

No. 21867

**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
and
GREECE**

**Treaty concerning legal assistance in civil and criminal cases.
Signed at Athens on 21 May 1981**

Authentic texts: Russian and Greek.

Registered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 18 April 1983.

**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES
et
GRÈCE**

**Traité relatif à l'entraide judiciaire en matière civile et
pénale. Signé à Athènes le 21 mai 1981**

Textes authentiques : russe et grec.

Enregistré par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques le 18 avril 1983.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TREATY¹ BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC CONCERNING LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the Hellenic Republic,

Desiring to strengthen the friendly ties between the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hellenic Republic,

Attaching great importance to the development of co-operation in the sphere of legal assistance in civil and criminal matters,

Have decided to conclude this Treaty and for that purpose have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Terebilov, Minister of Justice of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

The President of the Hellenic Republic: Mr. Georgios Stamatis, Minister of Justice of the Hellenic Republic,

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

PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. LEGAL PROTECTION. 1. Nationals of either Contracting Party shall enjoy in the territory of the other Contracting Party, in respect of their personal and property rights, the same legal protection as nationals of the latter Contracting Party.

2. Nationals of either Contracting Party shall have free and unimpeded access to the courts, the procurator's office (hereinafter called "judicial authorities") and to other authorities of the other Contracting Party having jurisdiction in civil (including commercial and family) and criminal cases, and may appear, present petitions, bring actions and institute other proceedings before such authorities under the same conditions as nationals of the other Party.

3. The provisions of this Treaty shall also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to bodies corporate established in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties in accordance with the laws in force in its territory.

Article 2. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. 1. The judicial authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall provide one another with legal assistance in civil (including commercial and family) and criminal cases in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

2. The judicial authorities shall also provide legal assistance to other authorities having jurisdiction in the cases referred to in paragraph 1 above.

¹ Came into force on 1 September 1982, i.e., the thirtieth day after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Moscow on 2 August 1982, in accordance with article 55.

Article 3. SCOPE OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE. The legal assistance in civil and criminal cases shall include the service and transmission of documents, the provision of information on current law and court procedures and the performance of specific acts in connection with judicial proceedings required by the laws of the Contracting Party applied to, for example, by interrogating litigants, accused persons and defendants, witnesses and experts, by conducting expert examinations and judicial inspections, by delivering material evidence, and by recognizing and implementing decisions in civil cases, instituting criminal proceedings, and handing over persons who have committed crimes.

Article 4. METHOD OF COMMUNICATION. In providing legal assistance, the judicial authorities of the Contracting Parties shall communicate with one another through the diplomatic channel.

Article 5. APPLICATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE. 1. Applications for legal assistance shall be in writing and shall contain:

- 1) The title of the applicant authority;
- 2) The title of the authority applied to;
- 3) The title of the case in respect of which legal assistance is applied for, and the nature of the application;
- 4) The full names of the persons involved in the application, and information about their nationality, occupation and domicile or residence;
- 5) The full names and addresses of the representatives of the persons referred to in subparagraph 4 of this paragraph;
- 6) Where applicable, a statement of the circumstances requiring clarification, as well as a list of the documents and other evidence required;
- 7) In criminal cases, a description of the circumstances of the offence and the legal definition of the offence.

2. Applications for legal assistance must be signed by a competent person and certified by a seal.

Article 6. PROCEDURE FOR EXECUTING APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE. 1. The authority applied to shall render legal assistance in the manner prescribed by the procedural laws of its own State. However, it may, on request, employ the judicial procedures of the applicant Contracting Party, provided that they do not conflict with the laws of the Contracting Party applied to.

2. If the authority applied to is not competent to provide legal assistance, it shall transmit the application to the competent authority.

3. At the request of the applicant authority, the authority applied to shall notify the applicant authority and the Parties in good time of the time and place of execution of the application.

4. The authority applied to shall inform the applicant authority in writing of the execution of the application. If it has not been possible to execute the application, the applicant authority shall be informed of this immediately in writing, with an indication of the reasons which prevented execution, and the documents shall be returned.

Article 7. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS. 1. The authority applied to shall effect the service of a document in accordance with the regulations governing service of

documents in effect in its own State, provided that the document to be served is drawn up in the language of that State or is accompanied by a certified translation. If the document is not drawn up in the language of the Contracting Party applied to and is not accompanied by a translation, it shall be delivered to the addressee if he is willing to accept it.

