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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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

Telex 32323

Communiqué

*unofficial
for immediate release*

No. 84/37

19 November 1984

Continental Shelf (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Malta)

Hearing to open on 26 November 1984
at 3 p.m.

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

The Court is to hold public sittings, in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace, beginning on Monday, 26 November 1984, at 3 p.m. in the Continental Shelf case (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Malta). It will be hearing argument concerning the delimitation of the continental shelf as between those two States, which is the underlying issue in the present dispute.

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The case is before the Court by virtue of a Special Agreement concluded between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malta on 23 May 1976 and notified jointly to the Court on 26 July 1982.

The oral proceedings which are to open on 26 November 1984 were preceded by a written stage in which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malta each filed three written documents, namely a Memorial, a Counter-Memorial and a Reply, within the prescribed time-limits. The documentation which the Parties have submitted to the Court in order to substantiate their claims is very voluminous (some 3,400 pages).

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In the course of the written proceedings, the Government of Italy submitted an application for permission to intervene, considering that it had an interest of a legal nature which might be affected by the decision in the case, but after hearing the arguments of Italy and of the Parties the Court decided, in a Judgment delivered on 21 March 1984, that Italy's request could not be granted.

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P.O. Peace Palace
20.11.84 (2700)

Since...

Since the Court did not include upon the Bench any Judge of the nationality of the Parties, each of them has chosen a Judge ad hoc in accordance with Article 31 of the Statute. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya chose Mr. E. Jiménez de Aréchaga and Malta, Mr. J. Castañeda. Each made the solemn declaration required by Article 20 of the Statute and sat in the proceedings concerning the Italian Application for permission to intervene. Since then, Mr. J. Castañeda has resigned for health reasons. Malta has appointed a new Judge ad hoc, Mr. N. Valticos, whose curriculum vitae is appended as an Annex to this communiqué. He will make the solemn declaration required by Article 20 of the Statute at the hearing on 26 November 1984. There will be no need for Mr. Jiménez de Aréchaga to renew his solemn declaration.

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Under the terms of Article I of the Special Agreement concluded by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malta on 23 May 1976, the Court is required to decide the following question:

"What principles and rules of international law are applicable to the delimitation of the area of the continental shelf which appertains to the Republic of Malta and the area of continental shelf which appertains to the Libyan Arab Republic, and how in practice such principles and rules can be applied by the two Parties in this particular case in order that they may without difficulty delimit such areas by an agreement as provided in Article III."

Article III reads as follows:

"Following the final decision of the International Court of Justice the Government of the Republic of Malta and the Government of the Libyan Arab Republic shall enter into negotiations for determining the area of their respective continental shelves and for concluding an agreement for that purpose in accordance with the decision of the Court."

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sitting will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Members of the press will be entitled to attend it after presentation of a press identification card or 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.

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

3. In...

3. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the oral proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

4. Members of the press may use only the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Palace.

5. Mr. C. Poux, First Secretary of the Court (telephone extension 233), or, in his absence, Mr. Noble (extension 248) will be available to deal with any requests for information by members of the press.

Curriculum vitae of Mr. Nicolas Valticos

Born on 4 August 1918

Greek nationality

Studied law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Paris, Ph.D. in Law, 1948 (with award of two prizes for his doctoral thesis).

Barrister at Law in Athens (Greece), 1941.

Chief of Section at the Commission administering Relief in Greece (under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross) (1942-1945).

Joined the International Labour Office in 1949. In 1955 appointed Chief of the Application of Conference Decisions Division. In 1964 appointed Chief of the International Labour Standards Department. From 1976 to 1981 Assistant Director-General, Adviser for International Labour Standards.

Member and Chairman of various international arbitral tribunals and commissions of enquiry.

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva (1972-1981). Member of the Institute of International Law, Secretary-General since 1981. Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Doctor honoris causa of the Universities of Athens (Greece), Leuven (Belgium) and Utrecht (Netherlands).

Corresponding member of the Academy of Athens.

Award of the Professorship Henri Rolin of international law (Belgium) for 1979-1980.

Member of the Council of the International Institute of Human Rights. Member of the American Society of International Law, of the Société française de droit international, of the International Law Association and of the Greek Society of International Law.

Has given many lectures, in particular at The Hague Academy of International Law (twice), at the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg), at the International Seminar for Diplomats (Salzburg, Austria), at the Institute of High International Studies, Paris, at the Graduate Institute of High International Studies, Geneva, and at various universities and societies in Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Poland, Rumania, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States.

Has published a great many studies, articles and books on questions of international law, human rights, civil law and labour law.
