

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel. 92 44 41 Cables: Intercourt, The Hague

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Aegean Sea Continental Shelf

The following information is made available to the press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice.

The International Court of Justice, acceding to a request by the Government of Greece, has fixed 4 October 1978 as the date for the opening of hearings on the question of the Court's jurisdiction in the proceedings concerning the Aegean Sea Continental Shelf instituted by Greece against Turkey on 10 August 1976.

It may be recalled that, in an Order of 11 September 1976, the Court had decided that the written pleadings in the case should first be addressed to the question of its jurisdiction. By an Order of 14 October 1976 it had fixed time-limits for the filing of these pleadings. The original time-limits were extended at the request of the Greek Government by an Order of 18 April 1977 having regard to negotiations between the two States. The Government of Greece filed its Memorial within the extended period. The Government of Turkey did not file a Counter-Memorial within the time-limit fixed for the purpose, which expired on 24 April 1978, but on that date the Registrar of the Court received a letter in which the Government of Turkey, believing the Court to be without jurisdiction, informed the Court that it did not intend to appoint an agent or submit a Counter-Memorial.

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