

No. 12810

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**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
and  
BULGARIA**

**Consular Convention (with protocol). Signed at Moscow on  
6 May 1971**

*Authentic texts: Russian and Bulgarian.*

*Registered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 20 November  
1973.*

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**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES  
et  
BULGARIE**

**Convention consulaire (avec protocole). Signée à Moscou le  
6 mai 1971**

*Textes authentiques: russe et bulgare.*

*Enregistrée par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques le 20  
novembre 1973.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

## CONSULAR CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Presidium of the People's Republic of Bulgaria,

Desiring further to develop friendly relations in accordance with the Treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, signed at Sofia on 12 May 1967,<sup>2</sup> and

Considering that the Consular Convention between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, signed at Sofia on 12 December 1957<sup>3</sup> needs to be updated,

Have decided to conclude this Consular Convention and for that purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Nikolai Ivanovich Molyakov, Head of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

The Presidium of the People's Republic of Bulgaria: Ivan Spasov, Head of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

### CHAPTER I. DEFINITIONS

*Article 1.* For the purposes of this Convention, the following expressions shall have the meanings hereunder assigned to them:

1. "Consular post" shall mean a consulate-general, consulate, vice-consulate or consular agency;

2. "Head of consular post" shall mean the person who is in charge of a consular post, whether a consul-general, consul, vice-consul or consular agent;

3. "Consular officer" shall mean any person, including the head of the consular post, who is authorized to exercise consular functions. The term "consular officer" shall also cover any person who is assigned to a consular post for the purpose of receiving instruction in consular duties (trainees);

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 25 November 1971, i. e. the thirtieth day after the exchange of instruments of ratification, which took place at Sofia on 26 October 1971, in accordance with article 43(1).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 631, p. 239.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 302, p. 21.

4. "Consular employee" shall mean any person who is not a consular officer and who performs administrative or technical duties at a consular post. The term "consular employee" shall also cover workers on the service staff of the consular post;

5. "Vessel" shall mean any vessel flying the flag of the sending State.

## CHAPTER II. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULAR POSTS AND APPOINTMENT OF CONSULAR OFFICERS

*Article 2.* 1. A consular post may be opened in the receiving State only with the consent of that State.

2. The seat of the consular post, its classification and the boundaries of the consular district shall be determined by agreement between the sending State and the receiving State.

*Article 3.* 1. Prior to the appointment of the head of a consular post, the sending State shall ascertain through the diplomatic channel that the receiving State will consent to the appointment.

2. After obtaining such consent, the diplomatic mission of the sending state shall transmit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State the consular commission or other document of appointment of the head of the consular post. The consular commission or other document shall specify the full name of the head of the consular post, his nationality, his rank, the consular district in which he will perform his duties and the seat of the consular post.

3. Upon presentation of the consular commission or other document of appointment of the head of a consular post, the exequatur or other authorization shall be granted as soon as possible by the receiving State.

4. Pending delivery of the exequatur or other authorization, the receiving State may permit the head of a consular post to perform his duties on a provisional basis.

5. The head of the consular post may take up his duties as soon as the receiving State has granted the exequatur or other authorization.

6. As soon as the head of a consular post has been recognized, even on a provisional basis, the authorities of the receiving State shall make the necessary arrangements to enable him to perform his functions.

*Article 4.* The sending State shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State of the full name, nationality, rank and functional title of a consular officer appointed to a consular post in a capacity other than that of head of the consular post.

*Article 5.* Consular officers shall have the nationality of the sending State only.

*Article 6.* The receiving State may at any time, and without having to explain the reason for its decision, notify the sending State through the diplo-

matic channel that the exequatur or other authorization granted to a head of a consular post has been withdrawn or that any other consular officer or employee is unacceptable. In that event, the sending State shall recall the head of the consular post, consular official or consular employee, as the case may be, if the person concerned has already taken up his duties. If the sending State fails to carry out this obligation within a reasonable time, the receiving State decline to continue to recognize the person concerned as a consular officer or consular employee.

