

**No. 23094**

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**HUNGARY  
and  
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Consular Convention. Signed at Budapest on 2 November  
1983**

*Authentic texts: Hungarian, Lao and French.  
Registered by Hungary on 24 September 1984.*

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**HONGRIE  
et  
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO**

**Convention consulaire. Signée à Budapest le 2 novembre  
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*Textes authentiques : hongrois, lao et français.  
Enregistrée par la Hongrie le 24 septembre 1984.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONSULAR CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Desiring to expand further the friendly relations between the two States and to develop consular relations between them,

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

The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic: Róbert Garai, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs;

The Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic: Soulivong Phrasithideth, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs,

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following provisions:

## CHAPTER I. DEFINITIONS

*Article 1.* The expressions used in the Convention shall have the following meanings:

1. "Consular post" means any consulate-general, consulate, vice-consulate or consular agency;
2. "Consular district" means the area in which the consular officer of the consular post is authorized to exercise consular functions;
3. "Head of consular post" means the consul-general, consul, vice-consul or consular agent in charge of the consular post;
4. "Consular officer" means any person—including the head of the consular post—who has been authorized to exercise consular functions;
5. "Consular employee" means any person who is not a consular officer and exercises administrative or technical functions at the consular post. The expression "consular employee" also includes members of the service staff of the consular post;
6. "Members of the consular post" means consular officers and consular employees;
7. "Consular premises" means the buildings, parts of buildings and land ancillary thereto, irrespective of ownership, used exclusively for the purposes of the consular post;
8. "Consular archives" means all the papers, documents, correspondence, books, films, recording tapes, files, ciphers and codes of the consular post, together with the filing cabinets and other furniture used for their safekeeping;

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 10 May 1984, i.e., the thirtieth day following the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Vientiane on 10 April 1984, in accordance with article 43 (1).

9. "Aircraft" means any means of air transport, other than a military aircraft, which is registered in the sending State;

"Vessel" means any vessel, other than a warship, which is entitled to fly the flag of the sending State.

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

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

2. The seat of the consular post, its classification and 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, through the diplomatic channel, seek the consent of the receiving State to the appointment.

2. After obtaining such consent, the sending State shall, through its diplomatic mission, transmit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State a document in the form of a letter of credence (consular commission) or other document attesting to the appointment of the head of the consular post. The said document shall specify the full name of the head of the consular post, his nationality, his class, the consular district and the seat of the consular post.

3. On presentation of the letter of credence or other document attesting to the appointment of the head of the consular post, the exequatur or other authorization for the exercise of his functions shall be granted to him as soon as possible by the receiving State.

4. The head of the consular post may take up his duties only after the issuance of the exequatur or other authorization for the exercise of his functions.

5. Pending the granting of the exequatur or other authorization, the receiving State may permit the head of the consular post to exercise his functions on a provisional basis.

6. When the exequatur or other authorization or the consent to the exercise of consular functions on a provisional basis is granted, the authorities of the receiving State shall take the necessary steps to enable the head of the consular post to exercise his functions.

*Article 4.* The sending State shall notify the receiving State through the diplomatic channel of the full name, nationality and class of any consular officer appointed in a capacity other than that of head of the consular post.

*Article 5.* Only nationals of the sending State may be consular officers, and they must not be permanent residents of the receiving State.

*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 diplomatic channel that it has revoked the exequatur or other authorization for the exercise of the functions of the head of the consular post or that it regards any other member of the consular post as *persona non grata*.

In such a case the sending State must recall the head or other member of the consular post. If the sending State fails to comply with such obligation within

a reasonable time, the receiving State may refuse to recognize the person concerned as head or member of the consular post.

### CHAPTER III. FACILITIES, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

*Article 7.* The receiving State shall provide consular officers and consular employees with adequate protection and shall take all necessary steps to enable them to exercise their functions and enjoy the rights, facilities, privileges and immunities guaranteed to them by this Convention and by the legislative provisions of the receiving State.

*Article 8.* 1. If the head of the consular post is unable for any reason to exercise his functions, or if the position of head of the consular post is temporarily vacant, the sending State may authorize a consular officer of that consular post or a consular officer of another consular post functioning in the receiving State, or a member of the diplomatic staff of the sending State's diplomatic mission functioning in the receiving State, to take charge of the consular post on a provisional basis. The sending State must notify the receiving State of such action in advance through the diplomatic channel.

