

governments to foreign representatives are based on the premise that one Head of State should not tax another Head of State and thus, by analogy, the government or employees of another state. Their purpose, according to the preamble of both Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations is not to benefit individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of diplomatic missions and consular posts.

The Head of Post is responsible for monitoring privileges and ensuring that they are not misused. For their part, employees must themselves guard against making excessive or illegal use or abuse of any privilege. In particular, employees shall not abuse their import privileges (automobile, tobaccos, wines, spirits and other personal goods).

DIPLOMATIC BAG AND RELATED DEPARTMENTAL MAIL FACILITIES

There are strict regulations governing the conditions under which personnel are authorized use of the diplomatic bag and related facilities for the transmission of items such as personal mail and parcels. The subject is governed by the relevant provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the departmental Manual of Security and more specific guidelines and instructions. Any other use of these costly services constitutes an abuse of personal mailing privileges which are determined as fairly as possible on the basis of considerations such as security and need. Instances of abuse to avoid customs examination or to transmit contraband will continue to be brought to the attention of customs and policy officials and such offences, on conviction, could result in fines and imprisonment. It should be noted that use of these facilities as a free freight service to ship personnel documents and possessions without a good reason or proper authority is also to be regarded as abuse. Any question regarding use of the diplomatic bag and related facilities should be