2. Applications for the service of documents must indicate the exact address of the addressee and the title of the document to be served. If the address indicated in an application for service of a document is incomplete or inaccurate, the authority applied to shall take steps, in accordance with its legislation, to determine the exact address.

Article 8. CONFIRMATION OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS. Service of documents shall be confirmed in accordance with the regulations for such service in force in the territory of the Contracting Party applied to. Such confirmation shall contain particulars of the time and place of the service and the name of the person on whom the document has been served.

Article 9. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OR CONSULAR AUTHORITIES. 1. Each Contracting Party shall have the right to serve documents on its own nationals through its diplomatic missions or consular authorities.

2. Compulsion may not be used in such service.

Article 10. IMMUNITY OF WITNESSES AND EXPERTS. 1. No witness or expert of any nationality who, in response to a summons served by the authority applied to, appears before an applicant authority may be prosecuted, taken into custody or punished in the territory of the applicant Contracting Party for an offence committed before his entry into the territory of the said Party. Nor may such persons be prosecuted, taken into custody or punished in connection with their evidence or their conclusions as experts, or in connection with the criminal case which is the subject of the proceedings.

2. A witness or expert shall forfeit this guarantee if he fails to leave the territory of the applicant Contracting Party within 15 days from the date on which the authority which summoned him has officially informed him that his presence is no longer required. This period shall be deemed not to include any period during which the witness or expert was unable, owing to circumstances beyond his control, to leave the territory of the applicant Contracting Party.

3. Witnesses and experts shall be entitled to payment of their expenses, and experts shall be entitled to remuneration as well.

Article 11. WORKING LANGUAGES. 1. Applications for legal assistance and any accompanying documents shall be drawn up in the language of the applicant Contracting Party and accompanied by a translation in the language of the Contracting Party applied to.

2. The translation shall be certified by an official translator or a diplomatic mission or consular authority of the applicant Contracting Party.

Article 12. REFUSAL OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE. Legal assistance shall not be provided if its provision might be prejudicial to the sovereignty or security of the Contracting Party applied to or conflict with its fundamental legal principles.

Article 13. COSTS OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE. 1. Each Contracting Party shall bear all costs incurred in providing legal assistance in its own territory.

2. Costs incurred in respect of conveyance in transit in accordance with article 50 shall be borne by the applicant Contracting Party.

Article 14. EXPORT OF OBJECTS, DELIVERY OF ARTICLES AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS. In the export of objects, delivery of articles and transfer of funds in accordance with this Treaty from the territory of one Contracting Party to the territory of the other Contracting Party, the applicable law shall be that of the State from whose territory such export, delivery or transfer is to be effected.

PART II. DOCUMENTS

Article 15. ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS. 1. Official documents issued in the territory of one Contracting Party which are submitted in connection with the provision of legal assistance shall be accepted as official documents in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. Documents sent by one Contracting Party to the other in connection with the provision of legal assistance shall not require authentication.

Article 16. TRANSMITTAL OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. For the purposes of the application of this Treaty, each of the Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with its laws, transmit to the other Contracting Party, on request, documents concerning civil registration and other documents concerning the personal rights and legitimate interests of citizens of the other Contracting Party. Such documents shall be transmitted to the other Contracting Party untranslated and free of charge.

PART III. EXEMPTION FROM THE DEPOSIT OF SECURITY FOR LEGAL COSTS AND FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Article 17. EXEMPTION FROM THE DEPOSIT OF SECURITY FOR LEGAL COSTS. Nationals of one Contracting Party appearing before the courts of the other Contracting Party shall not be required to deposit security for legal costs on the sole ground that they are aliens or have no domicile or residence in the territory of the Contracting Party before whose courts they are appearing.

Article 18. FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE. Nationals of one Contracting Party appearing before the courts or other authorities of the other Contracting Party shall be provided with free legal assistance and shall be ensured free legal proceedings on the same basis and with the same advantages as nationals of the other Contracting Party.

Article 19. TRANSMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PERSONAL, FAMILY AND PROPERTY STATUS. 1. Documents relating to personal, family and property status which are essential for obtaining free legal assistance under article 18 shall be issued by the competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the person concerned is domiciled or resident.

