and Turkey in the case concerning the Aegean Sea Continental Shelf.

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It was on 10 August 1976 that Greece instituted proceedings before the Court with regard to its dispute with Turkey on the delimitation of the continental shelf of the Aegean Sea. Greece is asking the Court, *inter alia*, to declare that the Greek islands situated off the Turkish coast are entitled to the portion of the continental shelf which appertains to them according to the applicable principles and rules of international law, to indicate the course of the boundary between the portions of the continental shelf appertaining to the two respective States and to declare that Turkey is not entitled to undertake any activities on the Greek continental shelf, whether by exploration, exploitation, research or otherwise, without the consent of Greece.

Simultaneously with its institution of proceedings Greece requested the Court to indicate, under Article 41 of its Statute, interim measures of protection directing both States, pending the Court's final judgment, to refrain, unless with each other's consent, from all exploration activity or any scientific research with respect to the areas in dispute, and from any actions that might endanger their peaceful relations. On 11 September 1976 the Court made an Order finding, by twelve votes to one, that the circumstances were not such as to require the exercise of its power under Article 41 of the Statute to indicate interim measures of protection.

In the same Order the Court stressed that this decision in no way prejudged the question of its jurisdiction on the merits of the case and decided that the further proceedings should first be addressed to the question of its jurisdiction to entertain the dispute. Greece has filed a Memorial on this question. Turkey did not file any Counter-Memorial within the time allowed it for the purpose, which expired on 24 April 1978, but on that date the Registrar of the Court received a letter in which the Government of Turkey, believing the Court to be without jurisdiction, informed the Court that it did not intend to appoint an agent or submit a Counter-Memorial.

20/10/78

NOTE FOR THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

1. The public sittings at the Court will be heard from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace (with a short adjournment at 11.20 a.m.). The arguments delivered in French will be simultaneously interpreted into English and vice versa. Most of the seats in the Hall are equipped with headphones enabling the interpretation to be followed.

Members of the press will be entitled to attend all the public sittings on presentation of an admission card, which may be obtained upon application. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

Photographs may be taken before the opening and during the first five minutes of each sitting. Filming for cinema or television purposes is however subject to special authorization.

On the ground floor of the Peace Palace there is a press room (room 5), and there are public telephones in the Post Office situated in the basement.

2. Copies, in the original language, of the verbatim record of each sitting will be available in the press room at the beginning of the morning following the hearing in question. Other copies will be available at the Nieuwspoord International Press Centre, Hofsingel 12, The Hague, in the course of the evening following the sitting in question. Translations of these records are made available to the press at the same places approximately 48 hours later.

3. Mr. C. Poux, First Secretary of the Court (telephone extension 233), will be available to deal with any requests for information from members of the press. In the absence of Mr. Poux, Mr. Noble (extension 248) will deal with such enquiries.