



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Communiqué

unofficial  
for immediate release

No. 96/28  
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### Oil Platforms (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)

#### Preliminary objection

#### Progress and conclusion of public hearings

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

The public hearings held by the Court on the preliminary objection filed by the United States of America in the above case, which opened on Monday 16 September 1996, were concluded on Tuesday 24 September 1996.

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During the first round of oral arguments, held between 16 and 20 September, statements were made:

- on behalf of the United States of America, by Mr. Michael J. Matheson, Agent of the United States of America; and by Commander Ronald D. Neubauer (who read on behalf of Dr. John H. McNeill), Professor Andreas F. Lowenfeld, Mr. John R. Crook, Dr. Sean Murphy and Mr. Jack Chorowsky, Counsel and Advocates;
- on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by Mr. M. H. Zahedin-Labbaf, Agent of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and by Dr. S. M. Zeinoddin, Professor James R. Crawford, Professor Luigi Condorelli and Mr. Rodman R. Bundy, Counsel and Advocates.

Vice-President Schwebel and Judge ad hoc Rigaux each put a question to the Agents of both Parties and Judge Higgins put a question to the Agent of the United States of America.

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The second round took place on 23 and 24 September 1996. The speakers were:

- on behalf of the United States of America, Mr. Michael J. Matheson, Agent of the United States of America; and Professor Andreas F. Lowenfeld and Mr. John R. Crook, Counsel and Advocates;
- on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. M. H. Zahedin-Labbaf, Agent of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Professor James R. Crawford, Professor Luigi Condorelli and Mr. Rodman R. Bundy, Counsel and Advocates.

The Agent of the United States of America maintained the submission contained in the preliminary objection of the United States of America as the final submission of his Government. The Agent of the Islamic Republic of Iran likewise maintained the submissions contained in the observations of Iran on the preliminary objection as the final submissions of his Government.

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The hearings on the preliminary objection now being concluded, the Court will begin to consider its Judgment.

The date of the public sitting at which the Judgment is to be read will be announced in a press communiqué.

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