

Diplomatic mission

A **diplomatic mission** or **foreign mission** is a group of people from a state or organization present in another state to represent the sending state or organization officially in the receiving or host state.^[1] In practice, the phrase usually denotes an **embassy**, which is the main office of a country's diplomatic representatives to another country; it is usually, but not necessarily, based in the

receiving state's capital city.^[2] Consulates, on the other hand, are smaller diplomatic missions that are normally located in major cities of the receiving state (but can be located in the capital, typically when the sending country has no embassy in the receiving state). As well as being a diplomatic mission to the country in which it is situated, an embassy may also be a nonresident permanent mission to one or more other countries.^{[3][4][5][6]}



Spanish embassy to the Holy See and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in Rome



Embassy of the United States in Helsinki, Finland



Norwegian embassy to the United States, in Washington D.C.



Multiple embassies in one location: The embassies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden in a joint compound in Berlin, Germany.

The term embassy is sometimes used interchangeably with chancery, the physical office or site of a diplomatic mission.^[7] Consequently, the terms "embassy residence" and "embassy office" are used to distinguish between the ambassador's residence and the chancery.

Terminology

A country may have several different types of diplomatic missions in another country.

Type	Function
Embassy	Diplomatic mission generally located in the capital city of another country which offers a full range of services, including consular services.
High commission	Embassy of a <u>Commonwealth</u> country located in another Commonwealth country.
Permanent mission	Diplomatic mission to a major <u>international organization</u> .
Consulate general	Diplomatic mission located in a major city, usually other than the capital city, which provides a full range of consular services.
<u>Consulate</u>	Diplomatic mission that is similar to a consulate general but may not provide a full range of services.
Consular mission	Office of a consulate
<u>Legation</u>	Diplomatic representative office of lower rank than an embassy. Where an embassy was headed by an <u>ambassador</u> , a legation was headed by a <u>minister</u> . Ambassadors <u>outranked</u> ministers and had precedence at official events. Legations were originally the most common form of diplomatic mission, but they fell out of favor after World War II and were upgraded to embassies.
Honorary Consul	The head of a diplomatic mission which provides only a limited range of services. ^[8]

The head of an embassy is known as an ambassador or high commissioner. The term *embassy* is commonly used also as a section of a building in which the work of the diplomatic mission is carried out, but strictly speaking, it is the diplomatic delegation itself that is the embassy, while the office space and the diplomatic work done is called the chancery. Therefore, the embassy operates in the chancery.

The members of a diplomatic mission can reside within or outside the building that holds the mission's chancery, and their private residences enjoy the same rights

as the premises of the mission as regards inviolability and protection.^[9]

All missions to the United Nations are known simply as *permanent missions*, while EU member states' missions to the European Union are known as *permanent representations*, and the head of such a mission is typically both a permanent representative and an ambassador.

European Union missions abroad are known as EU delegations. Some countries have more particular nomenclature for their missions and staff: a Vatican mission is headed by a nuncio (Latin for "envoy") and consequently known as an apostolic

nunciature. Under the rule of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya's missions used the name *people's bureau*, headed by a secretary.

Missions between Commonwealth countries are known as *high commissions*, and their heads are high commissioners.^[10] Generally speaking, ambassadors and high commissioners are regarded as equivalent in status and function, and embassies and high commissions are both deemed to be diplomatic missions.^{[11][12]}

In the past, a diplomatic mission headed by a lower-ranking official (an *envoy* or

minister resident) was known as a legation. Since the ranks of envoy and minister resident are effectively obsolete, the designation of *legation* is no longer among the diplomatic ranks used in diplomacy and international relations.

A consulate is similar to, but not the same as a diplomatic office, but with focus on dealing with individual persons and businesses, as defined by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. A consulate or consulate general is generally a representative of the embassy in locales outside of the capital city.^[10] For instance, the Philippines has its embassy to the

United States in the latter's capital, Washington, D.C., but also maintains seven consulates-general and four consulates elsewhere in the U.S. The person in charge of a consulate or consulate-general is known as a consul or consul-general, respectively. Similar services may also be provided at the embassy (to serve the region of the capital) in what is normally called a consular section.

In cases of dispute, it is common for a country to recall its head of mission as a sign of its displeasure. This is less drastic than cutting diplomatic relations

completely, and the mission will still continue operating more or less normally, but it will now be headed by a chargé d'affaires (usually the deputy chief of mission) who may have limited powers. A *chargé d'affaires ad interim* also heads the mission during the interim between the end of one chief of mission's term and the beginning of another.

