

THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
STATEMENT ON THE VALIDITY OF RESERVATIONS
BY THE STATE OF QATAR, THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

NOTE VERBALE *

Note No.12/87

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the following reservations entered in respect of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations done at Vienna on 18 April, 1961.

On 6 June 1986 the State of Qatar acceded to the Convention and made the following reservations:

"The Government of the State of Qatar reserves its right to open a diplomatic bag in the following situations:

1. The abuse, observed in flagrante delicto, of the diplomatic bag for unlawful purposes incompatible with the aims of the relevant rule of immunity, by putting therein items other than the diplomatic documents and articles for official use mentioned in para.4 of the said article, in violation of the obligations prescribed by the Convention and by international law and custom.

In such a case both the Foreign Ministry and the Mission concerned will be notified. The bag will not be opened except with the approval by the Foreign Ministry.

The contraband articles will be seized in the presence of a representative of the Ministry and the Mission.

2. The existence of strong indications or suspicions that the said violations have been perpetrated.

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*[The text of this note verbale no.12/87 dated NY 6 February 1987, was provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra].

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In such a case, the bag will not be opened except with the approval of the Foreign Ministry and in the presence of a member of the Mission concerned. If permission to open the bag is denied it will be returned to its place of origin."

On 10 April 1986 the Yemen Arab Republic acceded to the Convention and made the following reservation:

"Where there are serious and strong grounds for believing that the diplomatic bag contains articles of substances not mentioned in article 27, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Yemen Arab Republic reserves its right to request that the bag be opened in the presence of a representative of the Embassy concerned. If the Embassy refuses to comply with this request, the bag shall be returned to its place of origin."

The Permanent Mission informs the Secretary-General that Australia does not regard as valid the reservations made by the State of Qatar and the Yemen Arab Republic in respect of treatment of the diplomatic bag under Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April, 1961.

The Permanent Mission of Australia should be grateful if the Secretary-General would bring this communication to the attention of other parties to the Convention.

The Permanent Mission of Australia takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

*NEW YORK
6 February 1987.*