

VII

LEGAL

International Court of Justice¹

Five states—Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, Japan and Ghana—were admitted to the United Nations between the end of the tenth session on December 20, 1955 and the adjournment of the eleventh session of the General Assembly on March 8, 1957. Four of them became *ipso facto* parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice (Japan was already a party to the Statute) bringing the total parties to the Statute to 85.

Elections

During the eleventh session of the General Assembly a by-election took place to fill the vacancy on the Court caused by the death in June 1956 of Judge Hsu Mo of China. On January 11, 1957, Mr. Wellington Koo of China was elected over eight other candidates, his closest contender being Mr. Shigeru Kuriyama of Japan.

Cases²

During the period under review the Court rendered two advisory opinions and dealt with six cases.

On June 1, 1956, the International Court of Justice gave an advisory opinion on the admissibility of hearings of petitioners by the Committee on South West Africa³. The Court was of the opinion that the admissibility of hearings was consistent with its advisory opinion of July 11, 1950⁴.

On October 23, 1956 the Court gave an advisory opinion on the validity of certain judgments of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization (ILO). These judgments followed complaints made against the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) by former employees whose contract of employment had not been renewed because of their refusal to appear before the International Employees Loyalty Board (a United States body). The Administrative Tribunal of the ILO ordered that the contracts of employment be renewed or damages paid. The Executive Board of UNESCO decided to challenge the competence of the ILO Administrative Tribunal before the International Court of Justice. On October 23, 1956 the Court gave its advisory opinion that the ILO Administrative Tribunal was competent to hear these complaints and that its ensuing judgments were no longer open for challenge.

¹For a discussion of the origin, constitution and jurisdiction of the Court, see *Canada and the United Nations 1949*, pp. 191-195.

²For greater detail see *International Court of Justice Year Book 1955-1956*, pp. 73 ff.

³See "South West Africa" above, pp. 103-105. See also *I.C.J. Year Book 1955-1956*, p. 79.

⁴See *I.C.J. Year Book 1949-1950*, p. 81. See also *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, pp. 128-131.