

No. 23098

**GREECE
and
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Consular Convention (with exchange of letters). Signed at
Athens on 6 July 1982**

*Authentic texts: Greek, German and French.
Registered by Greece on 27 September 1984.*

**GRÈCE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE**

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Enregistrée par la Grèce le 27 septembre 1984.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONSULAR CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Hellenic Republic and the German Democratic Republic, desiring to regulate consular relations and thus contribute to the strengthening of the development of the friendly relations between the two States, have decided to conclude this Consular Convention and for that purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The President of the Hellenic Republic: H.E. Yiannis Haralambopoulos, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic,

The Council of State of the German Democratic Republic: H.E. Oskar Fischer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic,

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

CHAPTER I. DEFINITIONS

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

1. "Consular post" means any consulate-general, consulate, vice-consulate, or consular agency;
2. "Consular district" means the area within which a consular officer is entitled to exercise consular functions;
3. "Head of consular post" means the person charged by the sending State with the direction of the consular post;
4. "Consular officer" means any person, including the head of a consular post, entrusted with the exercise of consular functions;
5. "Consular employee" means any person performing administrative, technical or service functions at the consular post;
6. "Member of the consular post" means any consular officer or consular employee;
7. "Member of the family" means the spouse of a member of the consular post, his children and parents and those of his spouse, provided that they live in his home and are maintained by him;
8. "Consular premises" means buildings or parts of buildings and land ancillary thereto, irrespective of ownership, used exclusively for consular purposes;
9. "Consular archives" means the official correspondence, ciphers and codes, documents, books and technical working material of the consular post, together with any furniture intended for their safekeeping or protection;

¹ Came into force on 5 August 1984, i.e., the thirtieth day following the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Berlin on 6 July 1984, in accordance with article 54 (1).

10. "Official correspondence" means any correspondence relating to the consular post and its functions;

11. "Vessel of the sending State" means any navigating vessel lawfully flying the flag of the sending State, with the exception of warships;

12. "Aircraft of the sending State" means any civil aircraft lawfully bearing the national identification and registration marks of the sending State.

(2) The receiving State shall consider and treat as bodies corporate of the sending State those established under the laws and regulations of and having their principal place of business in the sending State.

CHAPTER II. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULAR POSTS, APPOINTMENT AND RECALL OF MEMBERS OF CONSULAR POSTS

Article 2. (1) A consular post may be established in the receiving State only with that State's consent.

(2) The seat of the consular post, its classification, the consular district and the number of members of the consular post shall be established by agreement between the sending State and the receiving State. Subsequent modifications may be made by the sending State only with the consent of the receiving State.

Article 3. (1) The sending State shall obtain confirmation through the diplomatic channel that the person it intends to appoint as head of the consular post has met with the approval of the receiving State.

(2) The sending State shall transmit to the receiving State, through the diplomatic channel, the consular commission or similar instrument relating to the appointment of the head of the consular post. The commission or other instrument shall show the full name of the head of the consular post, his class, the seat of the consular post and the consular district.

(3) The head of a consular post may not enter upon his duties until the exequatur or a similar authorization has been granted by the receiving State. The exequatur shall be issued as soon as possible. Pending the delivery of the exequatur, the receiving State may permit the head of a consular post to exercise his functions on a provisional basis. In that case, the provisions of this Convention shall apply.

Article 4. (1) If the head of a consular post is unable for any reason to carry out his or her functions or the position of head of consular post is temporarily vacant, the sending State may designate a consular officer of the consular post in question or of another consular post in the receiving State, or a member of the diplomatic staff of its diplomatic mission in the receiving State, to act provisionally as head of the consular post. The receiving State shall be notified in advance, through the diplomatic channel, by the sending State.

(2) A person designated to act provisionally as head of a consular post shall enjoy the same rights, privileges and immunities as are accorded under this Convention to the head of the consular post.

(3) When a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State is designated to act provisionally as head of a consular post, his diplomatic privileges and immunities shall not be affected.