2. If a national of one of the Contracting Parties wishing to receive free legal assistance is not domiciled or resident in the territory of either Contracting Party, the

documents may be issued by the diplomatic mission or consular authority of his State.

3. The authority ruling on the question of granting free legal assistance may require additional information to be furnished by the authority which issued the documents.

Article 20. APPLICATION FOR FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE. A national of one Contracting Party who wishes to take advantage of the privilege provided in article 18 may submit a corresponding application to the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory he is domiciled or resident. The said authority shall transmit the application together with the documents issued in accordance with article 19 to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

PART IV. SPECIAL PROVISIONS IN CIVIL CASES

SUCCESSION

Article 21. NATIONAL SYSTEM OF SUCCESSION. Nationals of either Contracting Party shall enjoy the same rights as nationals of the other Contracting Party in respect of succession to property in the territory of the other Contracting Party and to rights to be exercised there, and in respect of the capacity to make or revoke wills disposing of such property and such rights. The property or rights shall descend to them according to the law and according to the wills under the same conditions as those applying to nationals of the Contracting Party resident in its territory.

Article 22. FORM OF A WILL. 1. The will of a national of either Contracting Party shall be deemed to be in valid form if it has been drawn up in compliance with:

- 1) The laws of the State in whose territory it was drawn up, or
- 2) The laws of the Contracting Party of which the testator was a national at the time of making his will or at the time of his death, or the laws of the State in whose territory he was domiciled at one of those times.

In the part concerning immovable property, the will shall be deemed valid if the laws of the State in whose territory the immovable property is located have been observed.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply to the revocation of will.

PART V. RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGEMENTS

Article 23. JUDGEMENTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AND ENFORCED. 1. Judgements of the authorities of either Contracting Party referred to in article 1, paragraph 2, shall be recognized, and in matters relating to property they shall be recognized and enforced in the territory of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

2. Judgements within the meaning of paragraph 1 above are:

- 1) Judgements in civil (including commercial and family) cases;
- 2) Judgements on the payment of legal costs;
- 3) Peaceful agreements reached in a court;
- 4) Judgements relating to damages in criminal cases.

CONDITIONS OF RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGEMENTS

Article 24. The judgements referred to in article 23 shall be recognized and enforced when:

- 1) A judgement under the laws of the Contracting Party in whose territory it was rendered has become final and enforceable;
- 2) The respondent did not participate in the proceedings, but he or his representative was informed in good time and in the appropriate manner in accordance with the laws of the Contracting Party in whose territory the judgement was rendered. A summons by means of a public notice shall not be taken into account;
- 3) A final decision has not been rendered previously in the same legal dispute between the same litigants in the territory of the Contracting Party where the judgement is to be recognized or enforced, or proceedings in the case have not been previously instituted by a court of the latter Contracting Party;
- 4) Under the provisions of this Treaty, the case does not fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of an authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the judgement is to be recognized and enforced.

Article 25. 1. Judgements in matters relating to property shall be recognized and enforced, provided that they are rendered after the entry into force of this Treaty.

2. Judgements in matters not relating to property shall be recognized even if they were rendered before the entry into force of this Treaty.

PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGEMENTS

Article 26. 1. Judgements in matters not relating to property referred to in article 23 shall be recognized in the territory of each Contracting Party without further proceedings.

2. For the purposes of enforcement of judgements in matters relating to property referred to in article 23, the courts of the Contracting Party in whose territory the judgement is to be enforced shall rule on authorization of enforcement.

3. The applicant authority shall be informed about the decision taken.

4. In granting authorization of enforcement, the court shall confine itself to determining that the conditions stipulated in articles 24 and 25 and the provisions of article 28 have been complied with.

5. The procedure for authorization of enforcement and the enforcement procedure shall be governed by the law of the Contracting Party in whose territory the enforcement is to take place.

Article 27. 1. Applications for authorization of enforcement of a judgement and for enforcement of a judgement shall be made to the legal authority of the place where the judgement was rendered. The said authority shall transmit the application to the competent court of the other Contracting Party.

2. If the person making the application for authorization of enforcement is domiciled or resident in the territory of the Contracting Party where the judgement is enforceable, the application may also be submitted directly to the competent court of the latter Contracting Party.

