(b) Constitutional and Institutional Developments

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1. REGISTRAR EDUARDO VALENCIA-OSPINA LEFT OFFICE ON 5 FEBRUARY 2000

On 20 September 1999, Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Registrar of the International Court of Justice, advised Judge Stephen M. Schwebel, President of the Court, by a letter of 17 September 1999 that he would leave office on 5 February 2000. In his letter he stated that having drawn nearer to finishing his own term of duty and having achieved, thirty-five years in the service of the United Nations as well as being about to reach sixty years of age, he found no new reason to compel him to run for a fourth election. Moreover, he stated, that in view of the date of termination of his functions, he concluded that he could best serve the Court by leaving office before the election of the new President. In this manner, whoever is chosen will, likewise, be able to count, throughout the duration of his or her presidential period, on the continuous assistance of one and the same Registrar.[1] By a letter of 20 September 1999, Judge Schwebel, President of the Court, accepted his resignation.[2]

2. UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL ELECT FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COURT

On 3 November 1999, the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations proceeded to the election of five Members of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a term of office of nine years, beginning on 6 February 2000. Judges Gilbert Guillaume (France), Raymond Ranjeva (Madagascar), Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Gonzalo Parra-Aranguren (Venezuela) were re-elected as Members of the Court. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan) was elected a Member of the Court with effect from 6 February 2000. In February 2000 the Court as newly constituted will proceed to elect from among its Members a President and a Vice-President, who will hold office for three years.[3]

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1. ICJ Communiqué No. 99/42 of 20 September 1999.
2. *Id.*
3. ICJ Communique No. 99/47 of 3 November 1999.

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Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh was born in Amman on 22 February 1950 and received his primary and secondary education at the Islamic Educational College of Amman and his university education at Cambridge University (Queens' College) where he read history and law, and then did postgraduate work in international law. M.A. LL.M. (Cantab.). He joined the Jordanian diplomatic service in 1975 and served as Second Secretary, then First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations in New York, 1976-1980. From 1980 to 1985, he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for international organizations and international law. In the years 1985-1990, he was Head of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1990, he was seconded to the Royal Court where he worked as Legal Adviser to Crown Prince El-Hassan bin Talal. He was given the rank of Ambassador in 1992, and in 1995, he was appointed Adviser to the King and Adviser of the State on International Law with the rank of Minister, and Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, 1996-1998. Mr. Al-Khasawneh has represented Jordan at 18 sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations (The Sixth (Legal) Committee) since 1976, and was Jordan's alternate representative on the Security Council, 1981-1982. He was a member of most Jordanian delegations to meetings of the Arab League, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference held in the years 1980-1988. From 1991 to 1994, he was a member of, and Legal Adviser to, the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations in the Middle East.[4]

3. JUDGE STEPHEN M. SCHWEBEL, PRESIDENT OF THE COURT, RESIGNS AS A MEMBER OF THE COURT AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2000

On 15 December 1999, the Court announced that Judge Stephen M. Schwebel, President of the Court, would resign as a Member of the Court as of 29 February 2000. The three-year term of Judge Schwebel as President of the Court was to expire on 6 February 2000. His term as a Member of the Court would have expired on 5 February 2006. The Security Council of the United Nations fixed 2 March 2000 as the date for the election of his successor by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The newly appointed Member of the Court will complete Judge Schwebel's term, serving until 2006. Judge Schwebel has served on the Court since 15 January 1981. He was Vice-President of the Court from 1994 to 1997 and has been President since 6 February 1997. A former Deputy Legal Adviser of the United States Department of State and Burling Professor of International Law at the School of Advanced International Studies of The John

4. *Id.*, Annex.

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Hopkins University (Washington), Judge Schwebel is the author of three books and some 150 articles on problems of international law and organization.[5]

5. ICJ Communiqué No. 99/54 of 15 December 1999.

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