Article 5. The sending State shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State, through the diplomatic channel, of:

1. The appointment of or assumption of duties by a member of a consular post, the full name of such member and his official duties at the consular post, the date of his arrival and final departure or of the termination of his functions, and all other changes affecting his situation that occur during his activity at the consular post;
2. The date of arrival and final departure of the members of the family of a member of a consular post and, where appropriate, the fact that a person becomes or ceases to be a member of the family;
3. The engagement and termination of service of a consular employee who is a national of the receiving State or has his permanent residence in that State.

Article 6. (1) The receiving State shall issue free of charge to every member of a consular post who is not a national or permanent resident of the receiving State a card bearing a photograph and stating his identity and the fact that he is a member of the consular post.

(2) Paragraph 1 of this article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to members of the family.

Article 7. Consular officers must be nationals of the sending State who are neither nationals nor permanent residents of the receiving State.

Article 8. The receiving State may at any time, without being required to communicate the reasons for its decision, inform the sending State, in writing and through the diplomatic channel, that it intends to withdraw the exequatur or other authorization for the head of the consular post or that a member of the consular post is *persona non grata*. In any such case the sending State shall recall the person concerned or terminate his duties at the consular post. If the sending State fails to recall that person within a reasonable time, the receiving State may, in the case of a head of a consular post, withdraw the exequatur or authorization or, in the case of any other member of the consular post, cease to consider him as such.

CHAPTER III. FACILITIES, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Article 9. (1) The receiving State shall treat consular officers with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that they are able to exercise their functions effectively.

(2) The receiving State shall see to it that members of a consular post are able to enjoy the facilities, privileges and immunities provided for in this Convention.

Article 10. The sending State may, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, acquire, lease or use the consular premises, the residence of the head of the consular post and accommodation for the members of the consular post. If need be, the sending State shall be given the support of the receiving State.

Article 11. (1) The national coat of arms and the name of the consular post in the languages of the sending State and 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 on the building occupied by the consular post and on the residence of the head of the consular post.

(3) The head of the consular post may fly the national flag of the sending State on the vehicles used by him in the exercise of his functions.

Article 12. (1) The receiving State shall take every appropriate measure to ensure protection of the consular premises. The consular premises must be used exclusively in accordance with the character and functions of a consular post.

(2) The consular premises and the residence of the head of the consular post shall be inviolable. The authorities of the receiving State shall not enter the consular premises or the residence of the head of the consular post except with the consent of the head of the consular post, the head of the diplomatic mission of the sending State or a person authorized by them.

Article 13. Consular archives shall be inviolable at all times and wherever they may be.

Article 14. (1) A consular post shall have the right to communicate with its Government, the diplomatic mission and other consular posts of the sending State within the receiving State. The consular post may employ all customary means of communication, including diplomatic and consular couriers, diplomatic and consular bags and messages in code or cipher. The consular post may install and use a wireless transmitter only with the consent of the receiving State. The consular post shall be charged the same rates for the use of public means of communication as the diplomatic mission.

(2) The official correspondence of the consular post and the consular bag shall be inviolable and shall be neither opened nor detained by the authorities of the receiving State. The consular bag must bear visible external marks of its character. It may contain only official correspondence and articles intended for official use. Nevertheless, if the competent authorities of the receiving State have serious reason to believe that the consular bag contains objects other than official correspondence or articles intended for official use, they may demand its return to its place of origin.

(3) The receiving State shall accord to a consular courier who is in possession of an official document indicating his status and the number of packages constituting the consular bag the same rights, privileges and immunities as to a diplomatic courier of the sending State. The foregoing shall also apply to consular couriers *ad hoc*, except that the rights, privileges and immunities of such couriers shall expire upon the delivery of the consular bag to the consignee.

(4) A consular bag may also be entrusted to the captain of an aircraft or of a ship. The captain must carry an official document stating the number of packages constituting the consular bag; he shall not, however, be considered a consular courier. A consular post may, in compliance with the security regulations in force, assign one of its members to accept delivery of the consular bag directly from, or deliver it to, the captain of an aircraft or ship of the sending State.