Article 28. The applications referred to in article 27 must be accompanied by:

- 1) The original or a certified copy of the judgement, and, if such text does not show that the judgement has become final and enforceable, a certificate to that effect;
- 2) If the respondent did not participate in the proceedings, a document showing that he or his representative was informed in due time and proper form in accordance with article 24, subparagraph 2;
- 3) A certified translation of the documents referred to in subparagraphs 1 and 2 above and of the application.

Article 29. OBJECTIONS BY THE DEBTOR. The debtor may submit to the court which is competent to authorize enforcement and to enforce the judgement objections to the enforcement and to the claim defined in the judgement, provided that such objections are admissible under the law of the Contracting Party whose judicial authority rendered the judgement.

ENFORCEMENT OF AWARDS OF LEGAL COSTS

Article 30. 1. If a national of one Contracting Party exempted from the deposit of security for legal costs under article 17 is required in the territory of the other Contracting Party to pay legal costs, the competent court in the territory of the former Contracting Party shall, on application, authorize without charge the recovery of such costs.

2. In addition to legal costs, the costs of translation and certification of the documents referred to in article 28 may also be recovered.

Article 31. 1. Applications for authorization of enforcement must be accompanied by a copy of the award of costs certified by the court, and a certificate to the effect that the award has become final and enforceable.

2. The documents in question must be accompanied by a translation in the language of the Contracting Party in whose territory enforcement is sought.

3. In authorizing enforcement of an award of legal costs, the court shall consider only:

- 1) Whether the award has become final and enforceable;
- 2) Whether the documents referred to in paragraph 1 above are accompanied by a certified translation.

4. An order of enforcement may be contested in accordance with the law of the Contracting Party whose court made the order.

Article 32. Applications for authorization of enforcement of an award of legal costs in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be submitted to the court of the said Party which is competent to authorize enforcement, or to the court which made the award. In the latter case, the court shall transmit the application to the competent court of the other Contracting Party together with the documents referred to in article 31.

Article 33. 1. The court shall authorize enforcement of an award without hearing the litigants.

2. Enforcement of awards may not be refused on the ground that the applicant has not paid in advance the costs of enforcement.

Article 34. COSTS OF ENFORCEMENT. For the purposes of determining and recovering the costs of enforcement, the applicable law shall be that of the Contracting Party in whose territory the judgement is enforced.

PART VI. SPECIAL PROVISIONS IN CRIMINAL CASES

INSTITUTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Article 35. OBLIGATION TO INSTITUTE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS. 1. Each Contracting Party shall, at the request of the other Contracting Party, institute, in accordance with its laws, criminal proceedings against any of its nationals who are suspected of having committed offences in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. Applications for the institution of criminal proceedings submitted by injured parties in accordance with the law of one of the Contracting Parties to its competent authorities within the relevant time-limits shall also be valid in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

3. Persons who have suffered material damage as a result of an offence in respect of which an application for the institution of criminal proceedings has been submitted may participate in the proceedings, provided that they have made a claim for damages.

Article 36. APPLICATION FOR INSTITUTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS. 1. Applications for the institution of criminal proceedings must be in writing and contain:

- 1) The title of the applicant authority;
- 2) A description of the acts constituting the crime in respect of which the application for the institution of criminal proceedings has been made;
- 3) The most precise possible indication of the time and place of commission of the act;
- 4) The text of the law of the applicant Contracting Party on which qualification of the act as an offence is based;
- 5) The full name of the suspect and information about his nationality and domicile or residence, and other particulars regarding his character, and, if possible, a description of the person together with his photograph and fingerprints;
- 6) The application of the injured party in criminal proceedings instituted on application by an injured party, and the application for damages, if such documents exist;
- 7) Any information about the extent of the material damage caused by the offence.

Documents pertaining to the preliminary investigation, as well as evidence, at the disposal of the applicant Contracting Party shall be attached to the application. The provisions of article 49, paragraph 3, must be taken into account with respect to the delivery of articles which are instruments of the crime or came into the offender's possession as a result of the crime.

2. If at the time of submission of the application for institution of criminal proceedings under article 35, paragraph 1, the accused is in custody in the territory of the Contracting Party which is making the application for institution of such proceedings, he shall be delivered to the territory of the other Contracting Party.

