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**Letter to the Assistant General Counsel of the International Monetary Fund,  
concerning the use of diplomatic pouches**

USE OF UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMATIC POUCH FOR MEDICATION FOR FIELD STAFF—ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION ST/AI/368—URGENTLY NEEDED HEALTH SUPPLIES, INCLUDING MEDICINES, MAY BE SENT BY UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMATIC POUCH WHEN SUCH ITEMS ARE NOT LOCALLY OBTAINABLE, ARE REQUESTED IN REASONABLE QUANTITIES AND ARE CERTIFIED BY A UNITED NATIONS OFFICER

Your letter of 7 April 1997 addressed to [Name] regarding the use of the diplomatic pouch has been referred to this Office for response. You inquired whether it would be permissible to include small quantities of medication in the diplomatic pouches which are routinely sent to field staff in various member countries of the International Monetary Fund. In this connection you also sought information regarding relevant United Nations practice.

Instructions concerning the United Nations diplomatic pouch service are set out in administrative instruction ST/AI/368 of 10 January 1991, which is attached for your information.\* As you will note from paragraphs 3 to 5 of this instruction, certain restrictions are imposed on the contents of the United Nations diplomatic pouch. Sub-paragraph 3(c) authorizes the United Nations diplomatic pouch to include “urgently needed health supplies, including medicines, spectacles and hearing aids prescribed by a physician for the use of United Nations staff members or their dependents when such items are not obtainable locally and are requested in reasonable quantities”. It is understood that, “all shipments of health supplies must be certified by a United Nations officer”.

The Pouch Unit of the Secretariat informed us that medical supplies are not included routinely in the United Nations diplomatic pouch. The above-mentioned procedure is rather used only in exceptional circumstances.

I trust that this information will be useful for your review of the matter.

15 April 1997

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\* Not reproduced herein.

**Inter-office memorandum to the Officer-in-charge of a United Nations Mission,  
concerning immunity from alien registration**

IMMUNITY FROM ALIEN REGISTRATION—PURSUANT TO THE STATUS-OF-MISSION AGREEMENT (SOMA), THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE TASK FORCE (IPTF) ENJOYS THE STATUS OF EXPERTS ON MISSION UNDER THE CONVENTION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1946—STATUS OF EXPERTS ON MISSION DOES NOT ALONE PROVIDE IMMUNITY FROM ALIEN REGISTRATION—THE PEACE AGREEMENT ACCORDS THE IPTF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE 1946 CONVENTION, INCLUDING IMMUNITY FROM ALIEN REGISTRATION—MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION ARE IMMUNE FROM ALIEN REGISTRATION, EITHER BY VIRTUE OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN THE CASE OF OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS OR THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN THE CASE OF THE IPTF.

1. This is with reference to your fax dated 14 November 1997 on the above subject. We understand that the Ministry of Interior of [Entity in Member State] issued a Press Release requiring that [Entity in Member State] citizens who are accommodating foreigners in their homes report certain personal data about such foreigners to the relevant [Ministry]. In this connection, you inquired about the right of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) to enjoy immunity from alien registration in light of their status as provided for in annex 11 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in [Member State] (the Peace Agreement) and the Status-of-Mission Agreement (SOMA) signed between the United Nations and the Government of [Member State] on the status of [United Nations Mission].

2. The status of the IPTF is covered by both the SOMA and the Peace Agreement. Pursuant to the SOMA, concluded by Exchange of Letters dated [date] between the United Nations and the Government of [Member State], the IPTF enjoys the status of experts on mission for the United Nations under article VI of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the Convention).<sup>\*</sup> Under this status, the IPTF does not enjoy immunity from alien registration. However, under annex 11 of the Peace Agreement, the parties thereto, such as [Entity in Member State], agreed to accord the IPTF and their family "...the privileges and immunities described in sections 18 and 19 of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations..." (paragraph 6). As sections 18 and 19 of the Convention include immunity from alien registration, the IPTF is, therefore, entitled to enjoy such immunity by virtue of the Peace Agreement.

3. In light of the above, the IPTF enjoys, under the SOMA and the Peace Agreement, a wide range of privileges and immunities and the obligations undertaken by the Government of [Member State] under the above-mentioned agreements should be read in a compatible manner.

4. While [Entity in Member State] citizens are obliged to report on foreigners they are accommodating in their homes to the relevant [Ministry], it should be made clear to the [Entity in Member State] that members of the [United Nations Mission] are immune from alien registration, either by virtue of the SOMA in the case of officials and diplomats or the Peace Agreement in the case of the IPTF.

24 November 1997

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<sup>\*</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1, p. 15 and vol. 90, p. 327 (corrigendum to vol. 1).