2. The person put in charge of the consular post on a provisional basis shall enjoy the same rights, facilities, privileges and immunities as this Convention guarantees to the head of the consular post.

3. When a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State has been put in charge of the consular post on a provisional basis, such appointment shall not affect his diplomatic privileges and immunities.

*Article 9.* 1. The rights and obligations to which a consular officer is entitled under this Convention shall also extend to the member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State to whom the exercise of consular functions has been entrusted.

2. The consular functions of the person referred to in paragraph 1 shall not affect his diplomatic privileges and immunities.

*Article 10.* 1. The sending State may acquire in the receiving State, in accordance with the latter's legislative provisions, rights of ownership, usufruct or leasehold of plots of land, buildings or parts of buildings for the purpose of establishing premises for the consular post and residences for consular officers and consular employees, provided that they are nationals of the sending State and not permanent residents of the receiving State.

2. Where necessary, the receiving State shall assist the sending State in acquiring rights of ownership, usufruct or leasehold of the plots of land, buildings or parts of buildings referred to in paragraph 1.

*Article 11.* 1. The coat of arms of the sending State and a name-plate bearing the designation of the consular post in the language of the sending State and the language of the receiving State may be affixed to the building occupied by the consular post.

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

3. The head of the consular post may fly the flag of the sending State from the means of transport which he uses.

*Article 12.* 1. The consular premises shall be inviolable. The receiving State shall guarantee protection to the premises of the consular post.

2. The authorities of the receiving State may not enter the consular premises without the authorization of the head of the consular post, the head of the diplomatic mission of the sending State or the person designated by them.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to the residences of the members of the consular post, provided that they are not nationals or permanent residents of the receiving State.

*Article 13.* The consular archives shall be inviolable at all times and wherever they may be.

*Article 14.* 1. The receiving State shall permit and protect the consular post's freedom of communication in all official matters. In the course of its communications with the Government of the sending State and with the diplomatic missions and other consular posts of that State, the consular post may use all appropriate means of communication, including diplomatic or consular couriers and messages in code or cipher. However, the consular post may install and use a radio transmitter only with the consent of the receiving State.

2. The official correspondence of the consular post shall be inviolable.

3. The packages constituting the consular bag must bear clearly visible external marks of their character; they may contain only official correspondence or articles intended for official use.

4. The consular bag may not be opened or detained.

5. The person transporting the consular bag—the consular courier—shall be entitled to the same rights, privileges and immunities as the diplomatic courier of the sending State.

6. The consular courier must be provided with a document indicating his status as courier and the number of packages constituting the consular bag. Only a national of the sending State who is not a permanent resident of the receiving State may be a consular courier. In the exercise of his functions the consular courier shall enjoy the protection of the receiving State.

The person of the consular courier shall be inviolable; he may not be arrested, detained or subjected to any other form of limitation of his personal freedom.

7. The captain of an aircraft may also transport consular bags. The captain must be furnished with a document stating the number of packages constituting the consular bag, but he shall not be regarded as a consular courier. A member of the consular post may receive the consular bag from the captain or deliver it to him direct and without hindrance.

*Article 15.* A member of the consular post shall be inviolable if he is not a national or permanent resident of the receiving State. He may not be arrested, detained or subjected to any other form of limitation of his personal freedom. The receiving State shall be required to treat him with the deference due him and to take all necessary steps to prevent any offence against his person, freedom and dignity.

*Article 16.* 1. A member of the consular post who is a national of the sending State and is not a permanent resident of the receiving State shall be exempt

from the penal jurisdiction of the receiving State. He shall also be exempt from the jurisdiction of the receiving State in civil and administrative matters, except:

- (a) In the case of a civil proceeding concerning immovable property held in private ownership, provided that he holds such immovable property otherwise than for the benefit of the sending State and for the purposes of the consular post;
- (b) In the case of a succession proceeding in which he appears as a private person in the capacity of the executor of a will, the administrator of an estate, an heir or a legatee and not as a representative of the sending State;
- (c) In the case of a civil proceeding in connection with a profession or commercial activity of any kind which he pursues in the receiving State in addition to his official functions.

