

MEMORANDUM ON THE
CANDIDATURE OF MAITRE LOUIS IGNACIO-PINTO
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

CANDIDATURE SUBMITTED BY DAHOMEY

In accordance with the stand taken in 1966 by the African Group at the United Nations during the elections of Judges to the International Court of Justice Dahomey has decided to present a candidate for the forthcoming elections to this high judicial body.

Indeed, it would be proper to recall that the African Group had asked the Security Council to reform the composition of the International Court of Justice, with the sole object of giving Africa more equitable representation within this high judicial body where, moreover, no seat had been allotted to Africa as, at the time of its establishment, there were no African states at the United Nations.

Since decolonisation, however, the latter's numbers have considerably increased, so much so, in fact, that the Security Council, having bowed before evidence, proceeded to increase the number of members of the Security Council itself and those of the Economic and Social Council, in order to satisfy the request for an African representation that would be proportionate to the number of the Member States of the Organization. They demanded, accordingly, three judges' seats at the Court.

In 1966, the aforesaid Security Council did not deem it necessary to take into consideration the African Group's request; hence the latter's decision to present, during the last elections, two African candidates who, had they been elected, would have brought the number of African judges at the International Court of Justice to three, since one African was already a member.

Of the two candidates, one was elected, so that the Group's request remained unsatisfied in respect of a third African judge.

Consequently, the question remains in its entirety before the Security Council, namely, whether or not it is going to accede to the African Group's request for an increase to three in the judges' seats at the International Court of Justice.

In the view of Dahomey, the African Group's request is perfectly well-founded; and taking into account the great importance for the United Nations of having within that high judicial body a representation of African judges that would be proportionate to the number of African States which are now members of the Organization, Dahomey, faithful to the wishes expressed by the African Group since 1966, has decided to present at the 24th Session of the U.N. General Assembly one of her eminent jurists, in order to enable the number of three judges desired by the African Group to be attained.

1969-08

Memorandum on the candidature of Maitre Louis Ignacio-pinto for the International Court of Justice

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