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The Secretary of State presents her compliments to Their Excellencies, Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to inform them of a new procedure in the "Notification of Authorities" as mandated by Article 14 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations ("VCCR"). Under Article 14 of the VCCR as soon as the head of a consular post is admitted to the exercise of his/her functions, the receiving State should immediately notify the competent authorities in his/her consular district.

Effective immediately, the Regional Offices of the Department of State's Office of Foreign Mission ("OFM") located in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, and Houston (collectively, "OFM Regional Offices"), will disseminate electronically to the competent authorities in the consular district of the head of the consulate, all notifications of the appointment of a head of the consulate (collectively, "Notification(s)").

Competent authorities include the person or office designated by the following authorities as the appropriate recipient of the Notification(s):

- The Office of the Governor of the U.S. state(s), territories, or Commonwealth of the consular district; and,
- The Office of the Mayor of the city serving as the seat of the consular post (collectively, "Local Authorities").

The Department of State believes that this new procedure; will improve the provision of services to the consulates.

JR

Department of State,

Washington, July 28, 2005