2. No enforcement measure may be taken against a member of the consular post if he is not a national or permanent resident of the receiving State, except in the cases referred to in paragraph 1 (a), (b) and (c) if the enforcement can be carried out without interfering with the inviolability of this person or his residence.

3. Family members who live with a member of the consular post shall, if they are not nationals or permanent residents of the receiving State, be exempt from the jurisdiction of the receiving State to the same extent as the member of the consular post and shall enjoy the same personal inviolability.

4. The sending State may waive the immunities to which a member of the consular post and the members of his family are entitled. Such waiver must in all cases be explicit and notified in writing. A waiver of immunity from jurisdiction in civil and administrative cases shall not be regarded as a waiver of immunity from the execution of judgements; a separate waiver shall be required for that purpose.

5. If under the provisions of this article a person exempt from the jurisdiction of the receiving State institutes legal proceedings, such person shall not be entitled to claim immunity from jurisdiction in respect of any counter-claim related to the principal claim.

*Article 17.* 1. A member of the consular post who is a national of the sending State and not a permanent resident of the receiving State shall not be required to give evidence as a witness.

2. A member of the consular post who is a national of the sending State and not a permanent resident of the receiving State may, with the consent of the sending State, give evidence as a witness in response to a summons.

3. A member of the consular post who is a national of the sending State and not a permanent resident of the receiving State may not be compelled to give evidence as a witness or to appear for that purpose before a court, nor may he be prosecuted for refusing to testify or to appear before the court.

4. A member of the consular post who is a national or permanent resident of the receiving State may refuse to testify concerning matters relating to official business.

5. In connection with the application of the provisions of paragraph 2, appropriate steps must be taken to prevent interference with the work of the consular

post. If possible, the deposition may be taken orally or in writing at the consular post or at the residence of the member of the consular post.

6. The provisions of this article shall apply equally to proceedings before the courts and before other State authorities.

7. The provisions of this article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the members of the family of the member of the consular post who live with him if they are nationals of the sending State and not permanent residents of the receiving State.

*Article 18.* 1. Members of the consular post shall be exempt from any obligation to provide public service—including service in the armed forces—in the receiving State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to members of the family of the member of the consular post who live with him if they are nationals of the sending State and not permanent residents of the receiving State.

*Article 19.* A member of the consular post and the members of his family who live with him shall—if they are nationals of the sending State and not permanent residents of the receiving State—be exempt from any obligation under the legislation of the receiving State with regard to their registration and their residence permit or establishment permit.

*Article 20.* 1. The sending State shall be exempt in the receiving State from the levying and collection of all taxes and charges in respect of the plots of land, buildings or parts of buildings used exclusively for consular purposes, including the residences of members of the consular post, provided that they are owned by the sending State or are leased by an individual or body corporate acting on behalf of that State, as well as in respect of agreements and documents relating to the acquisition of such immovable property if the sending State acquires it exclusively for consular purposes.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to charges collected as remuneration for particular services rendered.

*Article 21.* The sending State shall be exempt in the receiving State from the levying and collection of all taxes and charges in respect of movable property owned, held or used by the sending State for consular purposes or in respect of the acquisition of such property.

*Article 22.* A member of the consular post shall, if he is not a national or permanent resident of the receiving State, be exempt from all taxes and charges in the receiving State in respect of wages or salaries received for the exercise of his service functions.

*Article 23.* 1. A member of the consular post and the members of his family who live with him shall, if they are not nationals or permanent residents of the receiving State, be exempt from national and local taxes and charges of all kinds.

2. The immunities referred to in paragraph 1 shall not apply:

- (a) To indirect taxes normally incorporated into the price of goods or services;
- (b) To taxes and charges on private immovable property situated in the territory of the receiving State, subject to the provisions of article 20 of this Convention;

- (c) To taxes and charges levied by the receiving State on succession and on the transfer of ownership;
- (d) To taxes and charges on private income derived from a source in the receiving State;
- (e) To judicial and other charges levied on legal instruments and on the documents relating thereto, subject to the provisions of article 20 of this Convention;
- (f) To fees and charges in payment of particular services rendered.