Article 15. (1) The head of a consular post shall enjoy personal inviolability; he shall not be liable to provisional arrest, detention or any other form of restriction of his personal freedom in the receiving State.

(2) The head of a consular post shall enjoy immunity with respect to the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State. He shall also enjoy immunity with respect to the civil and administrative jurisdiction of the receiving State, except in respect of a civil action:

1. Relating to private immovable property situated in the receiving State, unless such property is used for consular purposes on behalf of the sending State;
2. Relating to matters of succession in which he acts not on behalf of the sending State but in a private capacity as executor, administrator, heir or legatee;
3. Relating to any profession or any industrial or commercial activity whatsoever which he carries on in the receiving State apart from his official functions;
4. Arising out of contracts concluded by him in which he did not contract expressly or impliedly as an agent of the sending State;
5. Brought by a third party for damage arising from an accident caused in the receiving State by a transport means.

(3) No measures of execution may be taken against the head of a consular post except in the cases specified in paragraph 2, and then only on condition that such measures can be carried out without infringing the inviolability of his person or of his residence.

Article 16. (1) Consular officers other than heads of consular posts and consular employees shall not be subject to the criminal, civil or administrative jurisdiction of the receiving State with regard to acts committed in the exercise of their official functions, except in respect of a civil action:

1. Arising out of a contract concluded by them in which they did not act expressly or impliedly on behalf of the sending State;
2. Brought by a third party for damage arising from an accident caused by a transport means in the receiving State.

(2) Consular officers other than heads of consular posts and consular employees shall not be liable to provisional arrest, detention or any other form of restriction on their personal freedom in the receiving State, unless they have been convicted by the competent judicial authorities of that State for having committed a willful offence punishable under the laws of the receiving State by imprisonment for a term of five years or a more severe penalty, or a final judicial decision has been handed down against them.

(3) If criminal proceedings are instituted against a consular officer other than the head of a consular post, they shall be conducted with the respect due to him by reason of his official position and in a manner which will hamper the exercise of consular functions as little as possible.

Article 17. (1) A member of a consular post may be called as a witness by the courts or other competent authorities of the receiving State. However, he shall be under no obligation to give evidence concerning matters connected with the exercise of his official functions, to produce official correspondence or other documents or objects relating thereto, or to speak as an expert on the law of the sending State.

(2) If a member of a consular post declines to appear as witness or to give evidence, no coercive measures or penalties may be applied.

(3) Courts or other competent authorities of the receiving State requiring the evidence of a consular officer shall take appropriate steps to avoid interference with the exercise of his functions. Evidence may be taken orally or in writing at the consular post or at the residence of the consular officer.

(4) Paragraph 1 of this article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to members of the family of a member of a consular post.

Article 18. (1) The sending State may waive the privileges and immunities provided for in articles 15, 16 and 17. In every instance the waiver shall be express and must be communicated in writing to the receiving State.

(2) The initiation of proceedings by a member of a consular post who enjoys immunity from jurisdiction shall preclude him from invoking immunity from jurisdiction in respect of any counter-claim directly connected with the principal claim.

(3) The waiver of immunity for the purposes of proceedings shall not be deemed to imply the waiver of immunity in respect of the execution of the judicial decision, for which a separate waiver shall be necessary.

Article 19. Members of a consular post and members of their families shall be exempt in the receiving State from public and personal service obligations of any kind.

Article 20. Members of a consular post and members of their families shall not be subject to the obligations in regard to registration and residence permits imposed by the laws and regulations of the receiving State on persons who are not nationals of the receiving State.

Article 21. (1) The receiving State shall not levy national, regional or municipal taxes or dues on:

1. Consular premises and the residence of the head of the consular post, if they have been acquired by or leased in the name of the sending State or are used by that State. This shall also apply to the acquisition of such immovable property, provided that the sending State acquires it exclusively for consular purposes;
2. The ownership, possession or use by the sending State of movable property intended exclusively for the needs of the consular post.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this article shall not apply to the payment of services rendered.