Extraterritoriality



Seal of a diplomatic corps

Contrary to popular belief, diplomatic missions sometimes do not enjoy full extraterritorial status and are generally not sovereign territory of the represented state. The sending state can give embassies sovereign status but this only happens with a minority of countries.^[13] Rather, the premises of an embassy remain under the jurisdiction of the host state while being afforded special privileges (such as immunity from most local laws) by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Diplomats themselves still retain full diplomatic immunity, and (as an adherent to the Vienna Convention) the authorities of the

host country may not enter the premises of the mission (which means the head of mission's residence) without permission of the represented country, even to put out a fire. International rules designate an attack on an embassy as an attack on the country it represents.^[14] The term 'extraterritoriality' is often applied to diplomatic missions, but normally only in this broader sense.

As the host country's authorities may not enter the representing country's embassy without permission, embassies are sometimes used by refugees escaping from either the host country or a third

country. For example, North Korean nationals, who would be arrested and deported from China upon discovery, have sought sanctuary at various third-country embassies in China. Once inside the embassy, diplomatic channels can be used to solve the issue and send the refugees to another country. See the list of people who took refuge in a diplomatic mission for a list of some notable cases.

Notable violations of embassy extraterritoriality include repeated invasions of the British Embassy in Beijing (1967),^[15] the hostage crisis at the American embassy in Tehran, Iran (1979–

1981), and the Japanese embassy
hostage crisis at the ambassador's
residence in Lima, Peru (1996–1997).

Role



Embassy of Nicaragua in Washington, D.C.

The basic role of a diplomatic mission is to represent and safeguard the interests of the home country and its citizens in the host country.^[16] According to the 1961

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic

Relations, which establishes the

framework of diplomacy among sovereign states:

The functions of a diplomatic mission consist, inter alia, in representing the sending State in the receiving State; protecting in the receiving State the interests of the sending State and of its nationals, within the limits permitted by international law; negotiating with the Government of the receiving

State; ascertaining by all lawful means conditions and developments in the receiving State, and reporting thereon to the Government of the sending State; promoting friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State, and developing their economic, cultural and scientific relations.^[17]

Diplomatic missions between members of the Commonwealth of Nations are not called embassies, but high commissions,

for Commonwealth nations share a special diplomatic relationship. It is generally expected that an embassy of a Commonwealth country in a non-Commonwealth country will do its best to provide diplomatic services to citizens from other Commonwealth countries if the citizen's country does not have an embassy in that country. Canadian and Australian nationals enjoy even greater cooperation between their respective consular services, as outlined in the Canada-Australia Consular Services Sharing Agreement. The same kind of procedure is also followed multilaterally by the member states of the European Union

(EU). European citizens in need of consular help in a country without diplomatic or consular representation of their own country may turn to any consular or diplomatic mission of another EU member state.

Multiple missions in a city

Some cities may host more than one mission from the same country.

In Rome, many states maintain separate missions to both Italy and the Holy See. It is not customary for these missions to share premises nor diplomatic personnel. At present, only the Iraqi and United States

embassies to Italy and the Holy See share premises; however, separate ambassadors are appointed, one to each country. In the case of the UN's Food Agencies, the ambassador to the Italian Republic is usually accredited as permanent representative. The United States maintains a separate mission to the UN agencies, led by its own ambassador, but is located in the compound that houses its embassies to Italy and the Holy See.

Several cities host both embassies/consulates and permanent representatives to international organizations, such as New York City.

(United Nations), Washington, D.C.

(Organization of American States), Jakarta

(ASEAN) and Brussels (European Union

and North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

In some cases, an embassy or consulate is divided between two locations in the same city: for example, Kolkata in India hosts two Bangladeshi Deputy High Commissions, one at Park Circus and another, opened later, at Mirza Galib Street, to reduce overcrowding.

Non-diplomatic offices

Governments of states not recognized by the receiving state and of territories that

make no claim to be sovereign states may set up offices abroad that do not have official diplomatic status as defined by the Vienna Convention. Examples are the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Offices that represent the government of the Republic of China; Somaliland's Representative Offices in London, Addis Ababa, Rome, and Washington, D.C.; the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices that represent the government of that territory. Such offices assume some of the non-diplomatic functions of diplomatic posts, such as promoting trade interests and providing assistance to its citizens and

residents. They are nevertheless not diplomatic missions, their personnel are not diplomats and do not have diplomatic visas, although there may be legislation providing for personal immunities and tax privileges, as in the case of the Hong Kong offices in London and Toronto, for example.

