

receiving State must accord full facilities for the performance of the functions of the mission. The premises of the mission, their furnishings and other property thereon and the means of transport of the mission are immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution. The archives and documents of the mission are inviolable at all times and wherever they may be.

All official business with the receiving State which is entrusted to the mission by the country it represents must be conducted with or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State or such other ministry as may be agreed on. The premises of the mission must not be used in any manner incompatible with the functions of the mission as laid down in the Convention, by other rules of general international law or by any special agreements in force between the sending and the receiving State.

If diplomatic relations are broken off between two States, or if a mission is permanently or temporarily recalled:

- (a) the receiving State must, even in the case of armed conflict, respect and protect the premises of the mission, together with its property and archives;
- (b) the sending State may entrust the custody of the premises of the mission, together with its property and archives, to a third State acceptable to the receiving State;
- (c) the sending State may entrust the protection of its interests and those of its nationals to a third State acceptable to the receiving State.

2. Head of diplomatic mission

Under the Convention, heads of mission are divided into three classes. Representatives of the first class, that of ambassadors, nuncios and other heads of mission of equivalent rank, and the second, that of envoys, ministers and internuncios, are accredited to Heads of State. The third class, that of *Chargés d'Affaires*, is accredited to Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The only differentiation made between heads of mission is with respect to precedence and etiquette.

The head of mission informs the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State, or such other ministry as may be agreed on, of the order of precedence of members of the diplomatic staff of the mission. If the position of head of the mission is vacant or if the head of the mission is unable to perform his/her functions, a *Chargé d'Affaires "ad interim"* acts provisionally as head of the mission. This officer's name will be presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State, or to such other ministry as may be agreed on, by the head of mission or, if he/she is unable to do so, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the sending State. In cases where no member of the diplomatic staff of the mission is present in the receiving State, the sending State may, with the agreement of the receiving State, designate a member of the administrative and technical staff to be in charge of the current administrative affairs of the mission.

3. Diplomatic representatives

Diplomatic representatives are divided into seven classes, namely: (a) ambassadors or high commissioners, (b) ministers, (c) counsellors, (d) first secretaries, (e) second secretaries, (f) third secretaries, (g) attachés.

Members of the diplomatic staff should in principle be of the nationality of the country