

No. 23396

**BULGARIA
and
NICARAGUA**

Consular Convention. Signed at Sofia on 22 November 1982

Authentic texts: Bulgarian and Spanish.

Registered by Bulgaria on 18 June 1985.

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[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONSULAR CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

The People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Nicaragua,
Guided by the desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries and to regulate their consular relations,

In order to facilitate the protection of the interests of the two countries and of their nationals,

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

For the People's Republic of Bulgaria: Petr Mladenov,

For the Republic of Nicaragua: Miguel D'Escoto Brokman,

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

PART I. DEFINITIONS

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

(a) "Consulate" shall mean a consulate-general, consulate, vice-consulate or consular agency;

(b) "Consular district" shall mean the territory in which it has been agreed that a consulate shall exercise its consular functions;

(c) "Head of consulate" shall mean a consular officer authorized to act in that capacity;

(d) "Consular officer" shall mean any person, including a head of consulate, who is entrusted with the exercise of consular functions. This definition shall also include persons assigned to the consulate for the purpose of consular training (trainees);

(e) "Consular employee" shall mean any person who is not a consular officer but who is employed in the administrative, technical or other service in connection with the care and maintenance of the consulate;

(f) "Members of a consulate" shall mean consular officers and consular employees;

(g) "Consular premises" shall mean the buildings or parts of buildings, irrespective of ownership, used exclusively for the purposes of the consulate;

(h) "Consular archives" shall mean all the papers, documents, correspondence, books, stamps and seals, magnetic tapes and registers of the consulate, its ciphers and codes, and the cabinets and other furniture for their safekeeping;

(i) "Ship of the sending State" shall mean any ship which normally flies the flag of the sending State, except for warships;

¹ Came into force on 12 June 1983, i.e., 30 days after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Managua on 13 May 1983, in accordance with article 54 (1).

(j) "Aircraft of the sending State" shall mean any civil aircraft duly registered in the sending State.

Article 2. Wheresoever in this Convention reference is made to nationality, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) Nationals of the People's Republic of Bulgaria means persons who have such nationality in accordance with the laws of the People's Republic of Bulgaria;
- (b) Nicaraguans means persons who have Nicaraguan nationality in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Article 3. The receiving State shall regard as juridical persons of the sending State bodies incorporated as such in accordance with the laws of the sending State.

PART II. OPENING OF CONSULATES AND APPOINTMENT OF CONSULAR OFFICERS

Article 4. 1. A consulate may be opened in the territory of the receiving State only with that State's consent.

2. The seat of a consulate, its classification, its consular district and the number of its members shall be determined by agreement between the sending State and the receiving State.

Article 5. 1. Before appointing a head of consulate, the sending State shall obtain through the diplomatic channel the consent of the receiving State.

2. Once the consent referred to in paragraph 1 has been obtained, the sending State shall transmit to the receiving State, through the diplomatic channel, the commission of appointment or other document of appointment of the head of consulate, which shall indicate his full name and rank, the seat of the consulate and the district in which he will exercise his functions.

3. Once the exequatur has been granted by the receiving State, the head of consulate may begin to exercise his functions.

4. Pending the issue of the exequatur, the head of consulate may be permitted to exercise his functions on a provisional basis.

Article 6. The sending State shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State in writing of:

- (a) The appointment of members of a consulate, except a head of consulate; their arrival after appointment; their final departure or the termination of their functions; and any other changes in their status during their service in the consulate;
- (b) The arrival and final departure of any member of the family of a member of a consulate who resides in his household, and the fact that a person has become or ceased to be a member of such family;
- (c) The recruitment and termination of persons with permanent residence in the receiving State as members of a consulate.

Article 7. Consular officers shall be nationals only of the sending State.

Article 8. 1. If, for whatever reason, the head of a consulate is unable to exercise his functions or if the position is vacant, the sending State may entrust the functions of head of consulate on a provisional basis to one of the consular officers of

the consulate or of another of its consulates in the receiving State, or to a member of the diplomatic staff of its diplomatic mission in the receiving State. The full name of such person shall first be communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State.

2. The person authorized to exercise the functions of head of consulate on a provisional basis shall enjoy the same facilities, privileges and immunities as are enjoyed by a head of consulate under this Convention.

3. When a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State is entrusted with the exercise of consular functions in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article, the privileges and immunities which he enjoys by virtue of his diplomatic status shall not be affected.

