



ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Ahmedov Azimjon the teacher of Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages.

Komilova O'g'iloy Nozimjon kizi, the 301- guide fellowship and translation theory student of Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages.

Abstract: Diplomatic missions also provide public services for their nationals, including acting as a notary public providing electoral registration, issuing passports and papers for military conscription, referring injured or sick nationals to local physicians and lawyers, and treatment nondiscriminatory trefor those charged with or imprisoned for crimes.

Key words: Diplomatic missions, function, activity, status, diplomats, embassy, foreign, government, country, international law.

According to the Vienna Convention, the functions of a diplomatic mission include the representation of the sending state in the host state at a level beyond the merely social and ceremonial; the protection within the host state of the interests of the sending state and its nationals, including their property and shares in firms; the negotiation and signing of agreements with the host state when authorized; the reporting and gathering of information by all lawful means on conditions and developments in the host country for the sending government; and the promotion of friendly relations between the two states and the furthering of their economic, commercial, cultural, and scientific relations. An embassy is usually in the capital city at the destination country; its main function is to deal with all diplomatic government to government. . If there are trade negotiations to be done, or if one government wants to complain about some action by the other, the embassy handles that. If an official delegation from one country plans to visit the other, the embassies will make the arrangements. A consulate be located in any (usually major) city and provides consular services for individual or businesses. They can usually provide vises for foreigners planning to visit their country. For their own citizens, they provide passport services as well as birth registrations, marriage registrations, and various other sorts of advice or assistance. If you are in business and need advice about local regulations, your consulate is a good source. Many embassies also provide consular services; that is, they can also do everything a consulate can. There are some exceptions in countries where the capital city is not a major city; for example, the US embassy in Canberra, Australia does not provide consular services, but there are consulates in the larger cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. In other places, some embassies maintain a separate









"consular section" location to provide consular services in the capital city of the host country.

Sometimes the services are split up somewhat differently; for example, the Canadian High Commission in provides most consular services but there is a separate office for Indians wanting a visa.

In some cases, one country's mission may process visa applications on behalf of another. For instance, in Singapore, the Danish embassy processes visa applications for all the Nordic countries, even though Sweden, Norway and Finland all operate their own embassies in Singapore. Similarly, British embassies often provide consular services on behalf of Commonwealth countries that do not have diplomatic representation in the host country. Unless you are travelling with a special diplomatic passport (issued only to diplomats, high-ranking government officials or their family members), then diplomatic immunity does not apply to you. If you do have official diplomatic status, then it becomes a more complex legal question and your employer should be able to provide expert advice. Diplomatic missions have special status under international law. An embassy is considered entirely under the control of the sending nation, and local laws do not apply inside it. For instance, police from the host country may not enter the embassy compound without permission from the sending nation. A consulate does not enjoy this privilege, and local laws do still apply. A few relatively senior diplomats are immune to arrest or prosecution by the host country regardless of the crime, whether for spying or more mundane offenses, and the only option is for the host to expel them. The assassination of Kim Jong-nam in Malaysia is one of the more infamous examples. Some mission staff may have only a weaker "consular immunity"; they cannot be prosecuted for anything done on the job, but can be for other things. Honorary consuls are not entitled to any diplomatic or consular immunity. While the sending nation can waive immunity, it is not required to do so. Diplomats' luggage or things shipped in a "diplomatic bag" are immune from customs inspection, although there have been instances where customs officials simply ignored this restriction. There are a set of rather complex rules covering how far these protections extend. Not all embassy staff have diplomatic privileges but some staff outside the embassy — for example, at a trade mission or an aid agency — may. Diplomatic immunity typically only applies in the country that you are accredited to, and would usually cease to apply if you travel to another country outside your official capacity. There are a number of complications and variations, which will only occasionally matter to travellers.

Some of the smaller or poorer nations have few missions abroad. To get a visa for Tajikistan, for example, you may have to go to a major center like Moscow or London. New York is also good for this since almost every country has a mission to the United Nations. The bright side is that in these cases it is often possible to apply by mail, although this means letting go of your passport for several weeks. Some countries also







allow applying for their visas online. The reverse can apply as well. If you are in an out-of-the-way place and need consular assistance, your country may not have an embassy there so you might need to contact another mission; for example, most visitors to Bhutan would need to contact their embassy in Delhi. Alternately, your government may have an arrangement with some friendly country by which that country's mission will also provide consular service for citizens of your nation; this is most common for pairs of countries in some international group such as the British Commonwealth, the ex-Soviet Commonwealth of Independent States or the European Union. This is one more thing to check when planning a trip that goes far off the beaten path; your own government's foreign affairs department is the best source of information on such arrangements.

A diplomatic mission or foreign mission is a group of people from a state or organization present in another state to represent the sending state or organization officially in the receiving or host state. In practice, the phrase usually denotes an embassy, which is the main office of a country's diplomatic representatives to another country; it is usually, but not necessarily, based in the receiving state's capital city. Consulates, on the other hand, are smaller diplomatic missions that are normally located in major cities of the receiving state (but can be located in the capital, typically when the sending country has no embassy in the receiving state). As well as being a diplomatic mission to the country in which it is situated, an embassy may also be a nonresident permanent mission to one or more other countries. The term embassy is sometimes used interchangeably with chancery, the physical office or site of a diplomatic mission. Consequently, the terms "embassy residence" and "embassy office" are used to distinguish between the ambassador's residence and the chancery. Terminology. There are currently more than 2,000 foreign missions in the United States that employ nearly 70,000 staff and close to 90% are entitled to some degree of diplomatic or consular immunities. An ambassador is a head of mission who is accredited to the receiving country's head of state. They head a diplomatic mission known as an embassy, headquartered in a chancery usually in the receiving state's capital. Records of treaties between Mesopotamian city-states date from about 2850 bce. Thereafter, Akkadian (Babylonian) became the first diplomatic language, serving as the international tongue of the Middle East until it was replaced by Aramaic. Diplomacy is the only means for cooperation between States and between international organizations. Therefore, protecting diplomatic and consular missions and observing their immunity and privileges is crucial to ensure normal international relations. Oct 18, 2022







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