

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 functions, a *chargé d'affaires "ad interim"* acts provisionally as head of the mission. This officer's name will be notified 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 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 they represent. The consent of the receiving State must be obtained before employing any of its nationals on diplomatic duties, and such consent may be withdrawn at any time. The same rule applies to nationals of a third country who may not be of the nationality of the country for which they are exercising diplomatic functions.

The receiving State may at any time, and without having to justify its action, notify the represented government that a member of the diplomatic staff of the mission is "*persona non grata*" or that some other member of the mission is unacceptable. Such person will thereupon be recalled by the sending State or will, at all events, terminate his activities with the mission. A person may even be declared "*non grata*" before arriving in the receiving country. If the sending State does not take