



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

Press Release

**JUDGMENT TO BE DELIVERED IN THE "VOLGA" CASE
ON MONDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2002, AT 10:30 A.M.**

The Judgment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea concerning the Application by the Government of the Russian Federation against the Government of Australia for the release of the vessel "*Volga*" and three members of its crew under article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be read by the President of the Tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson, on Monday, 23 December 2002, at 10:30 a.m.

The hearing in this case was held on 12 and 13 December 2002. The written pleadings and the verbatim records of the hearing are available on the Tribunal's website.

The hearing concluded with the final submissions of both parties:

The Russian Federation asks that the Tribunal make the following orders and declarations:

- (a) A declaration that the Tribunal has jurisdiction under Article 292 of the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea 1982 ("UNCLOS") to hear the application.
- (b) A declaration that the application is admissible.
- (c) A declaration that the Respondent has contravened Article 73(2) of UNCLOS in that the conditions set by the Respondent for the release of the *Volga* and three of its officers are not permitted under Article 73(2) or are not reasonable in terms of Article 73(2).
- (d) An order that the Respondent release the *Volga* and the officers and its crew if a bond or security is provided by the owner of the vessel in an amount not exceeding AU\$ 500,000, or in such other

(more)

amount as the Tribunal in all the circumstances considers reasonable;

- (e) An order as to the form of the bond or security referred to in paragraph 1(d).
- (f) An order that the Respondent pay the costs of the Applicant in connection with the application.

Australia requests that the Tribunal reject the Application made by the Applicant.

The text of the Judgment will be available shortly after its delivery on the website of the Tribunal at www.itlos.org and www.tiddm.org.

NOTE TO THE PRESS

1. Members of the Press should register with the Press Office if they wish to attend the delivery of the Order.
2. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the sitting. Television crews may film during the sitting, but advance notice should be given to the Press Office.
3. Mobile telephones and beepers are allowed in the courtroom on the condition that they are turned off or set to silent mode. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's website at www.itlos.org and www.tiddm.org and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-228/227, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; E-mail: press@itlos.org

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