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ICJ-Chronology

CHORONOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING TO SIGNING OF SPECIAL AGREEMENT

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Following is the chronology of events leading to the signing of the Special Agreement between Malaysia and Singapore to refer their overlapping claim to Pulau Batu Puteh to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Malaysia has always maintained that Pulau Batu Puteh, located at 7.7 nautical miles from Tanjung Penyusop in Johor and 25 nautical miles from Singapore's east coast, is within its territory.

* 1979 - United Nations (UN) drafts the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Dec 1979, Malaysia issues a map of its territorial boundaries which include the Pulau Batu Puteh.

* 1980 - Singapore sends protest note to Malaysia over its inclusion of the island, which it calls Pedra Branca.

* 1981 - Prime Ministers of both countries agree to resolve the issue by an exchange of documents.

* July 14, 1989 - Malaysia sends diplomatic note protesting the installation of radar on the island. It is followed by aide memoire on July 20, 1989.

* Nov 11, 1991- Malaysia sends diplomatic demarche protesting the installation of a helipad.

* May 25, 1992 - Malaysia sends diplomatic note protesting the installation of a helipad.

* 1993 - The first bilateral negotiations are held.

* 1994 - The second bilateral negotiations are held.

* 1994 - Both talks end in deadlock.

* 1995 - Negotiations are held to refer the case to the ICJ

* 1996 - Negotiations are again held to refer the case to the ICJ.

* April, 1998 - Malaysia and Singapore agree on the text of the agreement to be referred to the ICJ.

* Dec 18, 2002 - Malaysia plans to focus on the issue of its rightful claim to Pulau Batu Puteh, following the successful outcome of arbitration by the ICJ on the dispute between Malaysia and Indonesia over Sipadan and Ligitan islands.

* Dec 21, 2002 - Singapore says that it has consistently maintained that the territorial dispute on Pulau Batu Puteh be referred to the ICJ. The next step is to fix a date and sign the special agreement.

* Jan 3 - Singapore proposes that the special agreement be signed on the sidelines of the Asean-European Union Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels on Jan 27 or Jan 28.

* Jan 4 - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad rules out Singapore's proposal for the signing of the special agreement in Brussels.

* Jan 9 - Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid announces that the special agreement to refer the matter to ICJ be signed on Feb 6 in Putrajaya.

* Jan 26 - Dr Mahathir says that Malaysia does not recognise Singapore's authority over waters off Pulau Batu Puteh.

* Feb 6 - Malaysia and Singapore sign the special agreement to refer the Pulau Batu Puteh dispute, along with Middle Rocks and South Ledge, to the ICJ in Putrajaya.

-- BERNAMA

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