FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   NOVEMBER 13, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate
to ratification, I transmit herewith a copy of the Convention on the
Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected
Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the United Nations
General Assembly on December 14, 1973, and signed in behalf of the
United States of America on December 28, 1973. The report of the De-
partment of State with respect to the Convention is also transmitted
for the information of the Senate.

The effective conduct of international relations depends in large
part on the ability of diplomatic agents to travel and live freely and
securely while representing the interests of their respective countries.
We have witnessed in recent years an unprecedented increase in acts
of violence directed against diplomatic agents and other internationally
protected persons. This development has demonstrated the urgent need
to take affirmative action to minimize the threats which can be directed
against diplomatic agents. Although the legal obligation to protect these
persons was never questioned, the mechanism for international coopera-
tion to ensure that perpetrators of serious attacks against them are
brought to justice, no matter where they may flee, was lacking.

The Convention is designed to rectify this serious situation by
creating a legal mechanism whereby persons alleged to have committed
serious crimes against diplomats will be prosecuted or extradited. It
also sets out a framework for international cooperation in the prevention
and punishment of such crimes.

This Convention is vitally important to assure continued safe
and orderly conduct of the diplomatic process. I hope that all States will
become Parties to this Convention. I recommend, therefore, that the
Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention.

                              GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
     November 13, 1974