(3) The exemptions provided for in paragraph (1) of this article shall not apply to taxes and dues payable under the laws and regulations of the receiving State by the person who contracted with the sending State or with a person acting on its behalf.

Article 22. (1) The members of a consular post and the members of their families shall be exempt from all taxes and dues, whether national, regional or municipal, except:

1. Indirect taxes and dues of a kind normally incorporated into the price of goods or services;
2. Taxes and dues on private immovable property situated in the receiving State;
3. Estate, succession or inheritance duties levied on property situated in the receiving State, subject to the provision in paragraph 2;

4. Taxes and dues on private income having its source in the receiving State and on assets located there;
5. Taxes, duties and other dues levied for private services rendered;
6. Registration, court and record fees, mortgage dues and stamp duties.

(2) In the event of the death of a member of a consular post or of a member of his family, no national, regional or municipal succession duties or taxes shall be levied on movable property the presence of which in the receiving State was due solely to the presence in that State of the deceased as a member of a consular post or as a member of the family of a member of a consular post.

The receiving State shall permit the export of the movable property of the deceased, with the exception of any such property which was acquired in the receiving State and the export of which is prohibited.

Article 23. (1) The receiving State shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations, permit entry and exit of, and grant exemption from all customs duties, taxes and related charges, other than charges for storage, cartage and similar services, on:

1. Articles for the official use of a consular post, including motor vehicles;
2. Articles for the personal use of a consular officer or members of his family, including automobiles.

(2) Consular employees shall enjoy the exemptions specified in sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 1 of this article in respect of articles imported at the time of their initial installation.

(3) The accompanied personal baggage of consular officers and members of their families shall be exempt from customs inspection. It may be inspected only if there is serious reason to assume that it contains articles other than those mentioned in sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 1 of this article or articles the import or export of which is prohibited by the laws and regulations of the receiving State or which are subject to its quarantine laws and regulations. Such inspection shall not be carried out without the presence of the consular officer or member of his family concerned or a person authorized by them.

Article 24. Members of a consular post and members of their families shall enjoy freedom of movement and travel in the receiving State, except in the case of zones of prohibited access and sojourn according to the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Article 25. (1) A consular employee who is a national or permanent resident of the receiving State shall not enjoy the facilities, privileges and immunities provided for in this Convention, with the exception of the right provided for in paragraph 1 of article 17.

(2) Paragraph 1 of this article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the members of the family of a member of a consular post who are nationals or permanent residents of the receiving State.

CHAPTER IV. CONSULAR FUNCTIONS

Article 26. Consular officers shall be entitled to:

1. Protect the rights and interests of the sending State, its nationals and its bodies corporate;

2. Contribute to the development of economic, cultural and scientific relations between the sending State and the receiving State;
3. Otherwise promote the development of friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State.

Article 27. (1) A consular officer may exercise his consular functions only within the consular district. The exercise of consular functions outside the consular district shall in every instance require the prior authorization of the receiving State.

(2) A consular officer may, in the exercise of his consular functions, directly address the competent authorities in the consular district.

Article 28. A consular officer shall have the right, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, to represent nationals of the sending State before the courts and other authorities of the receiving State or ensure their appropriate representation and have measures taken to protect the rights and interests of such nationals where, because of absence or for any other valid reason, such nationals are unable to assume at the proper time the defence of their rights and interests.

Article 29. A consular officer shall have the right:

1. To keep a register of nationals of the sending State;
2. To receive applications and deliver documents relating to nationality in accordance with the laws and regulations of the sending State;
3. To issue, extend, amend, cancel and withdraw travel documents of nationals of the sending State;
4. To issue visas.

Article 30. (1) A consular officer shall have the right:

1. To keep registers of marriages, births and deaths of nationals of the sending State and receive declarations and requests concerning the civil status of those nationals;
2. To solemnize marriages, provided that both parties to the marriage are nationals of the sending State and that neither of them is at the same time a national of the receiving State.

