



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

Conclusion of the public hearings on the Preliminary Objections

Court ready to begin its deliberation

THE HAGUE, 8 June 2007. The public hearings on the Preliminary Objections in the case concerning the Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia) were concluded today. The Court will now start its deliberation.

During the hearings, which opened on 4 June 2007 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court, the delegation of Colombia was led by H.E. Mr. Julio Londoño Paredes, Ambassador, as Agent. The delegation of Nicaragua was led by H.E. Mr. Carlos José Argüello Gómez, Ambassador of Nicaragua to the Netherlands, as Agent.

The Court's judgment will be rendered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

Final submissions of the Parties

At the conclusion of the oral proceedings, the Parties presented the following final submissions to the Court:

For Colombia:

“Pursuant to Article 60 of the Rules of Court, having regard to Colombia's pleadings, written and oral, Colombia respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- (1) under the Pact of Bogotá, and in particular in pursuance of Articles VI and XXXIV, the Court declares itself to be without jurisdiction to hear the controversy submitted to it by Nicaragua under Article XXXI, and declares that controversy ended;
- (2) under Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, the Court has no jurisdiction to entertain Nicaragua's Application; and that
- (3) Nicaragua's Application is dismissed.”

For Nicaragua:

“In accordance with Article 60 of the Rules of Court and having regard to the pleadings, written and oral, the Republic of Nicaragua respectfully requests to the Court, to adjudge and declare that:

1. The Preliminary Objections submitted by the Republic of Colombia, both in respect of the jurisdiction based upon the Pact of Bogotá, and in respect of the jurisdiction based upon Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, are invalid.
2. In the alternative, the Court is requested to adjudge and declare, in accordance with the provisions of Article 79, paragraph 7, of the Rules of Court that the Objections submitted by the Republic of Colombia do not have an exclusively preliminary character.
3. In addition, the Republic of Nicaragua requests the Court to reject the request of the Republic of Colombia to declare the controversy submitted to it by Nicaragua under Article XXXI of the Pact of Bogotá ‘ended’, in accordance with Articles VI and XXXIV of the same instrument.
4. Any other matters not explicitly dealt with in the foregoing Written Statement and oral pleadings, are expressly reserved for the merits phase of this proceeding.”

The verbatim records of the hearings held between 4 and 8 June 2007 are available on the Court’s website (www.icj-cij.org). The history of the proceedings can be found in Press Release No. 2006/37 of 15 November 2006.

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