Article 9. The provisions of this Convention shall also apply to the exercise of consular functions by members of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State; the sending State shall communicate through the diplomatic channel the full names of the members of its diplomatic staff entrusted with the exercise of consular functions.

Article 10. The receiving State may at any time, and without having to explain its decision, notify the sending State through the diplomatic channel that the exequatur or other authorization granted to a head of consulate has been revoked, or that some other member of the consulate is considered unacceptable.

The sending State must thereupon recall the person concerned if he has already begun to exercise his functions. If the sending State fails to fulfill this obligation within a reasonable time, the receiving State may refuse to recognize the person concerned as a member of the consulate.

Article 11. 1. The competent organs of the receiving State shall issue free of charge to consular officers a document certifying their consular status and their rank.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply to consular employees, provided that they are not nationals of the receiving State or do not have permanent residence therein.

3. The provisions of this article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to members of the family of a member of a consulate who reside in his household.

PART III. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Article 12. 1. The receiving State shall provide a consulate with all facilities for the exercise of its functions and shall make the necessary arrangements for its consular officers to be able to perform their duties and enjoy the privileges and immunities provided in this Convention.

2. The receiving State shall treat the members of the consulate with due respect and shall take the necessary steps to guarantee the protection of their persons, freedom and dignity.

Article 13. 1. The coat of arms of the sending State and the name-plate of the consulate in the language of the sending State and of the receiving State may be fixed to the building in which the seat of the consulate is located.

2. The State flag of the sending State may be flown from the seat of the consulate and from the residence of the head of consulate.

3. The flag of the sending State may also be flown on the means of transport used by the head of consulate in the exercise of his official functions.

Article 14. 1. The sending State may, in accordance with the laws of the receiving State, acquire, own, use and lease land, buildings or parts of buildings, construct buildings and develop land needed for consular premises or for the living quarters of members of a consulate. Where necessary, the receiving State shall render the sending State assistance in this matter.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not exempt the sending State from the obligation to comply with the construction and town-planning laws and regulations in force in the place where the immovable property in question is located.

Article 15. 1. Consular premises shall be inviolable.

2. The receiving State shall ensure the protection of consular premises.

3. The authorities of the receiving State may not enter the premises referred to in paragraph 2 without the prior consent of the head of consulate, of the head of the diplomatic mission of the sending State, or of a person authorized by one of them to give such consent.

4. Consular premises may not be used for purposes incompatible with the exercise of consular functions.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the residence of the head of consulate and the living quarters of the members of the consulate.

Article 16. Consular archives shall be inviolable at all times and in all places.

Article 17. 1. A consulate shall have the right to communicate with the Government, diplomatic missions and other consulates of the sending State, wherever they may be located. For this purpose, a consulate may use all public means of communication, cipher and code, diplomatic or consular couriers, and diplomatic or consular bags.

When a consulate uses public means of communication, it shall be charged the same rates as a diplomatic mission.

A consulate may install and use a radio transmitter only with the consent of the receiving State.

2. The official correspondence of a consulate, regardless of the means of communication used, and consular bags bearing external visible marks indicating their official character shall be inviolable and may not be inspected or detained by the organs of the receiving State.

3. A consular bag may contain only official correspondence and documents and articles intended exclusively for official use.

4. Consular couriers shall be provided with an official document certifying their status as such and indicating the number of consular bags entrusted to them. The receiving State shall afford them the same rights, privileges and immunities as it affords to diplomatic couriers of the sending State. The said rights, privileges and immunities shall cease from the time when the packages are delivered to the addressee.

5. A consular bag may be entrusted to the captain of a ship or of an aircraft. He shall be provided with an official document indicating the number of packages in the bag, but he shall not be considered a consular courier. Consular officers may

deliver or receive a consular bag directly and without obstruction into or from the hands of the captain of the aircraft or ship.

Article 18. Members of a consulate and members of their family residing with them who are not nationals of the receiving State shall enjoy personal inviolability. They shall not be subject to arrest or detention in any form. The receiving State shall treat them with due respect and take all necessary steps to prevent any kind of attack on their persons, freedom or dignity.

