



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Fisheries Jurisdiction

(Spain v. Canada)

Jurisdictional phase: closure of the written proceedings

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

The Memorial of Spain and the Counter-Memorial of Canada on the question of the jurisdiction of the Court to entertain the above case were deposited within the time-limits of 29 September 1995 and 29 February 1996 respectively, as fixed by the Order of the President of the Court dated 2 May 1995.

The Spanish Government subsequently expressed its wish to be authorized to file a Reply; the Canadian Government opposed this.

By an Order of 8 May 1996, the Court, considering that it was

"sufficiently informed, at this stage, of the contentions of fact and law on which the Parties rely with respect to its jurisdiction in the case and whereas the presentation, by them, of other written pleadings on that question therefore does not appear necessary",

decided, by fifteen votes to two, not to authorize the filing of a Reply by the Applicant and a Rejoinder by the Respondent on the question of jurisdiction.

Judge Vereshchetin and Judge ad hoc Torres Bernárdez voted against; the latter appended a dissenting opinion to the Order.

The written proceedings in the jurisdictional phase having thus come to an end, the subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.