EXTRADITION

Article 37. EXTRADITABLE OFFENCES. 1. The Contracting Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, to extradite to each other on request persons who are in their territory, for the purpose of criminal prosecution or execution of a sentence.

2. Extradition shall take place in respect of acts which, under the law of both Contracting Parties, constitute offences and are punishable with deprivation of liberty for a term of more than one year or with a heavier penalty. Extradition for execution of a sentence shall take place in the event of a sentence, for commission of such offences, of deprivation of liberty for a term of more than six months or a heavier penalty.

Article 38. REFUSAL OF EXTRADITION. Extradition shall not take place:

- 1) If the person claimed is a citizen of the Contracting Party applied to, or has been granted asylum in that State;
- 2) If extradition is not permitted under the law of the State applied to;
- 3) If the criminal proceedings, in accordance with the law of both Contracting Parties, are instituted only on the private complaint of an injured party;
- 4) If, at the time of receipt of the application, under the law of the Contracting Party applied to, criminal proceedings cannot be instituted or the sentence cannot be executed by reason of lapse of time or on other legal grounds;
- 5) If, in the territory of the Contracting Party applied to, a final sentence has been imposed for the same offence on the person claimed, or if the case has been dismissed;
- 6) If the offence in respect of which the application for extradition is made was committed in the territory of the Contracting Party applied to.

Article 39. POSTPONEMENT OF EXTRADITION. If the person claimed is being prosecuted or is serving a sentence for another offence committed in the territory of the Contracting Party applied to, his extradition may be postponed until the termination of the criminal proceedings, the completion of the sentence or his release on any legal grounds.

Article 40. TEMPORARY EXTRADITION. If postponement of extradition under article 39 may result in exemption from prosecution being acquired by lapse of time or may seriously prejudice the investigation of the offence, temporary extradition may take place on receipt of a request with statement of grounds, on the condition that the extradited person shall be returned immediately after the completion of the proceedings for the purpose of which he was extradited, and not later than three months from the date of his extradition.

Article 41. LIMITS TO THE PROSECUTION OF EXTRADITED PERSONS. 1. An extradited person may not, without the consent of the Contracting Party applied to, be prosecuted or punished for an offence other than the one for which he was extradited.

2. He may not be surrendered to a third State without the consent of the Contracting Party applied to.

3. The consent of the Contracting Party applied to shall not be required if the extradited person has not quitted the territory of the applicant Contracting Party

within one month after the termination of the criminal proceedings, the completion of his sentence or his release on any legal grounds, or if he has voluntarily returned to that territory after having quitted it. Such period of one month shall not be deemed to include any period during which the extradited person is unable, owing to circumstances beyond his control, to quit the territory of the applicant Contracting Party.

Article 42. APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION. 1. Applications for extradition must be drawn up in writing and contain:

- 1) The title of the applicant authority;
- 2) The text of the law of the applicant Contracting Party on which qualification of the act as an offence is based;
- 3) The full name of the person claimed, particulars of his nationality, domicile or residence and any other information about his identity, and, where possible, a description of the said person accompanied by his photograph and fingerprints;
- 4) An indication of the extent of the damage, if the offence caused material damage.

2. Applications for extradition for the purpose of criminal prosecution must be accompanied by a certified copy of the warrant of arrest, with a description of the circumstances of the case.

Applications for extradition for the purpose of execution of a sentence must be accompanied by a certified copy of the sentence, with a certificate to the effect that it has become final, and the text of the criminal law on the basis of which the person was convicted. If the convicted person has already served a part of his sentence, information about this shall also be communicated.

3. The applicant Contracting Party is not obliged to append evidence of the person's guilt to the application for extradition.

Article 43. DETENTION PENDING EXTRADITION. Upon receipt of an application for extradition, the Contracting Party applied to shall immediately take steps to detain the person claimed, except where extradition is inadmissible under the provisions of this Treaty.

Article 44. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. 1. If the information required under article 42 is not provided in the application for extradition, the Contracting Party applied to may request supplementary information. The other Contracting Party must respond to such a request within a time-limit not exceeding two months; such time-limit may be extended for 15 days for valid reasons.

2. If the applicant Contracting Party does not furnish the supplementary information within the established time-limit, the Contracting Party applied to may release the person detained under article 43.

