

15-256

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to announce changes to the Department of State's policies concerning the establishment and operation of its telecommunications program.

United States government (USG) regulations on the use of the radio spectrum require that all radio frequency assignments periodically be revalidated. In addition, the USG has undertaken an overall review of its radio frequency usage with a goal of releasing some of its spectrum to the commercial sector to expand its services. When this review is complete, some USG frequency assignments may be changed or terminated. The frequency assignments for the Embassies are part of the Department's inventory and subject to possible modification or termination. The fees levied on these frequency assignments have been paid by the Department.

The use of high frequency (HF) communication networks has evolved into a service primarily operated for emergency communications. The Department is changing how it authorizes HF frequencies for diplomatic communications by the Embassies. Instead of each Embassy being assigned its own complement of

frequencies, each Embassy will be given access to a larger pool of frequencies with a broader frequency range that will better enable communications as HF radio propagation conditions change.

Therefore, the Department is requesting that each Embassy confirm:

- what transmit frequencies it is using for its high frequency (HF) and satellite communications networks;
- what emission bandwidths are being used for voice or data etc. (e.g., 1K10F1B and/or 3KA3J and for satellite networks 1M50G7W and/or 14MQ7W);
- to which location(s) are the signals being transmitted,
- for embassy earth stations, what is the receive frequency(ies) and which satellite is being used (e.g. Intelsat 901, 342.0E);
- if the frequencies are frequently used, how frequently: daily, weekly, monthly;
- if used as an emergency network only, how often is it tested: monthly, every six months, yearly;
- if not used any longer;

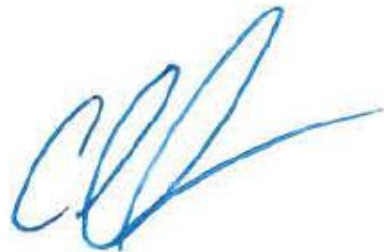
The Department also asks for a point of contact with a phone number and email address in case there is a need to contact the Embassy on this matter.

Responses to this note should be directed to OFMTravelServices@state.gov by May 15, 2015. Negative responses are also welcome.

The Office of Foreign Missions may be contacted at (202) 895-3500 option 4 or 5 or OFMTravelServices@state.gov regarding this matter.

Department of State,

Washington, April 10, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.