Article 19. 1. Consular officers shall enjoy immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State. They shall also enjoy immunity from the civil and administrative jurisdiction of the receiving State, except in civil actions relating to:

- (a) Private immovable property situated in the territory of the receiving State which is not owned on behalf of the sending State for consular purposes;
- (b) Succession proceedings in which a consular officer is the executor of a will, administrator of a legacy, legitimate or testatory heir, or witness in a private capacity and not as representative of the sending State;
- (c) Contracts concluded in their name and on their behalf, or contracts which the consular officers have not concluded directly or indirectly in their capacity as representatives of the sending State;
- (d) Damage to third persons as a result of an accident caused by a vehicle in the receiving State.

2. The persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall not be subject to any coercive measures, except in the cases indicated in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) and provided that such measures can be carried out without prejudice to the inviolability of their persons and their living quarters.

Article 20. Consular employees shall enjoy immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State. They shall also enjoy immunity from the civil and administrative jurisdiction of the receiving State in accordance with article 19 of this Convention, but only with respect to acts performed during the exercise of their official functions.

Article 21. The immunity provided by articles 19 and 20 of this Convention for consular officers and consular employees shall also be granted *mutatis mutandis* to members of their family residing with them who are not nationals of the receiving State.

Article 22. 1. The sending State may waive immunity from the jurisdiction of the receiving State with respect to members of a consulate and members of their family residing in their household. In all cases such waiver must be express and communicated in writing. Waiver of immunity from jurisdiction in civil and administrative actions shall not entail waiver of immunity with respect to the enforcement of a decision, which shall require a specific waiver.

2. If a member of a consulate or a member of his family residing in his household initiates a court action in a matter in which he enjoys immunity from jurisdiction in accordance with articles 19 and 20 of this Convention, he may not invoke such immunity with respect to any counter-claim directly related to the principal claim.

Article 23. 1. A consular officer shall not be required to give evidence as a witness before the courts or other competent organs of the receiving State.

2. A consular employee may be summoned to give evidence before the courts or other competent organs of the receiving State. He may decline to give evidence with regard to matters falling within the scope of his official duties or to give evidence as an expert concerning the laws of the sending State. No coercive measures may be applied against a consular employee in order to compel him to appear before a court or to give evidence.

3. When a consular employee consents to give evidence, all reasonable steps shall be taken to avoid disrupting his work at the consulate. When such disruption might occur, evidence may be given verbally or in writing either at the consulate or at the home of the consular employee concerned.

4. The provisions of this article shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to members of the family of a consular officer or consular employee, provided that they reside in his household and are not nationals of the receiving State.

Article 24. 1. Consular officers and consular employees shall be exempt in the receiving State from the performance of compulsory service or any other compulsory public or military duties.

2. Members of the family of a member of a consulate who reside in his household and are not nationals of the receiving State shall enjoy the privileges referred to in paragraph 1 above.

Article 25. Members of a consulate and members of their family who reside in their household and are not citizens of the receiving State shall be exempt from all requirements connected with the registration of aliens and residence permits prescribed by the laws of the receiving State.

Article 26. 1. The sending State shall be exempt in the receiving State from all dues and taxes of any kind with respect to:

- (a) Land, buildings or parts of buildings used exclusively for consular purposes, including the living quarters of consular officers and consular employees, provided that such property is owned or leased on behalf of the sending State or of a physical or juridical person acting on behalf of that State;
- (b) Contracts or documents relating to the acquisition of the said immovable property, provided that the sending State acquires it exclusively for consular purposes.

2. The provisions of subparagraph 1 (a) of this article shall not apply to the payment of taxes in respect of services rendered.

Article 27. Members of a consulate who are not nationals of the receiving State shall be exempt, with respect to the remuneration which they receive for the performance of their official duties, from payment of taxes of any kind levied in the receiving State.

Article 28. 1. Members of a consulate and members of their family who reside with them and are nationals of the sending State shall be exempt from payment of State, local and communal dues and taxes, including dues and taxes on the movable property which they own.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall not apply to:

- (a) Taxes which are normally included in the price of goods and services;
- (b) Dues and taxes on immovable property which they acquire in their private capacity in the receiving State;

- (c) Dues and taxes on private income originating in the receiving State;
- (d) Dues and taxes on legacies and property acquired in the receiving State, subject to the provisions of article 29;
- (e) Dues and taxes in respect of specific services rendered;
- (f) Dues and taxes on contracts and documents relating to contracts, including State taxes of all kinds levied in relation to such contracts, except for the dues and taxes covered by the exception established in article 26.

3. Members of a consulate who employ persons whose wages and other remuneration are not exempt from income tax in the receiving State must fulfill the obligations prescribed by the laws of the receiving State with respect to payment of income taxes.

