



ARCHIVES

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel. (070 - 392 44 41). Cables: Intercourt, The Hague.

Telefax (070 - 364 99 28). Telex 32323.

Communiqué

unofficial
for immediate release

Members of the Court + Staff 30-10-91 (15.15)
Post Office P.P. see Comm. 91/31

No. 91/29
16 October 1991

Maritime Delimitation and Territorial Questions
Between Qatar and Bahrain (Qatar v. Bahrain)

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

As reported in Press Communique No. 91/21, of 8 July 1991, the State of Qatar filed on that same day in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the State of Bahrain in respect of certain disputes between the two States relating to sovereignty over the Hawar islands, sovereign rights over the shoals of Dibal and Qit'at Jaradah, and the delimitation of the maritime areas of the two States.

In that Application Qatar founded the jurisdiction of the Court upon certain agreements between the Parties stated to have been concluded in December 1987 and December 1990, the subject and scope of the commitment to jurisdiction being determined, according to Qatar, by a formula proposed by Bahrain to Qatar on 26 October 1988 and accepted by Qatar in December 1990.

By letters addressed to the Registrar of the Court on 14 July 1991 and 18 August 1991 Bahrain contested the basis of jurisdiction invoked by Qatar.

At a meeting between the President of the Court and the representatives of the Parties held on 2 October 1991 it was agreed that questions of jurisdiction and admissibility in this case should be separately determined before any proceedings on the merits; at that meeting agreement was also reached on time-limits for written proceedings on these questions.

In an Order of 11 October 1991 the President of the Court, considering that it was necessary for the Court to be informed at that stage of all the contentions and evidence of fact and law on which the Parties rely in that connection and taking into account the agreement concerning the procedure expressed by the Parties, consulted under Article 31 of the Rules of Court, decided that the written proceedings should first be addressed to the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court to entertain the dispute and of the admissibility of the Application, and fixed the following time-limits for those proceedings:

10 February 1992 for the Memorial of the State of Qatar;
11 June 1992 for the Counter-Memorial of the State of Bahrain.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.