

## **X. Diplomatic and Consular Relations**

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### **Cambodia—Re-establishing Relations—Return of Premises**

Diplomatic relations between Australia and Cambodia were re-established during 1994, after a break of nineteen years. The diplomatic representatives of the then Khmer Republic had left Australia abruptly in 1975, without making arrangements for the disposal or care of the mission premises. Under Article 45 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Australia had an obligation to “respect and protect the premises of the mission, together with its property and archives”. Pursuant to this obligation, and in order to prevent use of the premises by squatters, the Australian Government entered into agreements for the lease of the mission premises, and paid the rental funds into a special trust account, part of which was then used to meet maintenance costs, rates and taxes (as applicable). In 1994, the Royal Government of Cambodia requested return of the mission premises. It was necessary to institute eviction proceedings before the tenant of one of the properties agreed to depart. Keys and trust account proceeds were then handed over to the Cambodian authorities.

### **Establishment of Consular Relations—Conditions**

The Australian authorities in 1994, as part of their decision to recognise the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), placed conditions on the establishment of any Consulate by the FYROM in Australia. For discussion of this, please see Chapter III above under FYROM.