



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

(Issued by the Registrar)

SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ON THE OCCUPANCY AND USE OF THE NEW BUILDING

- TRIBUNAL TO MOVE TO NEW BUILDING IN NOVEMBER -

HAMBURG, 18 October. Today, at 2.45 p.m., the Agreement on the Occupancy and Use of the Premises of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea was signed by the President of the Tribunal, Judge P. Chandrasekhara Rao, the Minister of Justice of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mrs. Herta Däubler-Gmelin and the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wolfgang Ischinger, at a ceremony at the German Federal Ministry of Justice in Berlin.

At the ceremony, the President of the Tribunal expressed his appreciation for the constructive negotiations and satisfaction at the conclusion and signing of the Agreement. He noted that the Agreement established the essential legal framework for the move to and future occupancy of the new premises and stated that the Tribunal was looking forward to moving into the new Headquarters Building. The President also announced that the move to the headquarters would take place in the middle of November 2000.

The new address of the Tribunal will be:

Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg.

The Registrar of the Tribunal, Mr. Gritakumar E. Chitty and the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gerd Westdickenberg were present at the ceremony and signed an exchange of letters concerning the implementation of the Agreement. Also present were the Director of the Hamburg Justice Department Mr. Michael Stallbaum and representatives of the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Legal Office of the Tribunal.

Background

The Tribunal's new premises, offered to it by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, were officially opened at a joint ceremony of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, in the presence of

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the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other high-ranking dignitaries on 3 July 2000. The symbolic key of the building was officially handed over on that occasion. For information on the building and the official opening see Press Release No. 36 of the Tribunal.

The Agreement on the occupancy and use of the Premises of the Tribunal

Negotiations to establish an agreement concerning the permanent premises of the Tribunal were held between the Tribunal, the Hamburg Senate and the Government of Germany. The Agreement regulates the occupancy, use, operation and maintenance of the building. It transfers the premises, which remain the property of the Federal Republic of Germany, to the Tribunal. The Agreement provides that the Tribunal would occupy and use the premises free of rent. The Agreement lays down the respective responsibilities of the Federal Government and of the Tribunal for maintenance, repair and the upkeep of the grounds and buildings on the premises.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal.

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