

ICJ's Press Release over Cambodia's Request for Interpretation of 1962 Judgment

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Cambodia files an application requesting interpretation of the Judgment rendered in the Case of 12 June 1978 in the case concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand) and also asks for its own modification

THE HAGUE, 2 May 2011. On 28 April, the Kingdom of Cambodia filed an Application requesting interpretation of the Judgment rendered on 12 June 1978 by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand). The filing of such an application gives rise to the opening of a new phase. Together with the Application, Cambodia submitted an urgent request for the indication of provisional measures. The latter gives technical proceedings within the new case.

Reasons for interpretation

In support of its Request for interpretation, Cambodia invokes Article 66 of the Statute of the Court, which provides: "In the event of dispute as to the meaning or scope of the Judgment, the Court shall entertain an application upon the request of any party." It also invokes Article 61 of the Rules of Court.

In its Application, Cambodia indicates the "points or doubts as to the meaning or scope of an Judgment" as requested by Article 66 of the Rules of Court. It states in particular that:

"(1) according to Cambodia, the Judgment (rendered by the Court in 1962) is based on the clear existence of an international boundary established and recognized by both States;

(2) according to Cambodia, the boundary is defined by the map to which the Court refers in para. 21 of the Judgment ... a map which makes the Court to find that Cambodia is sovereign over the Temple in direct and exclusive possession of its sovereignty over the territory on which the Temple is situated ...

(3) according to the Applicant, Thailand is under an obligation to withdraw any military or other personnel from the vicinity of the Temple on Cambodian territory. Cambodia believes that this is a general and continuing obligation deriving from the statements concerning Cambodia's territorial sovereignty recognized by the Court in the 1962 Judgment."

Cambodia asserts that "Thailand disagrees with all of these points."