

The principle of reciprocity between states is respected in the power conferred on the Governor in Council to restrict immunity. Under the Act, a certificate issued by the Secretary of State for External Affairs is admissible in evidence as conclusive proof of the status of a foreign state, its territories or subdivisions.

In recognizing certain privileges and immunities traditionally granted to foreign states, the Act does not derogate from the Act respecting Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities¹ or from the Visiting Forces Act.²

There have been a dozen or so prosecutions of foreign states since the State Immunity Act came into force. Service on the foreign states in question has been made in two of these.

1. S.C. 1976-77, c. 31, amended by S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c. 74

2. R.S.C. 1970, c. V-6, amended by S.C. 1972, c. 13