*Article 24.* 1. All articles—including motor vehicles—imported for the official use of the consular post shall be exempt from any customs duties and charges that may be levied on, or in connection with, such articles to the same extent as articles imported for the official use of the diplomatic mission of the sending State.

2. The personal baggage of a consular officer and of the members of his family shall be exempt from customs inspection. Consular officers and consular employees, as well as the members of their families who live with them and who are not nationals or permanent residents of the receiving State, shall be exempt from any customs duties and charges that may be levied on or in connection with the import of their personal baggage or other articles intended for their personal use to the same extent as comparable members of the staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State.

3. The expression “comparable members of the staff of the diplomatic mission” refers to the members of the diplomatic staff in the case of a consular officer and to the members of the administrative and technical staff in the case of a consular employee.

*Article 25.* All persons who enjoy facilities, privileges and immunities provided for in this Convention must—without prejudice to their facilities, privileges and immunities—comply with the laws of the receiving State, including traffic regulations and requirements relating to the compulsory insurance of motor vehicles.

*Article 26.* The receiving State shall guarantee freedom of movement in its territory to the members of the consular post and to the members of their families who live with them, in so far as that is not contrary to those laws of the receiving State which prohibit or restrict travel to and stay in certain areas for reason of State security.

#### CHAPTER IV. CONSULAR FUNCTIONS

*Article 27.* 1. A consular officer shall promote the strengthening of friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State and shall encourage the comprehensive development and deepening of co-operation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural, juridical, tourism and other fields.

2. Consular officers shall be entitled to protect the rights and interests of the sending State and of its nationals.

*Article 28.* 1. A consular officer may, within the consular district, exercise the functions referred to in this chapter. He may, in addition, carry out other consular functions if such functions are not contrary to the legislation of the receiving State.



2. In the performance of his functions, a consular officer may communicate direct, orally and in writing:

- (a) With the competent authorities of the consular district;
- (b) With the central authorities of the receiving State, if that is not contrary to the legislation of that State.

3. A consular officer may not exercise his functions outside the consular district except with the consent of the receiving State.

4. A consular officer shall be entitled to collect consular fees in accordance with the legislation of the receiving State. Consular fees shall be exempt from all taxes and charges in the receiving State.

*Article 29.* 1. A consular officer shall be authorized within the consular district to:

- (a) Keep a register of nationals of the sending State;
- (b) Receive applications and issue documents in matters relating to nationality in accordance with the legislation of the sending State;
- (c) Solemnize marriages in accordance with the legislation of the sending State, provided that both spouses are nationals of the sending State;
- (d) Be kept informed of, and register, the birth and death of nationals of the sending State;
- (e) Receive declarations concerning the family circumstances of nationals of the sending State in accordance with the legislation of the sending State.

2. Consular officers shall notify the competent authorities of the receiving State of the registry entries made in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) and (d) if that is required by the legislation of the receiving State.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 (c) and (d) shall not exempt nationals of the sending State who are concerned from complying with the provisions specified by the legislation of the receiving State.

*Article 30.* A consular officer shall be entitled to:

- (a) Issue, renew, extend, make notations in, annul and revoke the passports of nationals of the sending State;
- (b) Issue entry, exit and transit visas.

*Article 31.* A consular officer shall be entitled to perform the following acts at the consular post, at his residence or at the residence of a national of the sending State, as well as on board his aircraft, if such acts are not contrary to the legislation of the receiving State:

1. Draw up or authenticate and receive for safe keeping declarations made by nationals of the sending State;
2. Draw up, authenticate and receive for safe keeping the wills or other unilateral legal instruments of nationals of the sending State;
3. Draw up or authenticate legal documents relating to legal instruments concluded between nationals of the sending State, with the exception of those concerning the establishment or transfer of rights to immovable property situated in the receiving State;

4. Draw up or authenticate legal documents relating to legal instruments concluded between nationals of the sending State and of the receiving State when they concern solely interests which exist in the territory of the sending State or are to be enforced in the territory of that State;
5. Authenticate the signature of nationals of the sending State and documents emanating from the authorities of the sending State or of the receiving State, as well as copies thereof and extracts therefrom;
6. Authenticate the translations of documents emanating from the authorities of the sending State or of the receiving State;
7. Receive for safekeeping property and documents from or for nationals of the sending State.

