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SPECIAL MISSIONS

Articles 39 and 40 bis as adopted
by the Drafting Committee

Article 39

Transit through the territory of a third State

1. If a representative of the sending State in a special mission or a member of its diplomatic staff passes through or is in the territory of a third State, while proceeding to take up his functions or returning to the sending State, the third State shall accord him inviolability and such other immunities as may be required to ensure his transit or return. The same shall apply in the case of any members of his family enjoying privileges or immunities who are accompanying the person referred to in this paragraph, or travelling separately to join him or to return to their country.
2. In circumstances similar to those specified in paragraph 1 of this article, third States shall not hinder the transit of members of the administrative and technical or service staff of the special mission, and of members of their families, through their territories.
3. Third States shall accord to official correspondence and other official communications in transit, including messages in code or cipher, the same freedom and protection as is accorded by the receiving State. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, they shall accord to the couriers and bags of the special mission in transit the same inviolability and protection as the receiving State is bound to accord.

4. The third State shall be bound to comply with the obligations mentioned in the foregoing three paragraphs only if it has been informed in advance, either in the visa application or by notification, of the transit of the special mission, and has raised no objection to it.

5. The obligation of third States under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this article shall also apply to the persons mentioned respectively in these paragraphs, and to the official communications and bags of the special mission, when the use of the territory of the third State is due to force majeure.

Article 40 bis

Non-discrimination

1. In the application of the provisions of the present articles, no discrimination shall be made as between States.

2. However, discrimination shall not be regarded as taking place:

(a) Where the receiving State applies any of the provisions of the present articles restrictively because of a restrictive application of that provision to its special mission in the sending State;

(b) Where by custom or agreement States extend to each other more favourable treatment than is required by the provisions of the present articles,

(c) Where States agree among themselves to reduce reciprocally the extent of the facilities, privileges and immunities for their special missions, although such a limitation does not exist with regard to other States.