(2) The consular officer shall, if the laws and regulations of the receiving State so require, notify the competent authorities of the receiving State of the execution of the instruments referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 31. A consular officer shall have the right:

1. To receive and certify declarations by nationals of the sending State;
2. To receive, certify and accept for safekeeping wills, testaments and other documents relating to unilateral legal acts by nationals of the sending State;
3. To receive, certify and accept for safekeeping contracts concluded between nationals of the sending State, provided they do not concern the establishment, transfer or extinguishment of rights to immovable property situated in the receiving State;
4. To authenticate signatures of nationals of the sending State on documents;

5. To authenticate copies or extracts of documents;
6. To make and certify translations of documents;
7. To legalize documents drawn up by the competent authorities or officials of the receiving State and intended for use in the sending State;
8. To issue certificates of origin for goods;
9. To exercise, in so far as not prohibited by the laws and regulations of the receiving State, all other notarial functions assigned to him by the sending State.

Article 32. Documents and instruments drawn up, authenticated or certified by a consular officer in accordance with article 31 of this Convention shall have the same legal validity in the receiving State as corresponding documents and instruments drawn up by the competent authorities of the receiving State, provided, however that they are not contrary to the laws and regulations of that State.

Article 33. A consular officer shall have the right to deliver to nationals of the sending State documents and instruments addressed to them by the courts or by other competent authorities of that State.

Article 34. (1) A consular officer shall have the right:

1. To accept for safekeeping documents, money, valuables and other articles belonging to nationals of the sending State;
2. To accept documents, money, valuables and other articles lost by nationals of the sending State while staying in the receiving State and handed over to him by the authorities of the receiving State to be delivered to the owner.

(2) Articles accepted for safekeeping pursuant to paragraph 1 of this article may be exported from the receiving State only when this is not contrary to the laws and regulations of that State.

Article 35. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall notify a consular officer without delay of the death in the receiving State of a national of the sending State and shall transmit to him a copy of the death certificate. The issue and transmittal of the certificate shall be free of charge.

Article 36. (1) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall furnish the consular officer with all information known to them concerning the estate of a national of the sending State deceased in the receiving State, the existence of a will of the deceased person, and heirs, legatees or persons entitled to a statutory portion.

(2) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall notify the consular officer whenever succession proceedings instituted in the receiving State reveal, irrespective of the nationality of the deceased person at the time of death, that an heir, legatee or person entitled to a statutory portion is a national of the sending State.

Article 37. If a national of the sending State has left an estate in the receiving State or, in succession proceedings, an heir, legatee or person entitled to a statutory portion is a national of the sending State, irrespective of the nationality of the deceased person at the time of death, the consular officer shall have the right to request the competent authorities of the receiving State to take measures

for the protection, safeguard and administration of the estate. He may, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, assist in the implementation of those measures and ensure that heirs, legatees or persons entitled to a statutory portion are represented.

Article 38. (1) Upon the completion of succession proceedings, the consular officer shall have the right to receive from the competent authorities of the receiving State the movable property belonging to the estate or the proceeds of the sale of movable or immovable property for transmittal to a national of the sending State, provided that such national is an heir, legatee or person entitled to a statutory portion, that he is not permanently resident in the receiving State and that he has not participated, either personally or through an agent, in the succession proceedings.

(2) The property referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall be delivered to the consular officer only if, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, any claims on the estate and estate duties have been paid or secured.

(3) The transfer and export to the entitled persons of the property referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall be effected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Article 39. (1) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall deliver to a consular officer the personal effects, money and valuables left by a national of the sending State if the national died during a temporary stay in the receiving State and the delivery of such property to a duly authorized agent is not possible.

(2) The transfer and export of the property referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall be effected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Article 40. (1) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall notify a consular officer upon learning that it is necessary, in order to safeguard the rights and interests of a national of the sending State, including rights and interests relating to assets in the receiving State, to appoint a guardian or trustee or to take any other protective measure provided for by the laws of the receiving State.

(2) In dealing with the questions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, the consular officer may address the competent authorities of the receiving State. He may, in particular, suggest a qualified person to act as guardian or trustee.

