

Orders made under s.2.

**DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES (INTERNATIONAL
REFUGEE ORGANISATION) ORDER**

(1950.03.23-4)

24.3.1950

1.This Order may be cited as the Diplomatic Privileges (International Refugee Organisation) Order.

A. The Organisation.

2.The International Refugee Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the “Organisation”) is an organisation of which Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom and the Governments of foreign sovereign Powers are members.

3.The Organisation shall have the legal capacities of a body corporate and, except in so far as in any particular case it has expressly waived its immunity, immunity from suit and legal process. No waiver of immunity shall be deemed to extend to any measure of execution.

4.The Organisation shall have the like inviolability of official archives and premises occupied as offices as is accorded in respect of official archives and premises of an envoy of a foreign sovereign Power accredited to Her Majesty.

5.The Organisation shall have the like exemption or relief from taxes and rates, other than taxes on the importation of goods, as is accorded to a foreign sovereign Power.

6.The Organisation shall have exemption from taxes on the importation of goods directly imported by the Organisation for its official use in Gibraltar or for exportation, or on the importation of any publications of the Organisation directly imported by it, such exemption to be subject to compliance with such conditions as the Financial and Development Secretary may prescribe for the protection of the revenue.

7. The Organisation shall have exemption from prohibitions and restrictions on importation or exportation in the case of goods directly imported or exported by the Organisation for its official use and in the case of any publication of the Organisation directly imported or exported by it.

8. The Organisation shall have the right to avail itself, for telegraphic communications sent by it and containing only matter intended for publication by the press or for broadcasting, including communications addressed to or despatched from places outside Gibraltar, of any reduced rates applicable for the corresponding service in the case of press telegrams.

B. Representatives of Members.

9.(1) Except in so far as in any particular case any privilege or immunity is waived by the member Governments whom they represent, representatives of member Governments to the Council of the Organisation shall enjoy—

- (a) while exercising their functions as such, and during their journey to and from the place of meeting, immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal baggage and inviolability of all papers and documents;
- (b) immunity from legal process of every kind in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in their capacity as representatives;
- (c) while exercising their functions and during their journey to and from the place of meeting, the like exemption or relief from taxes as is accorded to an envoy of a foreign sovereign Power accredited to Her Majesty, save that the relief allowed shall not include relief from import duties except in respect of goods imported as part of their personal baggage. They shall not, where the incidence of any form of taxation depends upon residence, be deemed to be resident in Gibraltar during any period when they are present in Gibraltar whilst exercising their functions or during their journey to and from the place of meeting. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to British subjects whose usual place of abode is in Gibraltar.

(2) For the purposes of the application of this Order, the expression “representatives of member governments” shall be deemed to include their official staffs, accompanying them as such representatives, as delegates, deputy delegates, advisers, technical experts or secretaries of delegations.

C. High Officials.

10. Except in so far as in any particular case any privilege or immunity is waived by the Organisation, the Director-General or the Deputy Director-General of the Organisation shall be accorded in respect of themselves, their spouses and children under the age of twenty-one, the like immunity from suit and legal process, the like inviolability of residence and the like exemption or relief from taxes as is accorded to an envoy of a foreign sovereign Power accredited to Her Majesty, his spouse and children.

D. Persons Employed on Missions on behalf of the Organisation.

11. Except in so far as in any particular case any privilege or immunity is waived by the Organisation, persons employed on missions on behalf of the Organisation shall enjoy—

- (a) while exercising their functions as such, and during their journey to and from the place of meeting, immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal baggage and inviolability of all papers and documents relating to the work of the Organisation;
- (b) immunity from legal process of every kind in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in the exercise of these functions. Such immunity shall continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer employed on missions on behalf of the Organisation.

E. Other Officials of the Organisation.

12. Except in so far as in any particular case any privilege or immunity is waived by the Organisation, officials of the Organisation, other than those referred to in paragraph 10 or officials engaged locally and remunerated by payment calculated on the number of hours worked, shall enjoy immunity from suit and legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in the course of the performance of their official duties.

13. The names of the persons to whom the provisions of paragraphs 9 and 10 apply shall be set forth in a list compiled and published from time to time by the Governor under section 2(3) of the Act and such list shall show in regard to each person the date as from which for the purpose of this Order he first held the office or employment in question, and the date when he ceased to hold that office or employment.