*Article 32.* Documents drawn up, authenticated or translated by a consular officer in accordance with article 31 of this Convention shall have the same legal significance and the same evidentiary value in the receiving State as if they had been drawn up, authenticated or translated by the competent authorities or institutions of the receiving State.

*Article 33.* Where necessary, a consular officer may make recommendations to a court or other competent authority of the receiving State concerning the person of a guardian or administrator for a national of the sending State or for the protection of any property of such a national which has been left without an administrator.

*Article 34.* 1. In the event of the death of a national of the sending State in the receiving State, the competent authorities shall without delay report the fact to a consular officer of the sending State and transmit to him, free of charge, the death certificate or any other document recording the death.

2. Where an authority of the receiving State has learned of the existence in that State of an estate left by a person of any nationality in which a national of the sending State has an interest, the said authority shall notify the fact to a consular officer of the sending State without delay.

3. With a view to safeguarding the estate referred to in paragraph 2, the competent authority of the receiving State shall take the steps required in accordance with the legislation of that State and shall, if a will exists, transmit a copy thereof to the consular officer and provide him with information concerning the heirs and the condition and value of the estate; it shall also inform him of the date on which succession proceedings are opened and the stage reached in the proceedings.

4. With a view to safeguarding the estate referred to in paragraph 2, the consular officer may co-operate with the competent authorities of the receiving State, in particular for the purpose of:

- (a) Taking steps, including the sale of movable property, to prevent any damage to the estate;
- (b) Appointing an administrator and settling any other questions relating to the safeguarding of the estate.

5. Where a national of the sending State who is not a resident of or represented in the receiving State has an interest in a succession which is opened in

the receiving State, the consular officer shall be entitled to represent him directly or through his agent before the courts or other authorities of the receiving State.

6. Where, once the formalities relating to the succession have been carried out in the territory of the receiving State, movable property forming part of the estate or the proceeds of the sale of movable and immovable property are left to an heir or a legatee who is a national of the sending State and not a resident of the receiving State and who has not appointed an agent, the said property or the proceeds of the sale thereof shall be delivered to the consular post of the sending State, provided that:

- (a) The competent authorities have, where necessary, agreed to the delivery of the estate or of the proceeds of the sale thereof;
- (b) All liabilities of the estate declared within the time-limit prescribed by the legislation of the receiving State have been paid or secured;
- (c) Payment of estate taxes has been effected or secured.

*Article 35.* 1. Where a national of the sending State who is not domiciled in the receiving State dies during a visit to the territory of the receiving State, his movable property shall be delivered, without any particular procedure being followed, to a consular officer of the sending State, provided that the claims of the creditors of the deceased in the receiving State have been paid or secured.

2. Subject to the legislation of the receiving State, the consular officer shall be entitled to send out of the country the estate property referred to in paragraph 1 of this article and in article 34, paragraph 6.

*Article 36.* Within the consular district, a consular officer shall be entitled to represent before the authorities of the receiving State a national of the sending State who is absent or who, for a valid reason, is not able to protect his rights and interests in good time. Such representation shall cease when the person represented appoints an agent or himself undertakes the protection of his rights and interests.

*Article 37.* 1. Within the consular district, a consular officer shall be entitled to communicate with nationals of the sending State, provide them with advice and give them any assistance, including, where necessary, steps taken to provide them with legal aid. The receiving State shall not prevent nationals of the sending State in any way from communicating with or visiting the consular post.

2. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall, without delay but in any case not later than within five days, notify a consular officer of the sending State of the detention or arrest of a national of the sending State or of any other form of limitation of his personal freedom.

3. Where a national of the sending State has been detained, arrested or subjected to any other form of limitation of his personal freedom, or is serving a sentence of deprivation of freedom, the consular officer shall be entitled to visit him and to communicate with him without delay, but not later than within eight days from the date of the application of the measure relating to the personal freedom of that national.

4. The consular officer may visit at reasonable intervals, and communicate with, a national of the sending State who has been arrested or subjected to any other form of limitation of his personal freedom, or who is serving a sentence of deprivation of freedom.

5. The rights referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall be exercised in conformity with the legislation of the receiving State, but the latter shall not prevent the practical application of such rights.