Article 41. (1) A consular officer shall have the right to communicate with any national of the sending State, to have access to him and to assist him in his dealings with the authorities of the receiving State as well as in matters handled by those authorities. He shall be permitted to secure for him the assistance of a lawyer or any other qualified person and to procure an interpreter for him.

(2) The receiving State shall in no way restrict either the contacts of a national of the sending State with, or his access to, the consular post.

(3) The authorities of the receiving State shall, if necessary, assist a consular officer in obtaining information concerning persons possessing the nationality of the sending State, in order that the consular officer may communicate with or have access to such persons.

Article 42. The competent authorities of the receiving State shall inform a consular officer without delay of any serious traffic accidents suffered by nationals of the sending State in the receiving State.

Article 43. (1) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall notify a consular officer of the arrest, detention or any other measure restrictive of the personal freedom of a national of the sending State in the receiving State. Such notification shall take place within three days from the date of the said national's arrest, detention or subjection to any other measure restricting his personal freedom.

(2) A consular officer shall have the right to visit a national of the sending State who is arrested, detained or subjected to any other measure restrictive of his personal freedom or who is serving a term of imprisonment in the receiving State, to converse with him and to provide for his legal representation. Visits shall be permitted within four days after the arrest, detention or other measure restricting the national's personal freedom. Such visits may be repeated periodically at reasonable intervals.

(3) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall transmit to the consular officer without delay all correspondence and communications from a national of the sending State who is arrested, detained or subjected to any other form of deprivation of freedom or who is serving a term of imprisonment in the receiving State.

(4) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall inform such national of the sending State of his rights under this article.

(5) The rights laid down in this article shall be exercised in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, provided that such laws and regulations do not nullify those rights.

Article 44. (1) A consular officer shall have the right to render aid and assistance to vessels of the sending State and their crews during their stay in a port or in the territorial or inland waters of the receiving State.

(2) The consular officer may communicate with and board vessels of the sending State as soon as such vessels have been admitted to pratique.

(3) The captain and members of the crew of vessels of the sending State shall have the right to communicate with the consular officer. They shall also have the right to visit the consular post in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

(4) The consular officer may, in the exercise of his functions, request the competent authorities of the receiving State to render aid and assistance in any matter concerning a ship of the sending State, the captain, the members of the crew or the cargo.

Article 45. (1) A consular officer shall have the right:

1. Without prejudice to the rights of the authorities of the receiving State, to make inquiries into incidents which occurred on board a vessel of the sending State during the voyage and to question the captain and members of the crew;
2. Without prejudice to the rights of the authorities of the receiving State, to settle any dispute between the captain and a member of the crew, including disputes relating to wages, the articles of agreement and working conditions;

3. To take steps to engage or dismiss a captain or a member of a crew, provided that this is not forbidden by the laws and regulations of the receiving State;
4. To take steps for the medical treatment of the captain or a member of the crew and provide, if need be, for their repatriation to the sending State;
5. To receive, issue or certify declarations and documents required by the laws and regulations of the sending State for vessels of that State and their cargo, to extend the period of validity of such declarations and documents, and to verify the ship's papers.

(2) A consular officer may, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, render every aid and assistance to the captain or a member of the crew of ships of the sending State and appear with him before the courts and other authorities of the receiving State.

Article 46. (1) If the courts or other competent authorities of the receiving State intend to take coercive measures or to conduct an investigation aboard a vessel of the sending State, the consular officer shall be notified by the competent authorities of the receiving State. Such notification must be made in time to enable the consular officer to be present. In case the consular officer has not attended the implementation of such measures, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall inform him thereof in writing, at his request. If the urgency of the measures to be taken precludes advance notification of the consular officer, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall inform the consular officer in writing of the events which occurred and the measures taken, without any need for the consular officer to make a request to that effect.

(2) The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply if the captain or members of the crew are to be interrogated ashore by the competent authorities of the receiving State concerning incidents connected with a vessel of the sending State.

(3) The provisions of this article shall not apply to routine customs, passport and health inspections.

