



Press Release 2003/22

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**Malaysia and Singapore jointly submit a dispute concerning sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge to the International Court of Justice**

THE HAGUE, 24 July 2003. Malaysia and Singapore today jointly seised the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of a dispute concerning sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge.

They did so by notifying the Court of a Special Agreement which was signed between them on 6 February 2003 at Putrajaya and which entered into force on 9 May 2003.

In the Special Agreement, the Parties request the Court "to determine whether sovereignty over:

- (a) Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh;
- (b) Middle Rocks;
- (c) South Ledge,

belongs to Malaysia or the Republic of Singapore".

They "agree to accept the Judgment of the Court . . . as final and binding upon them".

Pursuant to the Special Agreement, the Parties further set out their views on the procedure to be followed. These will be taken into account by the Court when fixing time?limits for the filing of written pleadings in an Order, which will be the subject of a subsequent press release.

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The full text of the Special Agreement will shortly be available on the Courts website: [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org).