

The following information from the Registry of the International Court of Justice has been communicated to the Press:

The opening of the oral proceedings in the Nottebohm case (Merits) has been fixed for Thursday, February 10th, 1955, at 11 a.m.

The Nottebohm case was brought before the International Court of Justice by an Application of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein against the Republic of Guatemala dated 17th December, 1951. The Application stated that the Government of Guatemala had taken measures against the person of Mr. Friedrich Nottebohm (alleged to be a national of Liechtenstein) and against his property in violation of the generally recognized principles of international law; and it claimed inter alia the payment of compensation to Mr. Nottebohm as well as the restoration of his assets which had been confiscated.

Following the deposit of the Application, the Court fixed time-limits for the filing of the first two pleadings: the Memorial of Liechtenstein and the Counter-Memorial of Guatemala. These time-limits were extended at the request of the Parties. Before the expiry of the time-limit fixed for the deposit of the Counter-Memorial, September 15th, 1952, the Government of Guatemala addressed a communication to the Court designed to challenge its jurisdiction. Following this Preliminary Objection, the Parties informed the Court on several occasions of their intention to seek a settlement of their dispute by negotiation. Finally, not having been informed that such negotiation had achieved any result, the Court opened the oral proceedings on the Preliminary Objection in November, 1953. By a Judgment dated November 18th, 1953, the Court rejected the Objection and fixed new time-limits for the deposit of the remaining pleadings on the merits: Counter-Memorial of Guatemala, Reply of Liechtenstein, Rejoinder of Guatemala. Following several extensions granted at the request of the Parties, the last of these pleadings was deposited this month and since then the case has been ready for hearing.

The two Parties do not have upon the Bench a Judge of their nationality. Accordingly they have availed themselves of their right under Article 31, paragraph 3, of the Statute and have chosen Judges ad hoc. The Government of Liechtenstein has chosen M. Paul Guggenheim, Professor of Public International Law at the Institut universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva, and a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration; the Government of Guatemala has chosen Licenciado Carlos García Bauer, former Chairman of the Guatemalan Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations and at present a University professor.

The Hague, November 26th, 1954.

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