

(3) The provisions of this Article shall not apply to customs, immigration or public health inspections nor to measures taken at the request or with the consent' of the master of a vessel of the sending State.

#### Article 51

(1) If a vessel of the sending State is wrecked, runs aground, is swept ashore or otherwise sustains damage in the territorial or internal waters of the receiving State, or if any article, being the property of a national of the sending State and forming part of the cargo of a vessel of the sending State, of the receiving State or of a third State is found on or near the coast of the receiving State or is delivered to a port of that State, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall, as soon as possible, inform the consular officer accordingly. They shall also inform him of the measures already taken for the preservation of the vessel of the sending State, of the lives of persons on board, of the cargo and other property on board and of articles belonging to the vessel or forming part of her cargo which have become separated from the vessel.

(2) A consular officer may render all assistance and aid to such a vessel, the master and members of the crew and the passengers and, for this purpose, may invoke the help of the competent authorities of the receiving State. He may take the measures referred to in paragraph (1), including measures for the repair of the vessel, or may request the competent authorities of the receiving State to take or continue to take such measures.

(3) In any case to which the provisions of paragraph (1) apply, a consular officer shall be entitled, in the absence of the owner or other authorised person, to take on his behalf such measures with a view to the preservation or disposal of the vessel or her cargo which the owner of the vessel or the cargo could himself have taken, if he had been present.

(4) The damaged vessel of the sending State and all articles which were on board the vessel at the time of the wreck or other catastrophe shall be exempt in the receiving State from customs duties and taxes or similar charges of any kind, provided that they are not delivered for use or consumption in the receiving State and are re-exported under the supervision of the competent authorities of that State.

#### Article 52

The provisions of Articles 46 and 47, as well as of Articles 49 to 51 shall apply also in relation to civil aircraft of the sending State to the extent that they are capable of such application.

### PART V

#### General and final provisions

#### Article 53

(1) A consular officer shall be entitled to levy in the receiving State consular fees in accordance with the laws and regulations of the sending State.

(2) Fees levied in pursuance of paragraph (1) shall be exempt in the receiving State from all taxes or other similar charges of any kind, national, regional or municipal.

#### / Article 54

A consular officer may perform consular duties, additional to those specified in this Convention, provided that this is not contrary to the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

#### Article 55

A consulate shall, upon notification to the receiving State, be entitled to perform consular duties on behalf of a third State, provided that the receiving State does not raise objection.

#### Article 56

A consular officer may, upon notification to the receiving State, act as representative of the sending State to an international organisation. In this capacity he shall be entitled to receive any facilities, privileges and immunities accorded to such a representative under international law.

#### Article 57

(1) The provisions of this Convention shall apply also with regard to the consular work of the diplomatic mission of the sending State. If a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission is charged with consular duties, he shall be accorded the same rights and be subject to the same obligations as apply to a consular officer under the Convention. The name of any such person shall be notified in writing to the ministry of foreign affairs of the receiving State. Where, under the laws and regulations of the receiving State, the presentation of a consular commission and the grant of an exequatur are required, the latter shall be granted free of charge.

(2) The performance of consular duties by a member of the diplomatic staff of the diplomatic mission in pursuance of paragraph (1) shall be without prejudice to the facilities, privileges and immunities accorded to him by virtue of his diplomatic status.

#### Article 58

(1) This Convention shall be subject to ratification. It shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the exchange of instruments of ratification which shall take place at London as soon as possible.

(2) This Convention shall remain in force for a period of five years. In case neither High Contracting Party shall have given to the other through the diplomatic channel, twelve months before the expiry of the said period of five years, written notice of termination, the Convention shall continue to remain in force until the expiry of twelve months from the date on which notice is so given by one High Contracting Party to the other.

In witness whereof, the Plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have signed this Convention and affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate at Berlin this 4th day of May 1976, in the German and English languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

**For the Council of State of the For Her Britannic Majesty:  
German Democratic Republic:**

K. Nier

P. Cradock