Article 29. In the event of death of a member of a consulate, or of a member of his family who resided in his household, the receiving State shall not levy taxes on the succession or on the transfer of ownership of movable property, provided that the presence of the property in the receiving State is due solely to the presence there of the testator as a member of a consulate or as a member of the family of a member of a consulate.

Article 30. 1. All articles, including motor vehicles, imported for the use of the consular service shall be exempt from payment of customs duties and other taxes of any kind levied on imports or in connection with imports to the same extent as articles imported for the use of a diplomatic mission.

2. Consular officers and members of their family who reside in their household shall be exempt from customs inspection of their personal baggage and from payment of customs duties on articles imported for their personal use to the same extent as the corresponding categories of the staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State.

3. Consular employees and members of their family who reside with them shall be exempt from payment of customs duties on the import of articles to be used in their initial installation in the receiving State to the same extent as the corresponding categories of the staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State.

4. Under the term “the corresponding categories of the staff of the diplomatic mission” used in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article, consular officers shall be equivalent to diplomatic officers, and consular employees shall be equivalent to members of the administrative and technical staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State.

5. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this article shall not apply to charges for the deposit, storage and cartage of imported articles.

Article 31. The receiving State shall guarantee freedom of transit and travel in its territory to members of a consulate and members of their family who reside with them, except for areas to which access is prohibited or restricted for reasons of national security.

Article 32. Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, members of a consulate and members of their family shall be obliged to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, including the provisions governing traffic and compulsory insurance in respect of damage caused to third parties in the use of vehicles.

Article 33. Consular employees and members of the family of consular officers and consular employees residing with them who are nationals of the receiving State or who have their permanent residence therein shall not enjoy the privileges and immunities provided in this Convention, except for the privileges and immunities established in article 23, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

PART IV. CONSULAR FUNCTIONS

Article 34. The function of a consular officer is to contribute to the strengthening of the friendly relations between the two countries, to co-operate in the development of the economic, trade, cultural, scientific and tourism relations between them, and to protect the rights and interests of the sending State and of its nationals and juridical persons.

Article 35. 1. In the exercise of his functions a consular officer may communicate in writing or verbally:

- (a) With the competent local organs in his consular district;
- (b) With the competent central organs of the receiving State, provided that the laws and customs of the receiving State so allow.

2. With the consent of the receiving State, a consular officer may also exercise his functions outside his consular district.

Article 36. 1. Consular officers shall have the right, in accordance with the laws of the receiving State, to represent nationals of the sending State, including juridical persons, before the courts and other organs of the receiving State, and to take appropriate steps to provide such nationals with legal assistance when they are not present or are unable for any other reason to protect their rights and interests in good time.

2. The representation referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall cease from the moment when the person represented appoints his own representative or when the person himself takes charge of the protection of his rights and interests.

Article 37. Consular officers shall have the right:

- (a) To issue, extend, cancel or otherwise amend the passports or other similar documents of nationals of the sending State;
- (b) To issue visas.

Article 38. 1. Consular officers shall have the right:

- (a) To maintain a register of nationals of the sending State;
- (b) To receive all statements concerning the nationality of persons of the sending State;
- (c) To register and receive information and documents concerning births and deaths of nationals of the sending State;
- (d) To solemnize marriages in accordance with the laws of the sending State, provided that both the persons concerned are nationals of that State;
- (e) To receive statements concerning the family relations of nationals of the sending State.

2. Consular officers shall inform the competent organs of the receiving State about the births, marriages and deaths of nationals of the sending State, registered in the consulate, if the laws of the receiving State so require.

3. The provisions of subparagraphs 1 (c) and (d) shall not absolve the persons concerned from the obligation to complete the formalities required by the laws of the receiving State.

Article 39. 1. Consular officers shall have the right:

- (a) To receive and attest statements of nationals of the sending State and to issue the relevant documents to them;
- (b) To draw up, legalize and hold in safekeeping wills and other documents relating to unilateral legal instruments of nationals of the sending State;
- (c) To legalize signatures of nationals of the sending State;
- (d) To legalize documents of any kind issued by the organs of the sending State or of the receiving State, and to certify copies and extracts from such documents;
- (e) To translate documents and to certify the translations;
- (f) To authorize, draw up and certify contracts and other legal instruments of nationals of the sending State, provided that such contracts and instruments are in conformity with the laws of the receiving State and do not relate to the acquisition, loss or suspension of rights to immovable property situated in the receiving State;
- (g) To authorize, draw up and certify contracts and other legal instruments, irrespective of the nationality of the parties thereto, provided that such contracts and instruments relate only to rights to property situated in the sending State or relate to rights which will be exercised in that State, and provided also that such contracts and instruments are in conformity with the laws of the receiving State.

