

time, however, submit a few general comments which we hope will be of assistance to governments when preparing for the historic conference which is to take place next March.

We are somewhat concerned with the emphasis placed in some of the draft articles, for example Articles 8-14, 17 and 18, on the special position of the head of a consular post. They leave us with the impression that the position of a head of a consular post is comparable to that of a head of a diplomatic mission, and in our view this should not be so. An Ambassador, Minister or Charge d'Affaires is the official representative of his government and the members of his mission assist him in the performance of his functions, deriving their status from the fact that they are part of his official suite. On the other hand, the status of a consular official derives from his personal appointment. In Canada, it is not only the head of post but all consular officials who are required to be admitted individually to the exercise of their functions by the Canadian Government. Furthermore, under Canadian law and regulations affecting privileges and immunities, no special rights are granted to consular officials solely by fact of their being head of consular post. We would hope that this point of view would find broad sympathy in the Assembly and, if so, that it may be borne in mind in the future revision of the draft Articles

My Delegation also considers that the rights of unrestricted communication by consular officials in the receiving state with nationals of the sending states should be spelled out unequivocally in the Convention. The freedom of communication between consular officials and nationals of the sending state is so implicit in the exercise of consular functions that its absence would make the establishment of consular relations largely meaningless. A consulate should have the right of free access to its own nationals; and this right must not be unduly restricted by the authorities in the receiving state, except in the case where a national of the sending state clearly indicates an unwillingness to communicate with the consular officials of the sending state.