### CHAPTER III. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

*Article 7.* The receiving State shall provide protection for consular officers and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that consular officers are able to perform their duties and to enjoy the rights, privileges and immunities specified in this Convention and in the legislation of the receiving State. The receiving State shall take the necessary steps to provide protection for the consular post and the residences of consular officers.

*Article 8.* 1. If the head of the consular post is unable for any reason to carry out his functions or if the position of head of consular post is temporarily vacant, the sending State may authorize a consular officer belonging to the same or another consular post in the receiving State or one of the members of the diplomatic staff of its diplomatic mission in that State to act as temporary head of the consular post. The full name of the person concerned shall be notified in advance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State.

2. A person authorized to act as temporary head of a consular post shall be entitled to perform the duties of the head of the consular post whom he has been appointed to replace. He shall have the same duties, and shall enjoy the same rights, privileges and immunities as if he had been appointed in accordance with article 3 of this Convention.

3. The appointment of a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State to a consular post in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall not affect the privileges and immunities accorded to him by virtue of his diplomatic status.

*Article 9.* 1. Members of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State in the receiving State who have been entrusted with the performance of consular functions in the diplomatic mission shall have the same rights and duties as are provided for in this Convention, in respect of consular officers.

2. The performance of consular functions by the persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall not affect the privileges and immunities accorded to them by virtue of their diplomatic status.

*Article 10.* The sending State may, in accordance with the laws of the receiving State, acquire or rent land, buildings or parts of buildings for the purposes of establishing consular premises and living quarters for consular officers or consular employees, provided that they are nationals of the sending State and are not domiciled in that State.

The receiving State shall, where necessary, assist the sending State in acquiring or renting land, buildings or parts of buildings for the purposes indicated above.

*Article 11.* 1. A consulate shield bearing the coat of arms of the sending State and an inscription designating the consular post in the language of that State and the language of the receiving State may be affixed to the building occupied by the consular post.

2. The flag of the sending State may be flown from the consular post and also from the residence of the head of the consular post.

3. The head of a consular post may also fly the flag of the sending State on his means of transports (motor vehicles, launches, etc).

*Article 12.* 1. Buildings or parts of buildings used exclusively for the purposes of the consular post, as well as the land appurtenant to such buildings or parts of buildings, shall be inviolable.

The authorities of the receiving State may not enter buildings or parts of buildings used exclusively for the purposes of a consular post, or the land appurtenant to such buildings or parts of buildings, except with the consent of the head of the consular post, the head of the diplomatic mission of the sending State or a person designated by one of them.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply to the living quarters of consular officers and consular employees, if such persons are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State.

*Article 13.* The consular archives shall be inviolable at all times and wherever they may be. Unofficial papers shall not be kept in the consular archives.

*Article 14.* 1. A consular post shall have the right to communicate with its Government and with the diplomatic mission and consular posts of the sending State in the receiving State. For this purpose the consular posts may use all ordinary means of communication, cipher, couriers, and sealed bags (sacks, pouches and so forth). Radio transmitters may be installed or used only with the consent of the receiving State.

The same rights shall apply to a consular post in the use of ordinary means of communication as to a diplomatic mission.

2. The official correspondence of a consular post, regardless of the means of communication used, and sealed bags bearing visible external marks of their official character shall be inviolable, shall not be subject to inspection and shall not be detained by the authorities of the receiving State.

3. Persons carrying consular bags shall be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities by the receiving State as diplomatic couriers of the sending State.

4. A consular bag may be entrusted to the captain of a vessel or aircraft. He shall be provided with an official document indicating the number of

packages constituting the bag, but he shall not be considered a consular courier. A consular officer may take possession of a consular bag directly and freely from the captain of a vessel or aircraft.

*Article 15.* Consular officers and consular employees shall, if they are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State, enjoy personal inviolability. They shall not be subject to arrest or detention in any form. The receiving State shall treat such persons with due respect and shall take appropriate steps to prevent any attack on their persons, freedom or dignity.