Article 45. DETENTION PENDING RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION.
1. In urgent cases, the Contracting Party applied to may, at the request of the applicant Contracting Party, detain a person even before receipt of the application for extradition referred to in article 42. Such requests shall specify that there exists a warrant of arrest or a final sentence in respect of the said person, and shall indicate that the application for extradition will be submitted forthwith.

Such requests may be made by post or telegraph or any other means of transmitting the nature of the request in writing.

2. A person may also be detained before the arrival of the request referred to in paragraph 1 above, if there are sufficient grounds for believing that he has committed an extraditable offence in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

3. Notification of detention under paragraphs 1 or 2 above, or of the reasons for which the request referred to in paragraph 1 above has not been complied with, shall be sent immediately to the other Contracting Party.

4. A person detained under paragraphs 1 or 2 above may be released if the application for his extradition is not received from the other Contracting Party within one month from the date on which notification of his detention was received. At the request of the applicant Contracting Party, this time-limit may be extended by 15 days.

Article 46. EXTRADITION. 1. The Contracting Party applied to shall notify the applicant Contracting Party of its decision with respect to the extradition, stating the time and place of extradition.

2. If the application for extradition is refused, the applicant Contracting Party shall be informed of the reasons for such decision.

3. If the applicant Contracting Party fails to accept the person claimed within 15 days from the date fixed for his extradition, the said person may be released from custody. This period may be extended by no more than 15 days at the request of the applicant Contracting Party.

Article 47. RE-EXTRADITION. If an extraditable person evades prosecution or punishment and returns to the territory of the Contracting Party applied to, he may be re-extradited at the request of the applicant Contracting Party. In this case, the documents referred to in article 42 need not be appended to the application.

Article 48. CONFLICTING APPLICATIONS FOR EXTRADITION. If several States submit applications for the extradition of any person, the Contracting Party applied to shall decide which of the applications shall be given preference.

Article 49. DELIVERY OF ARTICLES. 1. The Contracting Party to which the application for extradition is made shall deliver to the applicant Contracting Party any articles which are instruments of an extraditable offence as defined in article 37, together with any articles bearing traces of the offence or acquired by criminal means. Such articles shall be delivered on request even when the person concerned cannot be extradited owing to his death or for other reasons.

2. The Contracting Party applied to may delay the delivery of the articles referred to in paragraph 1 above, if it requires them for criminal proceedings in another case.

3. The rights of third parties to articles delivered to the applicant Contracting Party shall remain unaffected. After conclusion of the proceedings, such articles shall be returned to the Contracting Party which delivered them.

Article 50. CONVEYANCE IN TRANSIT. 1. Each Contracting Party shall, at the request of the other Contracting Party, authorize the conveyance through its territory of any person extradited by a third State to the other Contracting Party. The Contracting Parties shall not be bound to authorize the conveyance of persons who are not extraditable under this Treaty.

2. Applications for authorization of conveyance in transit shall be made and considered in the same manner as applications for extradition.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall agree in each individual case on the means, itinerary and other conditions of the transit.

PART VII. PROVISION OF INFORMATION

Article 51. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. The Ministries of Justice of the Contracting Parties shall provide each other, on request, with information concerning the laws in force or formerly in force in their respective States and about court practice in respect of legal questions arising under this Treaty.

Article 52. NOTIFICATION OF SENTENCES. Each Contracting Party shall notify the other Contracting Party annually of final sentences pronounced by its courts in respect of nationals of the other Contracting Party.

Article 53. NOTIFICATION OF CONVICTIONS. Each Contracting Party shall, on request, transmit to the other Contracting Party information concerning the convictions of persons facing prosecution in the territory of the applicant Contracting Party.

Article 54. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF PROSECUTION. The Contracting Parties shall inform each other of the results of the prosecution of a person in respect of whom an application for institution of criminal proceedings was made, and of the prosecution of an extradited person. A copy of the final sentence shall be sent on request.

PART VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 55. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force 30 days after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Moscow.

Article 56. 1. This Treaty shall be valid for five years from the day on which it enters into force.

2. This Treaty shall remain in force for subsequent five-year periods unless one of the Contracting Parties denounces it by notifying the other Contracting Party in writing six months before the end of the current five-year period.

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

DONE at Athens on 21 May 1981, in duplicate in the Russian and Greek languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

[V. TEREILOV]

For the Hellenic Republic:

[G. STAMATIS]