

No. 9708

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
BULGARIA**

**Consular Convention (with protocols). Signed at London on
13 March 1968**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning the
above-mentioned Convention. London, 13 March 1968**

Authentic texts: English and Bulgarian.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
8 July 1969.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
BULGARIE**

**Convention consulaire (avec protocoles). Signée à Londres le
13 mars 1968**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la Convention
susmentionnée. Londres, 13 mars 1968**

Textes authentiques: anglais et bulgare.

*Enregistrés par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
8 juillet 1969.*

CONSULAR CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Her Majesty The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, and the Praesidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria;

Animated by the desire further to strengthen the ties of friendship between their two countries;

Wishing to regulate their consular relations, to define the rights, privileges and immunities of their consular officers and to facilitate the protection of their nationals and national interests;

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

Her Majesty The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth (hereinafter referred to as " Her Britannic Majesty ") :

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland :

The Right Honourable George Alfred Brown, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;

The Praesidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

His Excellency Dr. Peter Voutov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in London,

Who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers, which were found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

PART I

DEFINITIONS

Article 1

For the purposes of this Convention :

(1) the term " consulate " shall mean a consulate-general, consulate, vice-consulate or consular agency;

¹ Came into force on 21 December 1968, i.e., thirty days after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Sofia on 21 November 1968, in accordance with article 57 (1).

(2) the term “ consular officer ” shall mean any person, including a consular officer, head of a post, who is charged with the performance of consular duties and has been appointed or notified as such in conformity with Article 3 or Article 4, as the case may be;

(3) the term “ consular employee ” shall mean any person employed to perform administrative, technical or service duties at a consulate and notified as such in conformity with Article 6;

(4) the term “ consular district ” shall mean the area assigned for the performance of consular duties in conformity with paragraph (2) of Article 2;

(5) the term “ vessel ” shall mean, in relation to the sending State, any vessel registered at a port of that State; the term shall not, however, include any ship of war.

PART II

ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATES AND APPOINTMENT OF CONSULAR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Article 2

(1) The sending State may, subject, in each case, to the consent of the receiving State, establish and maintain consulates in the territory of the latter State.

(2) The sending and receiving States shall determine by agreement the seat of a consulate and the limits of the consular district.

Article 3

(1) The sending State shall request in advance through the diplomatic channel the agreement of the receiving State to the appointment of a consular officer, head of a post.

(2) After such agreement has been obtained the diplomatic mission of the sending State shall transmit to the ministry of foreign affairs of the receiving State the consular commission or other document of appointment, which shall specify the full name, nationality and rank of the consular officer, head of a post, the seat of the consulate and the consular district in which he will perform his duties.

(3) Upon the presentation of the commission or other document of appointment of a consular officer, head of a post, the exequatur or other authorisation shall be granted as soon as possible and free of charge by the receiving State. Pending the grant of the exequatur or other authorisation the receiving State shall, where appropriate, grant the consular officer, head of a post, a provisional authorisation.

(4) A consular officer, head of a post, may enter upon the performance of his duties as soon as the receiving State has granted him an exequatur or other authorisation, including a provisional authorisation.

Article 4

In the case of a consular officer to whom Article 3 does not apply, the sending State shall notify in advance through the diplomatic channel the ministry of foreign affairs of the receiving State of the full name, nationality, rank and function of the consular officer.

Article 5

Only a national of the sending State may be appointed as a consular officer.

Article 6

The sending State shall notify in advance through the diplomatic channel the ministry of foreign affairs of the receiving State of the full name, nationality, and function of a consular employee appointed to a consulate.

Article 7

A national of the sending State who is already present in the receiving State or who is in transit to that State may not be appointed as a consular officer or employee. This prohibition does not apply, however, in the case of a national who is already a member of the Staff of a consulate, or of the diplomatic mission, of the sending State in the receiving State.

Article 8

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 a consular officer or employee is unacceptable. The sending State shall thereupon recall the consular officer or employee concerned or terminate his duties at the consulate. If the sending State fails to carry out this obligation within a reasonable period, the receiving State may, in the case of a consular officer, head of a post, withdraw the exequatur or other authorisation or, in the case of a consular officer or employee, decline to continue to recognise the person concerned in such capacity.

Article 9

(1) If a consular officer, head of a post, is unable to act as such or if the post is temporarily vacant, the sending State may appoint a consular officer be-

longing to the same consulate or to another consulate in the receiving State, or a member of the diplomatic staff of its diplomatic mission in that State, to act temporarily in his place. The full name of the person concerned shall be notified in advance to the ministry of foreign affairs of the receiving State.

(2) A consular officer appointed to take temporary charge of a consulate in pursuance of paragraph (1) of this Article shall enjoy the same rights, privileges and immunities as the consular officer, head of a post, in whose place he is acting.

(3) If a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission is so appointed he shall be accorded the same rights as the consular officer, head of a post, in whose place he is acting. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 49, he shall continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to him by virtue of his diplomatic status.

Article 10

(1) Members of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission of the sending State in the receiving State may be appointed to perform consular, in addition to diplomatic duties. The name of any person so appointed shall be notified to the ministry of foreign affairs of the receiving State.

(2) A member of the diplomatic mission to whom paragraph (1) of this Article applies shall be accorded the same rights as a consular officer under this Convention. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 49, he shall continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to him by virtue of his diplomatic status.

Article 11

The receiving State shall afford its protection to a consular officer and shall take the necessary measures to ensure that he is accorded the rights, privileges and immunities due to him under this Convention and otherwise. In connexion with the performance of his duties the competent authorities of the receiving State shall give him all requisite assistance.

Article 12

(1) A consular officer shall be given an appropriate document indicating his consular quality by the competent authority of the receiving State.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall also apply to consular employees and to members of the families of consular officers and em-