

In its Order the Court notes the time constraints drawn to its attention by the General Assembly and concludes that the provision of an early answer to the Assembly's question is desirable. Accordingly it has applied Article 103 of the Rules of Court under which, in such circumstances, it "shall take all necessary steps to accelerate the procedure".

The Secretary-General has informed the Court that the documents required to throw light upon the question will be supplied to it as soon as possible.

So far as consistent with the Statute of the Court, States and international organizations may submit statements, whether written or oral, for consideration by the Court in proceedings of an advisory nature. To that end, while each State entitled to appear before the Court is automatically notified of the filing of the request, any State or international organization deemed likely to be able to furnish information on the question put to the Court is also directly notified of the Court's readiness to receive or hear such statements.

In the present instance, the Court has decided that the United States of America and the United Nations shall receive a direct notification of that kind, and has fixed 25 March 1988 as the time-limit for the receipt of their written statements and those of any other State party to the Statute wishing to participate in the proceedings. The Court has further decided to open a hearing on 11 April 1988 for the purpose of enabling the participants to comment on each other's written statements.

The programming of the Court's subsequent deliberation is also covered by its decision to accelerate the procedure under Article 103 of its Rules.

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Within the text of its Order the Court, prior to its decisions, takes note of a clause in General Assembly resolution 42/229 A (adopted at the same meeting as the resolution, 42/229 B, whereby an advisory opinion was requested) which inter alia calls upon the United States, as host country, "to provide assurance that no action will be taken that would infringe on the current arrangements for the official functions of the Permanent Observer Mission".

Judge Schwebel has appended to the Order a separate opinion expressing his regret that the Court should have quoted a text which, in his view, exceeds the bounds of the question put to the Court and encroaches upon the merits of a dispute which has not been referred to the Court.

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The printed text of the Order will be available shortly.