

PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION



PRESS RELEASE

Hearings in MOX Plant arbitration under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to be held at Peace Palace

Hearings are scheduled to begin at 9:30am on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 in connection with the dispute between Ireland and the United Kingdom under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The hearings are expected to continue until 27 June. The case was initiated by Ireland on 25 October 2001 pursuant to Annex VII of the Law of the Sea Convention. It concerns the authorization of the mixed oxide fuel (“MOX”) plant located at the Sellafield nuclear facility in the United Kingdom.

A five-member arbitral tribunal will hear oral submissions in the matter at the Peace Palace. The tribunal consists of Judge Thomas A. Mensah (President), Professor James Crawford SC, Maître L. Yves Fortier CC QC, Professor Gerhard Hafner, and Sir Arthur Watts KCMG QC.

As agreed by the two Governments, the hearings will, subject to the need to keep certain information confidential, be open to the public. The parties’ written pleadings will be posted on the first day of oral hearings on the website of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) (<http://www.pca-cpa.org>). Transcripts of the oral proceedings will also be made available on an ongoing basis during the hearings on the PCA website approximately 3 days following the oral presentations. Where confidential information is to be discussed at the hearings, members of the public will be asked to leave. Such information will also be redacted from any documents made available to the public.

Persons wishing to attend the hearings should contact Ms. Charlotte Jonas at the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (070-302-4165) to arrange for access to the Peace Palace.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is based in the Peace Palace, serves as registry for the arbitral tribunal.

The Hague, June 2, 2003