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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Iran brings a new case against
the United States

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

Today, 2 November 1992, the Islamic Republic of Iran filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the United States of America with respect to the destruction of Iranian oil platforms.

The Islamic Republic founds the jurisdiction of the Court for the purposes of these proceedings on Article XXI(2) of the Iran/United States Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights, signed at Tehran on 15 August 1955.

In its Application Iran alleges that the destruction caused by several warships of the United States Navy, on 19 October 1987 and 18 April 1988, to three offshore oil production complexes, owned and operated for commercial purposes by the National Iranian Oil Company, constituted a fundamental breach of various provisions of the Treaty of Amity and international law. In this connection Iran refers in particular to Articles I and X(1) of the Treaty which provide respectively:

"There shall be firm and enduring peace and sincere friendship between the United States of America and Iran",

and

"Between the territories of the two High Contracting Parties there shall be freedom of commerce and navigation."

The Islamic Republic accordingly requests the Court to adjudge and declare as follows:

- "(a) That the Court has jurisdiction under the Treaty of Amity to entertain the dispute and to rule upon the claims submitted by the Islamic Republic;
- (b) That in attacking and destroying the oil platforms referred to in the Application on 19 October 1987 and 18 April 1988, the United States breached its obligations to the Islamic Republic, *inter alia*, under Article I and X(1) of the Treaty of Amity and international law;
- (c) That in adopting a patently hostile and threatening attitude towards the Islamic Republic that culminated in the attack and destruction of the Iranian oil platforms, the United States breached the object and purpose of the Treaty of Amity, including Articles I and X(1), and international law;
- (d) That the United States is under an obligation to make reparations to the Islamic Republic for the violation of its international legal obligations in an amount to be determined by the Court at a subsequent stage of the proceedings. The Islamic Republic reserves the right to introduce and present to the Court in due course a precise evaluation of the reparations owed by the United States; and
- (e) Any other remedy the Court may deem appropriate."