*Article 16.* 1. Consular officers or consular employees shall, if they are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State, enjoy immunity from the jurisdiction of the receiving State, subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c), and paragraph 3 of article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna on 18 April 1961.<sup>1</sup>

2. Members of the families of consular officers or consular employees, if they reside with them and are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State, shall enjoy immunity from the jurisdiction of the receiving State and personal inviolability to the same extent as consular officers or consular employees.

3. The sending State may waive the immunity from jurisdiction of consular officers and consular employees and of members of their families. Such waivers shall in all cases be express and shall be communicated in writing.

The waiver of immunity from jurisdiction for the purposes of civil and administrative proceedings shall not be deemed to imply the waiver of immunity in respect of execution of a judicial decision, for which a separate waiver shall be necessary.

4. If a consular officer, consular employee or member of his family residing with him brings an action in a case in which he would enjoy immunity in accordance with this article, he shall not be entitled to invoke immunity from jurisdiction in respect of any counter-claim directly connected with the principal claim.

*Article 17.* 1. A consular officer shall not be required to give evidence as a witness.

2. A consular employee who is not a national of the sending State may be summoned to give evidence. He may, however, decline to give evidence concerning matters connected with official duties. Measures to compel a consular employee to give evidence or to appear in court for that purpose shall not be permitted, nor shall he be prosecuted if he declines to give evidence or to appear in court.

3. Where a consular employee consents to give evidence as a witness, all reasonable steps shall be taken to avoid interference in the work of the consular post. Where permissible and feasible, a deposition may be made orally or in writing at the consular post or at the living quarters of the consular employee concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, p. 95.

4. A consular employee to whom the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article do not apply may decline to give evidence concerning matters connected with official duties.

5. The provisions of this article shall apply to both judicial proceedings and proceedings conducted by the administrative authorities.

6. The provisions of this article shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to members of the families of consular officers or consular employees, if such persons reside with them and are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State.

*Article 18.* Consular officers or consular employees and members of their families residing with them, who are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State, shall be exempt from service in the armed forces of the receiving State and from compulsory public service of any kind.

*Article 19.* Consular officers or consular employees and members of their families residing with them who are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State shall be exempt from all requirements under the laws and regulations of the receiving State relating to the registration of aliens, residence permits and other similar matters.

*Article 20.* 1. The sending State shall be exempt in the receiving State from the imposition and collection of taxes or dues of any kind on:

- (a) Land, buildings or parts of buildings used solely for consular purposes, including the living quarters of consular officers and consular employees, if such property is owned or leased by the sending State or any individual or body corporate acting in the name of that State;
- (b) Transactions and instruments relating to the acquisition of such immovable property, provided that the sending State acquires it solely for consular purposes.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall not apply to payment for specific services rendered.

*Article 21.* No taxes or similar dues of any kind which the sending State would otherwise be legally required to pay shall be imposed or collected by the receiving State in respect of movable property which is owned by the sending State, in its possession or at its disposal and is used for consular purposes, or in respect of the acquisition of such property.

*Article 22.* Consular officers or consular employees, if they are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State shall be exempt from paying any taxes or other similar dues of any kind levied and collected by the receiving State in respect of wages received by them for the performance of their official duties.

*Article 23.* 1. Consular officers and consular employees, and also members of their families residing with them who are nationals of the sending State but not domiciled in the receiving State, shall be exempt in the receiving State, from all national and local taxes and dues, including taxes and dues on movable property belonging to them.

2. The exemptions provided for in paragraph 1 of this article shall not apply to:

- (a) Indirect taxes of the kind normally incorporated in the price of goods or charge for services;
- (b) Taxes and dues on personal immovable property situated in the receiving State, except for taxes and dues in respect of which an exemption applies in accordance with article 20 of this Convention;
- (c) Taxes and dues on the inheritance or acquisition of property in the receiving State;
- (d) Taxes and dues on private income derived from sources within the receiving State;
- (e) Taxes and dues on transactions and on instruments recording or relating to those transactions, including State duties (stamp taxes of all kinds) imposed or collected in connexion therewith, except for taxes and dues in respect of which an exemption applies in accordance with article 20 of this Convention;
- (f) Payments for specific services rendered.