Article 47. (1) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall immediately notify a consular officer if a vessel of the sending State is wrecked, runs aground or otherwise sustains damage in a port or in the territorial or inland waters of the receiving State and shall communicate to him the measures taken to save and protect human life, the vessel and the cargo. The consular officer may render every assistance to the vessel of the sending State, the captain and the members of the crew and may take measures for the safeguarding of the cargo and the repair of the vessel.

(2) On behalf of the owner of a vessel of the sending State, a consular officer may, if either the captain, the owner of the vessel, his agent or the competent insurer is unable to take the necessary steps to safeguard or administer the vessel or its cargo, take such measures as the owner of the vessel or of the cargo would himself have been able to take for that purpose.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall also apply to objects belonging to a national of the sending State and coming from a vessel of the receiving State or a third State which have been found as flotsam or jetsam

on the coast or in the territorial or internal waters of the receiving State or have been brought to a port of the receiving State.

(4) The competent authorities of the receiving State shall render to a consular officer all necessary assistance in the measures to be taken by him in the event of damage to a vessel of the sending State.

(5) A damaged vessel of the sending State, its cargo and its supplies shall be exempt from customs duties, dues and taxes in the receiving State, provided that they are not destined for use in that State.

Article 48. The provisions of articles 44 to 47 of this Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to aircraft of the sending State.

Article 49. A consular officer may also exercise consular functions other than those specified in this Convention, provided that they are not contrary to the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Article 50. A consular post may, with the consent of the receiving State, perform consular functions in the receiving State on behalf of a third State.

Article 51. A consular officer shall have the right to levy in the receiving State, for consular services rendered, the fees and charges provided for by the laws and regulations of the sending State. Consular fees shall be exempt from all taxes and dues in the receiving State.

CHAPTER V. GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 52. Persons enjoying the facilities, privileges and immunities provided for under this Convention shall, without prejudice to such facilities, privileges and immunities, respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, including the regulations governing traffic and the insurance of vehicles, and shall refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the receiving State.

Article 53. (1) The provisions of this Convention shall also apply to the exercise of consular functions by the diplomatic mission of the sending State. The rights and duties of consular officers specified in this Convention shall apply to members of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State who have been entrusted with the exercise of consular functions. The names of such diplomats shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State. If the laws and regulations of the receiving State provide for the presentation of a commission and the granting of an exequatur, the latter shall be delivered free of cost.

(2) The performance of consular functions by a member of the diplomatic staff of a diplomatic mission in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall not affect the facilities, privileges and immunities which he enjoys by virtue of his diplomatic status.

Article 54. (1) This Convention shall be ratified. It shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the exchange of instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Berlin.

(2) This Convention is concluded for an indefinite period and shall remain in force until the expiry of a period of six months from the date on which one of the High Contracting Parties gives notice of termination in writing through the diplomatic channel.

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

DONE at Athens on 6 July 1982, in duplicate in the Greek, German and French languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy, the French text shall prevail.

For the Hellenic Republic:
[YIANNIS HARALAMBOPOULOS]

For the German Democratic Republic:
[OSKAR FISCHER]

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

I

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the Consular Convention between the German Democratic Republic and the Hellenic Republic, and I am authorized to propose to you that the following be agreed between the German Democratic Republic and the Hellenic Republic:

“On the basis of the generally recognized principles of international law, amongst which is the sovereign right of each State to determine the conditions of acquisition, maintenance and loss of its nationality, the two Parties have agreed that for the purposes of implementation of article 41 of the Consular Convention signed today, consular officers of the sending State shall have the right of access in the receiving State to persons who are nationals of the sending State.”

Please be kind enough to confirm that the foregoing constitutes an arrangement between the German Democratic Republic and the Hellenic Republic.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

OSKAR FISCHER
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the German Democratic Republic

His Excellency Yiannis Haralambopoulos
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

II

Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

[See letter I]

I am authorized to state that your letter and this reply shall constitute an arrangement between the Hellenic Republic and the German Democratic Republic.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[YIANNIS HARALAMBOPOULOS]

His Excellency Oskar Fischer
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the German Democratic Republic