*Article 38.* 1. A consular officer shall be entitled to provide assistance to the aircraft of the sending State in the territory of the receiving State.

2. The consular officer may come on board the aircraft, and the captain and members of the crew of the aircraft may communicate with the consular officer as soon as the aircraft lands.

3. The consular officer may request assistance from the competent authorities of the receiving State in connection with any matter relating to his functions concerning the aircraft of the sending State and their captains and crews.

*Article 39.* A consular officer shall be entitled to:

- (a) Investigate any incident occurring in connection with an aircraft of the sending State during the flight, at the airfield or on board the aircraft, to interview the captain of the aircraft of the sending State and the members of its crew, to examine the aircraft's papers, to be informed of the itinerary and destination of the aircraft and to facilitate the landing of the said aircraft at the airfield, its stay there and its departure from the airfield without interfering with the rights of the authorities of the receiving State;
- (b) Settle disputes of any kind between the captain of the aircraft and the members of the crew, including disputes relating to wages and labour contracts, to the extent that that is permitted by the legislation of the sending State and without prejudice to the rights of the authorities of the receiving State;
- (c) Take steps for the treatment in hospital or the repatriation of the captain of the aircraft or of any member of its crew;
- (d) Receive, draw up or authenticate, in accordance with the legislation of the sending State, any declaration or document concerning aircraft.

*Article 40.* 1. Where a court or other competent authority of the receiving State intends to take coercive measures of any kind on board an aircraft of the sending State or wishes to initiate an investigation, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall so notify the consular officer. The notification must reach the consular officer before such measures are taken, in order that the consular officer or his representative may be present at the proceedings. If the consular officer or his representative was not present, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall, upon request, provide him with detailed information concerning the matter.

2. The provisions of this article shall not apply to any regular customs examination, passport control or public-health inspection, nor to any action taken at the request or with the consent of the captain of the aircraft.

*Article 41.* 1. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall, as quickly as possible, notify the competent consular officer when an aircraft of the sending State suffers an accident in the receiving State or is damaged there or when any property owned by a national of the sending State—including any part of the cargo of a damaged aircraft of a third State—is found in the territory of the receiving State or is discharged at an airfield of the receiving State. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall likewise notify the consular

officer of any actions which they have already taken to save the lives of the passengers, the aircraft, the cargo and other property on board or separated from the aircraft.

2. The consular officer may provide any form of assistance to the aircraft which has suffered damage in accordance with paragraph 1, as well as to its passengers and the members of its crew; to that end, he may request assistance from the competent authorities of the receiving State. The consular officer may take the actions referred to in paragraph 1 and make arrangements for the repair of the aircraft or may request the competent authorities to do so.

3. If a damaged aircraft of the sending State, or any property belonging to the aircraft, is found in the territory of the receiving State or arrives at an airfield of the receiving State and the captain of the aircraft, its owner, the owner's agent and the insurers of the aircraft are unable to make the necessary arrangements for the custody or disposal of the aircraft or the articles belonging to it, the consular officer shall be considered authorized to make, on behalf of the owner of the aircraft, such arrangements as the owner himself would make for such purposes. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply to any property forming part of the cargo of the aircraft and owned by a national or body corporate of the sending State.

4. Where any article which forms part of a damaged aircraft of a third State but which is the property of an individual or body corporate who or which is a national of the sending State is found in the territory of the receiving State—provided that the captain of the aircraft, the owner of the article, his agent and the insurers concerned are unable to make arrangements for the custody or disposal of the said article—the consular officer shall be considered authorized to make, on behalf of the owner, such arrangements as the owner himself would make for such purposes.

*Article 42.* The provisions of articles 38, 39, 40 and 41 shall also apply to vessels.

*Article 43.* 1. This Convention is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Vientiane.

2. This Convention shall remain in force until the expiry of a period of six months from the date on which one of the High Contracting Parties notifies the other High Contracting Party in writing of its intention to terminate the Convention.

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

DONE at Budapest on 2 November 1983, in duplicate in the Hungarian, Lao and French languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy, the French text shall prevail.

For the Presidential Council  
of the Hungarian People's Republic:

[RÓBERT GARAI]

For the Council of Ministers of the  
Lao People's Democratic Republic:

[SOULIVONG PHRASITHIDETH]