*Article 24.* 1. All articles, including motor vehicles, imported for the official use of a consular post or a diplomatic mission shall be exempt from customs duties and other levies of any kind that are imposed in connexion with importation or by reason of importation.

2. Consular officers and members of their families shall be exempt from customs inspection. Consular officers and consular employees, and also members of their families residing with them, if they are not nationals of or domiciled in the receiving State, shall be accorded the same exemption from customs and other duties levied in connexion with importation or by reason of importation as is accorded to members of the corresponding categories of personnel of a diplomatic mission.

3. For the purposes of paragraph 2 of this article, the term "corresponding categories of personnel of a diplomatic mission" shall refer in relation to consular officers, to members of the diplomatic staff and, in relation to consular employees, to members of the administrative and technical staff.

*Article 25.* Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities under this Convention to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, including the laws and regulations relating to vehicular traffic and motor vehicle insurance.

*Article 26.* Subject to the laws and regulations of the receiving State concerning areas entry into which is prohibited or restricted for reasons of national security, consular officers shall be permitted to travel freely within the limits of their consular districts in order to perform their official duties.

## CHAPTER IV. CONSULAR FUNCTIONS

*Article 27.* 1. Within the limits of the consular district a consular officer shall be entitled to perform the functions specified in this chapter. A consular officer may also perform other official consular functions, provided that they are not contrary to the law of the receiving State.

2. In connexion with the performance of his functions, a consular officer may apply, in writing or orally, to the competent authorities within the consular district, including agencies of the central institutions.

3. A consular officer shall be entitled to collect consular fees in accordance with the law of the sending State.

*Article 28.* Within the limits of the consular district a consular officer shall be entitled:

1. To protect the rights and interests of the sending State and of its nationals and bodies corporate.
2. To further the development of economic, commercial, cultural and scientific relations between the sending State and the receiving State, to promote the development of tourism and to assist in other ways in developing friendly relations between the two States.

*Article 29.* 1. Within the limits of the consular district a consular officer shall be entitled:

- (a) To keep a register of nationals of the sending State;
- (b) To receive such applications relating to nationality as may be required by the law of the sending State;
- (c) To register and receive notifications or documents concerning the birth or death of a national of the sending State;
- (d) To solemnize marriages and grant divorces under the law of the sending State, provided that both parties are nationals of the sending State;
- (e) To receive applications relating to the family relationships of nationals of the sending State.

2. A consular officer shall notify the competent organs of the receiving State concerning the registration at the consular post of documents relating to civil status in accordance with paragraph 1, subparagraph (c) and (d), of this article, if such notification is required under the local laws.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1, subparagraphs (c) and (d), of this article shall not exempt the persons concerned from the obligation to comply with the formalities required under the law of the receiving State.

*Article 30.* In accordance with the law of the sending State and the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning the provision of legal assistance in civil, family and criminal cases, a consular officer shall be entitled to legalize adoptions and to institute guardianship.

*Article 31.* A consular officer shall be entitled:

1. To issue, renew and cancel passports of nationals of the sending State;
2. To issue documents conferring the right to enter the sending State and to make appropriate changes in such documents;
3. To issue entry, exit and transit visas.

*Article 32.* 1. Within the limits of the consular district a consular officer shall be entitled to perform the notarial functions specified by the law of the sending State and;

- (a) To draw up notarial acts for use in the sending State at the request of a person of any nationality;
- (b) To draw up notarial acts for use outside the sending State at the request of nationals of that State.

2. A consular officer shall be entitled to translate documents and to certify the accuracy of the translation.

*Article 33.* A consular officer shall be entitled to perform the following functions at a consular post, in his living quarters or in the living quarters of nationals of the sending State, and also on board vessels or aircraft of the sending State:

1. To receive, draw up and certify declarations of nationals of the sending State;
2. To draw up, attest and accept for safe-keeping the wills of nationals of the sending State;
3. To draw up or attest transactions between nationals of the sending State and to attest unilateral transactions, provided that they are not contrary to the law of the receiving State. A consular officer may not draw up and attest transactions which establish or alienate material rights to immovable property situated in the receiving State;
4. To draw up or attest transactions between nationals of the sending State and nationals of the receiving State, if such transactions relate exclusively to interests situated in the territory of the sending State or are subject to execution in the territory of that State and provided that such transactions are not contrary to the law of the receiving State;
5. To legalize documents issued by the authorities or officials of the sending State or the receiving State, and to certify copies, translations and extracts from such documents;
6. To attest the signatures of nationals of the sending State on documents of any kind, provided that the content of such documents is not contrary to the laws of the receiving State;
7. To accept for safe-keeping property and documents from or for nationals of the sending State, provided that this is not contrary to the law of the receiving State;
8. To perform other acts relating to the functions of a consular officer, where such acts are not contrary to the laws of the receiving State.

*Article 34.* Documents drawn up, certified or translated by a consular officer in accordance with article 33 of this Convention shall be regarded in the receiving State as having the same standing in law and evidential value as documents drawn up, translated or certified by the competent authorities and institutions of the receiving State.

*Article 35.* 1. The functions of consular officers in respect of succession shall be governed by the provisions of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning the provision of legal assistance in civil, family and criminal cases.<sup>1</sup>

2. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall notify a consular officer of the death of a national of the sending State and shall convey to him information concerning the property of the estate, the heirs and legatees and concerning the existence of a will.

3. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall notify a consular officer of the opening of a succession in the receiving State where an heir or legatee is a national of the sending State.

This shall also apply in cases where the competent authorities of the receiving State learn of the opening of a succession in favour of a national of the sending State in the territory of a third State.

*Article 36.* Within the limits of the consular district, a consular officer shall be entitled to represent nationals of the sending State before the authorities of the receiving State where such nationals are unable, owing to absence or for other valid reasons, to protect their own rights and interests within the appropriate time-limits. Such representation shall continue until the persons represented appoint their own agents or themselves to assume the protection of their rights and interests.

*Article 37.* 1. Within the limits of the consular district a consular officer shall be entitled to meet and communicate with any national of the sending State and to advise and render any kind of aid to such nationals, including arrangements for providing them with legal assistance.

The receiving State shall do nothing to restrict communication between nationals of the sending State and a consular officer or the access of such nationals to the consular post.

2. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall immediately notify a consular officer of the sending State if a national of the sending State is arrested or otherwise detained.

3. A consular officer shall be entitled without delay to visit and communicate with a national of the sending State who has been arrested or otherwise detained or is serving a term of imprisonment.

The rights referred to in this paragraph shall be exercised in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, provided, however, that such laws and regulations shall not be deemed to invalidate these rights.

*Article 38.* 1. A consular officer shall be entitled to extend any kind of

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 317, p. 217.

assistance and aid to a vessel of the sending State at a port and in the territorial or internal waters of the receiving State.

2. A consular officer may proceed on board the vessel as soon as it has received *pratique*, and the master and members of the crew of the vessel may communicate with a consular officer.

3. A consular officer may request assistance from the competent authorities of the receiving State on any matters relating to the performance of his functions with respect to a vessel of the sending State and the master and members of the crew of such a vessel.

*Article 39.* Within the limits of the consular district a consular officer shall be entitled:

1. To investigate, without prejudice to the rights of the authorities of the receiving State, any incident occurring on board a vessel of the sending State during its voyage or when it is in port, question the master and any member of the crew of such vessel, examine the vessel's papers, take statements with regard to its voyage and destination and facilitate the vessel's entry, departure and stay in the port.
2. Without prejudice to the rights of the authorities of the receiving State, to settle disputes of any kind between the master and any members of the crew, including disputes as to wages and labour contracts to the extent that this is permitted under the law of the sending State.
3. To make arrangements for the treatment in hospital and the repatriation of the master or any member of the crew.
4. To receive, draw up or authenticate any declaration or other document prescribed by the law of the sending State in connexion with vessels.
5. To issue a provisional certificate of the right to fly the flag of the sending State in respect of a newly acquired or newly built vessel.

