

The mission's official correspondence, that is to say, all correspondence relating to the mission and its functions, is inviolable. The diplomatic bag must not be opened or detained. The packages of which it is constituted must be clearly identified and may contain only diplomatic documents or articles intended for official use.

The diplomatic courier must carry an official document indicating his/her status and the number of parcels constituting the diplomatic bag. Diplomatic couriers are protected by the receiving State in the performance of their functions. In addition, they enjoy personal inviolability and are not liable to any form of arrest or detention.

5. Miscellaneous privileges

The sending country and its head of mission are exempt from all dues and taxes with respect to the mission premises of which they are owners provided such charges are not levied for particular services rendered. This exemption does not apply when the premises are rented.

The diplomatic representative is exempt from all dues and taxes, personal or real, national, regional or local, except:

- (a) indirect taxes of a kind which are normally included in the prices of goods and services;
- (b) dues and taxes on private immovable property situated in the territory of the receiving State unless the diplomatic representative holds this property on behalf of the sending State and for the purposes of the mission;
- (c) estate, succession or inheritance duties levied by the receiving State, subject to certain exceptions;
- (d) dues and taxes on private income having its source in the receiving State and capital taxes on investments made in commercial undertakings in the receiving State;
- (e) charges levied for specific services rendered;
- (f) registration, court or record fees, mortgage dues and stamp duty with respect to immovable property, subject to provisions relating to the premises of the mission.

The receiving State grants exemption from customs duties, taxes and related charges other than charges for storage, cartage and similar services, on:

- (a) articles for the official use of the mission;
- (b) articles for the personal use of the diplomatic representative and members of his/her family forming part of his/her household, including articles intended for his/her establishment.

Diplomatic representatives are exempt from inspection of their personal baggage. If this has to be examined because it is suspected of containing articles not covered by the exemptions, it may only be opened in the presence of a diplomatic representative or an authorized delegate