CONSULAR STATUTE OF THE UNION OF
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Section I. The Tasks and Organization of Consular Establishments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics


Article 1. Consular establishments of the Union of Soviet Republics shall defend abroad the rights and interests of the USSR and of juridical persons and citizens of the USSR. Consular establishments shall further the development of friendly relations of the USSR with other states and the expansion of economic, trade, scientific, technical, and cultural links and tourism.

Article 2. Consular establishments are: consular sections of USSR diplomatic representations, consulates general, consulates, vice consulates, and consular agencies.

Article 3. Consular establishments shall be guided in their activity by the present Statute, USSR and union republic legislation, international treaties whose parties are the USSR or a union republic and the receiving state, and international customs.

Article 4. Consular establishments shall be subordinate to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and function under the general political guidance of the head of the USSR diplomatic representation in the receiving country.

Article 5. Consular sections of USSR diplomatic representations shall be headed by the chiefs of consular sections, who shall be named consuls general or consuls. Consulates general, consulates, vice consulates, and consular agencies shall be headed respectively by consuls general, consuls, vice consuls, and consular agents.

Article 6. The consul shall fulfill the functions provided for by the present Statute. The consul may fulfill other functions not provided for by the Consular Statute unless they are contrary to USSR legislation or to legislation of the receiving state.

Article 7. Diplomatic functions also may be entrusted to the consul with the consent of the receiving state in states where there is no USSR diplomatic representation.

Article 8. The location of a consular establishment, its class, and the consular district shall be determined by agreement with the receiving state.

Article 9. A consular establishment shall have a seal depicting the State Arms of the USSR and the name of
the consular establishment in the Russian language.

**Article 10.** A consular establishment shall have the right to affix to the building it occupies a shield with the State Arms of the USSR and the name of the consular establishment in the Russian language and in the language of the receiving state.

**Article 11.** A consular establishment shall have the right to fly the USSR State Flag on the building of the consular establishment.

The consul shall have the right to fly the USSR State Flag on his residence, and also on his means of transport.

**Article 12.** In the present Consular Statute, the terms introduced shall have the following meaning:

"consul"—consul general, consul, vice consul, or consular agent who is the head of a consular establishment;

"consular officer"—any person, including the head of a consular establishment, to whom has been entrusted the fulfillment of consular functions (consul general, consul, vice consul, consular agent, and secretary of a consular establishment), as well as been assigned to a consular establishment for training in consular establishments (trainee);

"employee of the consular establishment"—any person engaged in a consular establishment with the fulfillment of administrative, technical, or service functions in the consular establishment.

**Article 13.** Consular officers and employees of the consular establishments are in state service in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Article 14.** Only a citizen of the USSR may be a consular officer.

**Article 15.** Upon appointment to a post, the consul shall receive from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs a written power—a consular patent.

**Article 16.** The consul shall enter upon the performance of his duties after receiving the consent (exequatur) of the receiving state.

**Article 17.** If for any reason the consul can not fulfill his functions or if the position of consul is temporarily vacant, the exercise of the duties of the consul shall be entrusted to another consular officer of the same or another consular establishment of the USSR in the receiving state or to one of the members of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic representation of the USSR in that state.