*Article 40.* 1. Where the courts or other competent authorities of the receiving State intend to take any coercive measures or to institute a criminal investigation on board a vessel of the sending State, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall so notify a consular officer. Such notification shall be made before such action is initiated so as to enable the consular officer or his representative to be present at the proceedings. If the consular officer or his representative is not present he shall, upon request, be provided by the competent authorities of the receiving State with a full report of the occurrence.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply in the event that the master or any member of the crew of a vessel are to be questioned ashore by the port authorities.

3. The provisions of this article shall not, however, apply to any routine examination with regard to passport, customs or public health control or to any action taken at the request, or with the consent of the master of the vessel.

*Article 41.* 1. Where a vessel of the sending State is wrecked, runs aground, is stranded or is otherwise damaged in the receiving State or where

any article forming part of the cargo of a damaged vessel of a third State, being the property of a national of the sending State, is found on or near the coast of the receiving State or is brought into a port of that State, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall as soon as possible notify the appropriate consular officer. They shall also notify him of measures already taken to save persons on board the vessel, the vessel, the cargo and other property on board, and articles belonging to the vessel or forming part of its cargo which have become separated from the vessel.

2. A consular officer may extend all possible assistance to a damaged vessel, its passengers and the members of its crew; for this purpose he may apply to the competent authorities of the receiving State for assistance.

A consular officer may take the measures specified in paragraph 1 of this article and measures for the repair of the vessel or may request the competent authorities to take, or continue to take, such measures themselves.

3. Where a damaged vessel of the sending State or any article belonging thereto has been found on or near the coast of the receiving State or brought into a port of that State, and neither the master of the vessel, the owner, his agent nor the underwriters concerned are in a position to make arrangements for the custody or disposal of the vessel or article, the consular officer shall be considered authorized to make, on behalf of the owner of the vessel, such arrangements as the owner himself could have made for such purposes.

The provisions of this paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to any article forming part of the cargo of the vessel and belonging to a national or body corporate of the sending State.

4. Where any article forming part of the cargo of a damaged vessel of a third State is the property of a national or body corporate of the sending State and is found on or near the coast of the receiving State or is brought into a port of that State, and neither the master of the vessel, the owner of the article, his agent nor the underwriters concerned are in a position to make arrangements for the custody or disposal of the article, the consular officer shall be considered authorized to make, on behalf of the owner, such arrangements as the owner himself could have made for such purposes.

*Article 42.* Articles 38-41 shall also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to aircraft.

#### CHAPTER V. FINAL PROVISIONS

*Article 43.* 1. This Convention shall be ratified and shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Sofia.

2. The Convention shall remain in force until the expiry of six months from the date on which one High Contracting Party gives notice to the other High Contracting Party of its intention to denounce the Convention.

3. The Consular Convention between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, signed on 12 December 1957, shall cease to have effect on the entry into force of this Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have signed this Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

DONE at Moscow, on 6 May 1971, in duplicate in the Russian and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Presidium of the  
Supreme Soviet of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics:

[NIKOLAI IVANOVICH MOLYAKOV]

For the Presidium  
of the People's Republic  
of Bulgaria:

[IVAN SPASOV]

### PROTOCOL

TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Upon signing this day the Consular Convention between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention"), the plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have agreed as follows:

1. The notification to a consular officer provided for in article 37, paragraph 2, of the Convention shall take place within one to three days from the time at which the national of the sending State is arrested or otherwise detained, depending on conditions affecting communications.

2. The right of a consular officer to visit and communicate with a national of the sending State, as provided in article 37, paragraph 3, of the Convention, accorded within two to four days from the time at which the national concerned is arrested or otherwise detained, depending on the location of the place of custody.

3. The right of a consular officer to visit and communicate with a national of the sending State while he is under arrest or otherwise detained or is serving a term of imprisonment, as provided in article 37, paragraph 3, of the Convention, shall be accorded at regular intervals.

4. This Protocol shall constitute an integral part of the Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have signed this Protocol and have thereto affixed their seals.

DONE at Moscow, on 6 May 1971, in duplicate in the Russian and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Presidium of the  
Supreme Soviet of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics:

[NIKOLAI IVANOVICH MOLYAKOV]

For the Presidium  
of the People's Republic  
of Bulgaria:

[IVAN SPASOV]