submission of written pleadings: Republic of Congo, memorial, 11 December 2003; France, counter-memorial, 11 May 2004.

21. Sovereignty over Pedro Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge (*Malaysia/Singapore*).

On 24 July 2003, in pursuance of a Special Agreement of 6 February 2003 (in force 9 May 2003), Malaysia and Singapore seised the Court of a dispute concerning sovereignty over Pedro Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge. In an order of 1 September 2003[60] the following time limits were set for the submission of written pleadings by both parties: memorials, 25 March 2004; counter-memorials, 25 January 2005.

B. Requests for Advisory Opinions

1. Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

On 10 December 2003 the UN General Assembly requested an Advisory Opinion concerning the legal consequences arising from the construction by Israel of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. By an Order of 19 December 2003[61] 30 January 2004 was fixed as the time limit for the receipt of written statements by the United Nations, its Member States (44 of whom did so)[62] and by Palestine. Both the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference were subsequently authorized to file written statements within this time limit.[63] In an order of 30 January 2004[64] the Court decided that matters brought to its attention by Israel did not preclude Judge Elaraby from participating in the case and Public Hearings were held between 23–25 February 2004.[65] The Opinion is expected shortly.

VI. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

1. On 5 August 2003 Liberia presented an Application against Sierra Leone regarding a dispute concerning an international arrest warrant issued by the Special Court for Sierra Leone against the President of Liberia. Since the applicant seeks to found the Court's jurisdiction on the consent of the respondent State (which is yet to be given), the application has not been entered into the Court's General List but has been transmitted to the Government of Sierra Leone.[66]

2. Questions of Interpretation and Application of the 1971 Montreal Convention arising from the Aerial Incident at Lockerbie (*Libyan Arab Jamahiriya v United Kingdom*), (*Libyan Arab Jamahiriya v United States of America*): these cases were discontinued and removed from the list at the request of the parties. See orders of 10 September 2003.[67]

[60] Ibid, No 2003/28.
[61] Ibid, No 2003/44.
[62] Ibid, No 2004/5.
[63] ICJ Press Communiqués Nos 2004/1 and 2004/2 respectively.
[64] Ibid, No 2004/4.
[65] Ibid, No 2004/12.
[66] Ibid, No 2003/26.
[67] Ibid, No 2003/2.

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