2. The contracts and other legal instruments referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, when certified by a consular officer of the sending State, shall have in the receiving State the same validity and force as documents certified or legalized by the magistracy or other competent organs of the receiving State. However, the organs of the receiving State shall be obliged to recognize the validity of the said contracts and instruments, provided that they are in conformity with the laws of the receiving State.

Article 40. Consular officers shall have the right to accept for safekeeping, from and for citizens of the sending State, articles, money and documents, provided that such action is in conformity with the laws of the receiving State.

Article 41. Consular officers shall have the right to deliver judicial and extra-judicial documents to nationals of the sending State.

Article 42. 1. The organs of the receiving State shall inform a consulate in writing about cases where it is necessary to appoint a guardian or a trustee for a national of the sending State who is a minor or is legally incapacitated.

2. Consular officers may communicate with the relevant organs of the receiving State concerning matters covered by paragraph 1 of this article and, in particular, they may propose a person as guardian or trustee.

Article 43. Consular officers shall have the right to communicate with any national of the sending State, to help or advise him and, where necessary, to provide him with legal assistance. The receiving State shall not impose any kind of restriction on the access of nationals of the sending State to a consulate or on their communication with it.

Article 44. 1. The competent organs of the receiving State shall inform a consulate of the sending State, within three days, of every case where a national of the sending State is arrested, detained or deprived of his freedom in any other way. The said organs shall be obliged to transmit to the consulate immediately the information given by such national.

2. Consular officers shall have the right to visit a national of the sending State who has been arrested, detained or deprived of his freedom in any other way, to interview him or correspond with him, and to assist him with the preparation of his defence. They shall also have the right to visit a national of the sending State who has been imprisoned.

3. The competent organs of the receiving State shall be obliged to inform nationals of the sending State about all their rights in the event of their arrest, detention or imprisonment.

4. The rights established in this article shall be exercised in conformity with the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Article 45. 1. The competent organs of the receiving State shall inform a consulate within the shortest possible time about the death of a national of the sending State, and they shall communicate to the consulate information about his estate, the names of the heirs and legatees, and the existence of a will. They shall also communicate information about the opening of the succession in the receiving State when the heir or legatee is a national of the sending State.

2. Consular officers may represent nationals of the sending State before the organs of the receiving State, in accordance with the laws of the receiving State concerning succession procedures even if they are not authorized to do so, when such nationals, owing to absence or other sufficient reason, would be unable to protect their rights and interests in good time.

3. A consular officer in whose district a succession has been opened may:

- (a) Request the competent organs of the receiving State to take the measures prescribed by the laws of that State for the protection and administration of the estate;
- (b) Be present in person, or through a person authorized by him, during the inventory and sealing of the property, and to monitor the legal procedure initiated for this purpose.

4. If, on conclusion of the succession procedure in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the movable property of the succession or the proceeds from the sale of the movable or immovable property cannot be transferred to the heirs or legatees who reside in the territory of the other Contracting Party, such property or proceeds may be handed over to the consular officer, in accordance with the laws of the receiving State, if for any reason the said heirs or legatees cannot receive the property or proceeds themselves or through their agent or representative.

5. When a national of the sending State who does not have his permanent residence in the receiving State dies during a temporary stay in the receiving State, his

personal effects shall be handed over without formality to a consular officer, except for articles acquired in the receiving State which were subject to an export prohibition at the time of the death.

Article 46. Consular officers shall have the right to render all assistance to ships of the sending State and to the crew of such ships in the territorial sea or inland waters of the receiving State. Consular officers may take action of any kind in connection with the application of the laws and other legal regulations of the sending State concerning navigation. For this purpose they may also visit ships of the sending State and interview the captain and crew of such ships, in accordance with the port regulations of the receiving State.

