

mentary thereto, and to ensure their uniform application, Mixed Commissions composed of a German representative to be appointed by the Federal Government and a representative of the sending State concerned shall be constituted at the request of either party. The task of these Mixed Commissions shall be to discuss questions submitted to them by the Federal Government or the highest authority of the force concerned with respect to the application of the provisions referred to in this Article. The German authorities and the authorities of the sending State shall give sympathetic consideration to any joint recommendation made by a Mixed Commission.

ARTICLE 31

With respect to the right to free judicial assistance and the exemption from the obligation to post security for costs, members of a force or of a civilian component shall enjoy the rights determined in agreements in force in these fields between the Federal Republic and the sending State concerned. The presence on duty of such persons in the Federal territory shall, in the application of such agreements, be deemed to be residence therein.

ARTICLE 32

- I. (a) Service upon members of a force, of a civilian component, or on dependents of a plaint or other document or court order initiating non-criminal proceedings before a German court or authority shall be made through a liaison agency to be established or designated by each of the sending States. The German courts or authorities may request the liaison agency to ensure service of other documents arising in such proceedings.
- (b) Receipt of an application submitted by a German court or authority for service shall be acknowledged by the liaison agency without delay. Service shall be effective when the document to be served is delivered to the addressee by his unit commander or by a representative of the liaison agency. Notification in writing that service has been effected shall be given without delay to the German court or authority.
- (c) (i) If upon the expiry of a period of twenty-one days from the date of acknowledgement of receipt by the liaison agency, the German court or authority has received neither notification in writing that service has been effected in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph nor any communication stating that it has not been possible to effect service, the court or authority shall forward to the liaison agency another copy of the application for service with notice that seven days after receipt by the liaison agency service shall be deemed to have been effected. At the expiry of this seven-day period, service shall be deemed to have been effected.
- (ii) Service shall not, however, be deemed to have been effected if the liaison agency notifies the German court or authority prior to the expiry of the period of twenty-one days or seven days, as the case may be, that it has not been able to effect