See also



Politics
portal

- International relations
- Diplomacy.
- Embassy chapel

- Embassy Row, Washington, D.C.
- List of attacks on diplomatic missions
- List of countries by number of diplomatic missions
- Lists of diplomatic missions
- List of people who took refuge in a diplomatic mission
- Paradiplomacy.
- Chancery.

References

1. *"What is a Foreign Mission /Chancery?"* (<https://2009-2017.state.gov/ofm/property/fmc/c53113.htm>) . *www.state.gov*. Retrieved 2017-08-25.

2. *"What is a U.S. Embassy? - National Museum of American Diplomacy"* (<https://diplomacy.state.gov/diplomacy/what-is-a-u-s-embassy/>) . Retrieved 2022-01-05.
3. Tom Nierop, *Systems and Regions in Global Politics* (<https://archive.org/details/systemsregionsin1950nier>) (Wiley, John and Sons 1994 ISBN 978-0-471-94942-8), p. 67.

4. *"The Russian Federation has diplomatic relations with a total of 187 countries, but some of them – mainly for financial reasons – maintain non-resident embassies in other countries", International Affairs (https://books.google.com/books?id=87e5AAAAIAAJ&q=%22diplomatic+mission%22+-wikipedia+%22non-resident%22&dq=%22diplomatic+mission%22+-wikipedia+%22non-resident%22&hl=en&ei=zrNuTaCUKMiHhQe6kOk-&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CEAQ6AEwBTge) , issues 4–6 (Znanye Pub. House, 2006), p. 78*

5. *"Of Chile's 109 foreign diplomatic missions in 1988, no fewer than 31 were on a non-residential basis, while 17 of the 63 missions in Santiago were non-resident"* (Deon Geldenhuys, *Isolated States: A Comparative Analysis* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=dVmhhVHvTAMC&pg=PA158>) (University of Cambridge 1990 ISBN 0-521-40268-9), p. 158).
6. *"America's diplomatic mission to (Saudi Arabia) was changed from non-resident to permanent Minister in Jeddah"* (Fahad M. Al-Nafjan, *The Origins of Saudi-American Relations* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=HFjzPLwrQuUC&pg=PT239>) , page not numbered).

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10. Sidhur Andrews (1 Jun 2007). *Introduction To Tourism And Hospitality Industry* (https://books.google.com/books?id=PrRdc5Sl_R4C&pg=PT50) . Tata McGraw-Hill Education. p. 33. ISBN 9780070660212.

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12. *"Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, "What does the work of a High Commissioner involve?" " (https://web.archive.org/web/20181222164846/http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/cpadocs/cpa%20addresses%20140311.pdf) (PDF). Archived from the original (http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/cpadocs/cpa%20address%20140311.pdf) (PDF) on 2018-12-22. Retrieved 2014-01-06.*

13. *'Laws and Rules Regarding*

Extraterritoriality (<http://integrity-legal.com/legal-blog/miscellaneous/laws-and-rules-regarding-extraterritoriality/>) ' on integrity-legal.com: "There is a common misconception that Embassies and Consulates have extraterritoriality. As anecdotal evidence of this misconception, people will often say things like, 'the US Embassy sits upon United States soil.' For the most part, this is not the case as extraterritoriality is not conferred upon an Embassy or Consulate, but in some situations extraterritoriality may be created by Treaty".

14. "What is a U.S. Embassy?" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180510232505/https://diplomacy.state.gov/discoverdiplomacy/diplomacy101/places/170537.htm>) .
diplomacy.state.gov. Archived from the original (<http://diplomacy.state.gov/discoverdiplomacy/diplomacy101/places/170537.htm>) on 2018-05-10. Retrieved 2014-01-06.

15. *"Sir Ray Whitney" (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/politics-obituaries/9478296/Sir-Ray-Whitney.html>) . The Daily Telegraph. London. 15 August 2012. Archived (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/20220112/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/politics-obituaries/9478296/Sir-Ray-Whitney.html>) from the original on 2022-01-12. Retrieved 17 August 2015.*

"Red Guards scaled the British mission's wall as diplomats watched the Ealing comedy Two-Way Stretch. They retreated to an inner room without switching off the projector, pushing a piano across the door as the mob broke windows and began climbing in. Whitney and his colleagues retreated again to the embassy's secure

zone, with heavily barred windows. The Chinese set fire to the mission, then used a battering ram on the steel emergency door."

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External links



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- What is the difference between an Embassy and a Consulate? (<http://ididnotknowthatyesterday.blogspot.com/2006/08/whats-difference-between-embassy-and.html>).

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This page was last edited on 15 November 2022, at 22:01 (UTC). •

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