Article 47. Without prejudice to the rights of the organs of the receiving State, consular officers shall have the right:

- (a) To take statements from the captain or members of the crew of a ship of the sending State, to verify, receive and certify the ship's papers, to receive statements concerning the ship's voyage and to take other action to facilitate the ship's entry and stay in port and its departure;
- (b) To resolve disputes of any kind between the captain and the other members of the crew, including disputes concerning contracts of service and working conditions;
- (c) To take the necessary steps for the recruitment or dismissal of the captain or members of the crew;
- (d) To take steps of any kind for the hospitalization or repatriation, as appropriate, of the captain or members of the crew;
- (e) To receive, draw up or sign all statements or other documents relating to navigation prescribed by the laws of the sending State;
- (f) To receive communications about and certificates of births or deaths issued by the captain on board the ship, and wills received by him during the voyage;
- (g) To assist the captain or a member of the crew in communicating with a court or other competent organ of the receiving State.

Article 48. 1. If it is necessary for the courts or other competent organs of the receiving State to take coercive measures or carry out official investigations on board a ship of the sending State which is in the territorial waters of the receiving State, such courts or other competent organs shall so notify the relevant consular officer. Such notification shall be given before the said measures are initiated, so that the consular officer may be present while they are carried out. If the consular officer or his representative is unable to be present, the competent organs of the receiving State, at his request, shall provide him with a full report about the action taken and about what happened.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply in cases where it is necessary for the competent organs of the port area to question on shore the captain, a member of the crew or a passenger of a ship of the sending State.

3. The judicial organs and other competent organs of the receiving State shall not interfere, except at the request of the ship's captain or of the consular officer, in the internal affairs of the ship with respect to the relations between the members of the crew, working relations, discipline and other matters of internal order, always

provided that the peace, public order, security or laws of the receiving State are not violated.

4. However, the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall not apply to normal customs, passport and health inspections by the port authorities, or to the saving of human life at sea or prevention of pollution of the sea, or to other actions carried out at the request or with the consent of the ship's captain.

Article 49. 1. If a ship of the sending State is shipwrecked, runs aground, is swept ashore, or suffers any other accident in the territorial sea or the inland waters of the receiving State, or if any article belonging to such ship or forming part of its cargo has become separated from the ship and has been found in the receiving State, the competent organs of the receiving State shall immediately inform a consular officer of the sending State. They shall also inform the consular officer about the steps which have been taken to save human life and the ship, its cargo and other property on board the ship, and articles belonging to the ship or forming part of its cargo which have become separated from the ship.

2. The consular officer may render all assistance to the ship which has suffered damage, and to the members of its crew and its passengers. For this purpose he may communicate with the competent organs of the receiving State to request their co-operation. Such organs shall be obliged to give the consular officer the necessary assistance when requested to do so.

3. If the person authorized to deal with such matters is absent, the consular officer shall be deemed authorized to take the action which the owner himself could have taken with respect to:

- (a) A ship of the sending State, its cargo or part thereof, or any article belonging to the ship which has been separated from the ship; or
- (b) The cargo, or any article forming part thereof, of any shipwrecked ship, provided that the article or the cargo is owned by the sending State or by a national of that State and has been found in the territorial sea or the inland waters of the receiving State or brought to a port of the receiving State.

4. Customs duties or charges shall not be levied on the cargo of a ship which has suffered damage in the territory of the receiving State, provided that such cargo was not destined for the receiving State.

Article 50. The provisions of articles 42, 43, 44 and 45 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to civil aircraft of the sending State.

Article 51. 1. In the exercise of its consular functions, a consulate may charge in the territory of the receiving State fees and other dues prescribed by the laws of the sending State.

2. The fees and dues referred to in paragraph 1 shall be exempt from taxes and charges of any kind in the receiving State.

Article 52. In addition to the functions established in this Convention, consular officers may also perform other functions entrusted to them by the sending State, provided that such functions are in conformity with the laws of the receiving State.

PART V. GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 53. 1. The provisions of this Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to consular services attached to diplomatic missions.

2. The full names of the members of the diplomatic mission who are exercising consular functions shall be communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State.

3. The members of the diplomatic mission referred to in paragraph 2 shall continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities afforded to them by virtue of their diplomatic status.

Article 54. 1. This Convention 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 Managua.

2. This Convention is concluded for an indefinite period and may be denounced in writing by either of the High Contracting Parties, and its validity shall expire six months after the date of the denunciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have signed and sealed this Convention.

DONE at Sofia on 22 November 1982 in duplicate in the Bulgarian and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the People's Republic
of Bulgaria:

[Signed]

PETR MLADENOV

For the Republic
of Nicaragua:

[Signed]

MIGUEL D'ESCOTO BROKMAN