

this must be done bearing in mind the need for police to adhere to the provisions of the Vienna Convention as they pertain to the treatment of diplomatic agents.

(4) Issue: The role and responsibilities of the RCMP Liaison Officer attached to the Office of Protocol require clarification.

Action Taken: The Chief of Protocol, in co-operation with the RCMP, is clarifying and fully documenting the roles and responsibilities of the RCMP Liaison Officer assigned to the Office of Protocol in order to ensure that the Office of Protocol is advised of any encounter between a foreign diplomat based in Canada and the police, while recognizing that the police files themselves remain under the control of the RCMP.

(5) Issue: There was no written policy on the treatment of diplomats stopped on suspicion of impaired driving that would ensure they were treated in a manner in keeping with the treatment that would be meted out to a Canadian citizen committing the same offence, even bearing in mind the provisions of the Vienna Convention.

Action Taken: The Department has developed a revised policy on drinking and driving by members of the diplomatic corps in Canada. While respecting the provisions of the Vienna Convention, this ensures that the penalties sought are consistent with those that would be faced by a Canadian citizen under the same circumstances. This policy will allow Protocol to take action on drunk driving incidents brought to the attention of the RCMP Liaison Officer in Protocol, through either criminal charges or police reports. The policy allows Protocol to effectively suspend driving privileges even if charges are not laid, on the basis of a police report substantiating that the officer has reasonable suspicions that the driver was impaired. Protocol will call in the head of mission and request that he/she remove the driver's licence of the individual for up to one year when there is a police report, but no charges, and a minimum of one year when there are charges. The head of mission will be obliged to give a commitment in writing through a letter or note addressed to Protocol, and to confirm that the individual is under his/her responsibility and accordingly will not attempt to drive during the period of suspension. If the individual is caught driving during this period, he/she will immediately be subject to a recall. Protocol may also recommend steps against the head of mission.

If the head of mission refuses to take steps with regard to the suspension of the driver's licence, Protocol will then trigger the recall mechanism.

This policy has been spelled out in greater detail in a diplomatic note which has been sent to all diplomatic and consular offices in Canada. In connection with the implementation of this policy, the Deputy Minister has met with representatives of the diplomatic community in Ottawa and with representatives from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and of the Ontario Provincial Attorney General to discuss the proposed policy with them, answer their questions, and receive their suggestions.