

any known heirs or testamentary executors by him appointed, the competent local authorities shall at once inform the nearest Consular Officer of the nation to which the deceased belonged, in order that necessary information may immediately be forwarded to parties interested.

In case of the death of a national of one of the High Contracting Parties in the territory of the other, without leaving at the place of his decease any person entitled by the laws of his country to take charge of and administer the estate, the competent Consular Officer of the State to which the deceased belonged shall be empowered to take custody of and administer the estate in the manner and under the limitations prescribed by the laws of the country in which the property of the deceased is situated.

The foregoing provisions shall also apply in case of a national of one of the High Contracting Parties dying outside the territory of the other, but possessing property therein, without leaving any person there entitled to take charge of and administer the estate.

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NOTE: Similar provisions may be found in the treaties concluded by Siam with Japan, 8 December 1937, articles 21, 24, 25 and 26 (League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. CLXXXVIII, p. 376); Germany, 30 December 1937, articles 14, 16, 17 and 18 (*ibid.*, vol. CLXXXVIII, p. 402); and Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 23 November 1937, articles 17, 18 and 19 (*ibid.*, vol. CLXXXVIII, p. 334). All these treaties have been ratified.

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18. Consular Convention ¹ between the United States of America and Liberia, signed at Monrovia, 7 October 1938 ²

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Article III

Consular officers, including employees in a consulate, nationals of the State by which they are appointed, other than those engaged in private occupations for gain within the State where they exercise their functions, shall be exempt from all taxes, national, State, provincial and municipal, except taxes levied on account of the possession or ownership of immovable property situated in, or income derived from property of any kind situated or belonging within the territories of the State within which they exercise their functions. All consular officers and employees, nationals of the State appointing them, shall be exempt from the payment of taxes on the salary, fees, or wages received by them in compensation for their consular services.

The exemptions of the foregoing paragraph shall apply equally to officials who are duly appointed by one of the High Contracting Parties to exercise in its behalf essential governmental functions in the territory of the other High Contracting Party, provided that such officials shall be nationals of the State appointing them and shall not be engaged in private occupations for gain within the country to which they are accredited. The State appointing them shall communicate to the other State satisfactory evidence of the appointment and shall indicate the character of the ser-

¹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. CCI, p. 184.

² Came into force on December 21, 1939.

vices of the officials to whom the exemptions of this article are intended to apply.

The Government of each High Contracting Party shall have the right to lease land and to lease, acquire and own buildings required for diplomatic or consular premises in the territory of the other High Contracting Party and also to erect buildings in such territory for the purposes stated subject to local building regulations.

Lands and buildings situated in the territory of either High Contracting Party, of which the other High Contracting Party is the legal or equitable owner and which are used exclusively for governmental purposes by that owner, shall be exempt from taxation of every kind, national, State, provincial and municipal, other than assessments levied for services or local public improvements by which the premises are benefited.

Article IV

Each of the High Contracting Parties agrees to permit the entry free of all duty and without examination of any kind, of all furniture, equipment and supplies intended for official use in the consular offices of the other, and to extend to such consular officers of the other and their families and suites as are its nationals, the privilege of entry free of duty of their baggage and all other personal property whether accompanying the officer, his family or suite, to his post or imported at any time during his incumbency thereof; provided, nevertheless, that no article, the importation of which is prohibited by the law of either of the High Contracting Parties, may be brought into its territories.

The exemptions of the foregoing paragraph shall apply equally to officials who are duly appointed by one of the High Contracting Parties to exercise in its behalf essential governmental functions in the territory of the other High Contracting Party, provided that such officials shall be nationals of the State appointing them and shall not be engaged in private occupations for gain within the country to which they are accredited. The State appointing them shall communicate to the other satisfactory evidence of the appointment and shall indicate the character of the service of the officials to whom the exemptions of this article are intended to apply.

It is understood however, that this privilege shall not be extended to officers who are engaged in any private occupation for gain in the countries to which they are accredited, save with respect to governmental supplies.

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Article VI

Consular officers of either High Contracting Party, nationals of the State by which they are appointed, may, within their respective consular districts, address the authorities concerned, national, State, provincial or municipal, for the purpose of protecting their countrymen in the enjoyment of their rights accruing by treaty or otherwise. Complaint may be made for the infraction of those rights. Failure upon the part of the proper authorities to grant redress or to accord protection may justify interposition through the diplomatic channel, and, in the absence of a diplomatic representative, a consul general or the consular officer stationed at the capital may apply directly to the Government of the country.

Consular officers shall have the right to interview, to communicate with, and to advise their countrymen within their consular districts; and, upon notification to the appropriate authority, to visit any of their country-

men who are imprisoned or detained by authorities of the State in which they exercise their consular functions; to assist them in proceedings before or relations with such authorities; and to inquire into any incidents which have occurred within the consular district affecting the interests of their countrymen.

Nationals of either of the High Contracting Parties shall have the right at all times to communicate with the consular officers of their country.

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Article IX

A consular officer of either High Contracting Party shall within his district have the right to appear personally or by delegate in all matters concerning the administration and distribution of the estate of a deceased person under the jurisdiction of the local authorities for all such heirs or legatees in said estate, either minors or adults, as may be non-residents and nationals of the country represented by the said consular officer, with the same effect as if he held their power of attorney to represent them, unless such heirs or legatees themselves have appeared, either in person or by duly authorised representative.

A consular officer of either High Contracting Party may on behalf of his non-resident countrymen collect and receipt for their distributive shares derived from estates in process of probate or accruing under the provisions of so-called Workmen's Compensation Laws or other like statutes, for transmission through channels prescribed by his Government to the proper distributees.

NOTE: The other provisions of this Convention are similar to the corresponding provisions of the Treaty between Cuba and the United States of America (Treaty No. 10 above).

19. Consular Convention¹ between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed at Mexico, on 12 August 1942²

Article I

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5. A consular officer or a diplomatic officer of either High Contracting Party, a national of the State by which he is appointed and duly commissioned or accredited by such State, may, in the capital of the other State, have the rank also of a diplomatic officer or of a consular officer, as the case may be, provided that and for so long as permission for him to exercise such dual functions has been duly granted by the Government of the State in the territory of which he exercises his functions as a consular officer and to which he is accredited as a diplomatic officer, and provided further that in any such case the rank as a diplomatic officer shall be understood as being superior to and independent of the rank as a consular officer.

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¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 125, p. 302.

² Came into force on 1 July 1943.