



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.

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Request for advisory opinion made by the
World Health Organization

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

Pursuant to Resolution WHA46.40 adopted by the World Health Assembly on 14 May 1993, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), by letter dated 27 August 1993, has laid before the Court for its advisory opinion the following question:

"In view of the health and environmental effects, would the use of nuclear weapons by a State in war or other armed conflict be a breach of its obligations under international law including the WHO Constitution."

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In 1946 the World Health Organization was authorized by the General Assembly to request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of its activities, in accordance with Article 96, paragraph 2, of the Charter, Article 76 of the Constitution of the WHO and Article X, paragraph 2, of the Agreement between the UN and the WHO.

It made use of that authorization once earlier, when it requested, in 1980, an advisory opinion of the Court concerning the Interpretation of the Agreement of 25 March 1951 between WHO and Egypt.