



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Communiqué

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### Maritime Delimitation and Territorial Questions between Qatar and Bahrain (Qatar v. Bahrain)

#### Proceedings on the merits

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

In the above case the President of the Court, having consulted the Parties, decided by an Order of 11 October 1991 (see Press Communiqué No. 91/29), that the written pleadings should first be addressed to the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court to entertain the dispute and of the admissibility of the Application.

In its Judgment of 1 July 1994 (see Press Communiqué No. 94/16), the Court found that the Exchanges of Letters of December 1987 between the King of Saudi Arabia and the Amirs of Qatar and Bahrain, and the Minutes signed at Doha on 25 December 1990, were international agreements creating rights and obligations for the Parties, and that, by the terms of those agreements, the Parties had undertaken to submit to it the whole of the dispute between them, as circumscribed by the "Bahraini formula"; decided to afford the Parties the opportunity to submit to it the whole of the dispute; fixed 30 November 1994 as the time-limit within which the Parties were jointly or separately to take action to that end; and reserved any other matters for subsequent decision.

In its Judgment of 15 February 1995 (see Press Communiqué No. 95/6), the Court found that it had jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain which had been submitted to it; that it was seised of the whole of the dispute; and that the Application of Qatar as formulated on 30 November 1994 was admissible.

Following that Judgment, time-limits for the written proceedings on the merits had to be fixed. After affording the Parties an opportunity to state their views, the Court, by an Order of 28 April 1995, fixed 29 February 1996 as the time-limit for the filing by each of the Parties of a Memorial on the merits.

The subsequent procedure is reserved for further decision.