



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel.(070-302 23 23).Cables: Intercourt, The Hague.

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

## Communiqué

unofficial  
for immediate release

No. 94/13  
20 June 1994

### Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroon v. Nigeria)

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

As indicated in Press Communiqué No. 94/12 of 30 March 1994, the Republic of Cameroon, on 29 March 1994, filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the Federal Republic of Nigeria in respect of a dispute described as relating essentially "to the question of sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula", and by which the Court was also requested to determine part of the maritime boundary between the two States;

On 6 June 1994 Cameroon filed in the Registry of the Court an Additional Application "for the purpose of extending the subject of the dispute" to a further dispute described as relating essentially "to the question of sovereignty over a part of the territory of Cameroon in the area of Lake Chad", while also asking the Court to specify definitively the frontier between Cameroon and Nigeria from Lake Chad to the sea. Cameroon requested the Court to adjudge and declare:

- "(a) that sovereignty over the disputed parcel in the area of Lake Chad is Cameroonian, by virtue of international law, and that that parcel is an integral part of the territory of Cameroon;
- (b) that the Federal Republic of Nigeria has violated and is violating the fundamental principle of respect for frontiers inherited from colonization (*uti possidetis juris*), and its recent legal commitments concerning the demarcation of frontiers in Lake Chad;
- (c) that the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by occupying, with the support of its security forces, parcels of Cameroonian territory in the area of Lake Chad, has violated and is violating its obligations under treaty law and customary law;
- (d) that in view of these legal obligations, mentioned above, the Federal Republic of Nigeria has the express duty of effecting an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from Cameroonian territory in the area of Lake Chad;

- (e) that the internationally unlawful acts referred to under (a), (b), (c) and (d) above involve the responsibility of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (e') that consequently, and on account of the material and non-material damage inflicted upon the Republic of Cameroon, reparation in an amount to be determined by the Court is due from the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of Cameroon, which reserves the introduction before the Court of [proceedings for] a precise assessment of the damage caused by the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (f) that in view of the repeated incursions of Nigerian groups and armed forces into Cameroonian territory, all along the frontier between the two countries, the consequent grave and repeated incidents, and the vacillating and contradictory attitude of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in regard to the legal instruments defining the frontier between the two countries and the exact course of that frontier, the Republic of Cameroon respectfully asks the Court to specify definitively the frontier between Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria from Lake Chad to the sea".

Cameroon further requested the Court to join the two Applications "and to examine the whole in a single case".

At a meeting between the President of the Court and the representatives of the Parties held on 14 June 1994, the Agent of Nigeria indicated that his Government had no objection to the Additional Application being treated as an amendment to the initial Application, so that the Court could deal with the whole as one case.

The Court, seeing no objection to such a procedure, fixed, by an Order of 16 June 1994, the following time-limits for the written proceedings:

16 March 1995 for the Memorial of the Republic of Cameroon;

18 December 1995 for the Counter-Memorial of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The subsequent procedure is reserved for further decision.