

to provide compensating payments for tax exemptions granted in Maryland to members of the diplomatic corps.

*Now therefore be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Congress of the United States be memorialized to provide compensating payments to the State of Maryland, and to any of its political subdivisions for tax exemptions granted in this State to members and representatives of the diplomatic corps; and*

WHEREAS, the City of Washington, District of Columbia, by virtue of the Constitution and Laws of the United States, is the seat of the Government of the United States; and for this reason all foreign diplomatic representatives accredited to the United States of America and accepted and received as such by the President must reside and maintain diplomatic establishments near the seat of government of the United States; and

Whereas, following the end of World War II, various colonial powers of the world have submitted, graciously or otherwise, to a break up of their colonial empires to the extent that the number of

WHEREAS, FOLLOWING THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THE NUMBER OF independent sovereign powers throughout the world has increased enormously to the point where it may soon become difficult, if not impossible, to find suitable housing for all members of the diplomatic corps within the confines of the City of Washington, District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, such expansion of the foreign diplomatic corps has already brought about an exodus of such ~~diplomatic~~ DIPLOMATIC representatives into the State of Maryland, where they are, and always will be, quite welcome; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the Government of the United States, the State of Maryland has exempted such diplomatic representatives from the payment of the Maryland sales tax and the Maryland income tax; has permitted certain diplomatic individuals living within the State of Maryland to use District of Columbia diplomatic license plates on their automotive vehicles; as well as extending other courtesies at some loss of revenue, such as permitting certain diplomatic representatives to bring untaxed spirituous liquors into the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, certain diplomatic establishments have purchased real estate within the State of Maryland, specifically, in two instances in Montgomery County, Maryland; and when the county tax assessor sought to collect real estate taxes assessed against the property, it was found that there is in force and effect between the United States and the countries involved treaties which exempt the countries from the payment of real estate taxes on real property owned by the foreign government and used for governmental purposes; and

WHEREAS, in each of the cases involving the treaties, Montgomery County, bowing to the constitutional concept that a treaty is the supreme law of the land, has exempted the properties from real estate tax assessment; and