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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 30, 1974

The President:

I have the honor to submit to you the Consular Convention between the United States of America and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, along with an Agreed Memorandum and a related exchange of letters, signed at Sofia on April 15, 1974. I recommend that the Convention, Agreed Memorandum and related letters be transmitted to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification.

The Consular Convention with Bulgaria is the most recent in a series of consular conventions signed with various countries in Eastern Europe, including Poland, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia. The Consular Convention should contribute substantially to the growth of both governmental and commercial interaction between the two countries. As a result of the Convention the consuls of the respective countries will be better equipped to aid their citizens in numerous ways and will be authorized to perform a wide variety of consular services in both countries. These services include the issuance of passports and visas, performance of notarial services, representation of nationals in estate matters and the provision of legal and related assistance to nationals in need.

The President,

The White House.

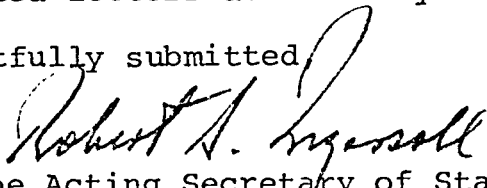
A very significant aspect of the Consular Convention relates to the obligation of the receiving State to notify consulates of the sending State in the case of the deprivation or limitation of personal freedom of any national of the sending State. Notification must be made within a maximum period of three days. The authorities of the receiving State are likewise obligated to permit consular officers to visit such a detained national within four days of the date of the detention. The Consular Convention contains other specific rights of consular officers with respect to providing assistance to nationals who are deprived of personal liberty.

The provisions of the Consular Convention follow the pattern of bilateral consular conventions now in force with a number of countries. Article 1 of the Convention contains definitions of various terms employed throughout the Convention. Articles 2 through 8 establish the basis for the opening of a consulate and appointment of members of the consulate. Articles 9 through 29 provide for the rights, facilities, privileges and immunities enjoyed by consulates and by individual consular officers and employees in their official and private capacity. Articles 30 through 44 contain provisions specifying the functions of consulates and rights of consular officers in such matters as issuance of travel documents, compilation of statistics regarding civil status, performance of notarial functions, the extension of protective services to detained nationals, representation of interests of nationals in estate matters and rendering assistance to vessels and their crews. Articles 45 through 49 relate to functions of consular officers with respect to vessels and their crews.

In addition to the Consular Convention an exchange of letters was signed on April 15 relating to the treatment for consular protection purposes of persons who may be regarded as possessing dual nationality. Under this exchange of letters, the receiving State will guarantee the consular protection rights outlined in Article 38 of the Convention to persons who enter the receiving State on the basis of a valid sending State passport with a valid visa or other document authorizing entry into the receiving State. This guarantee will be extended regardless of whether the individual in question is also regarded as a national of the receiving State.

I am confident that the new Consular Convention and exchange of letters will greatly facilitate the relations between the United States and Bulgaria and advance the interests of the nationals of both countries. It is hoped that the Senate will consider and approve the Convention, Agreed Memorandum and related letters at an early date.

Respectfully submitted


The Acting Secretary of State

Enclosures:

Convention, Agreed
Memorandum and
related letters.