The Secretary of State presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission, and referring to the Department’s note No. 95-312, dated October 18, 1995, wishes to remind them of the reserved diplomatic parking policies which are in effect at Washington, D.C. area airports.

Chiefs of Mission are informed that the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority make special parking arrangements available at Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA) and Washington Dulles International (IAD) airports for authorized diplomatic personnel through the use of “Diplomatic Parking” placards produced by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and issued to the foreign mission community by the Department’s Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). Due to the high demand for parking at the reserved areas and the limited number of spaces available, the Department maintains a policy of issuing a maximum of two airport...
“Diplomatic Parking” placards per diplomatic mission. Placards should be displayed inside the windshield or on the visor where clearly visible.

Use of the restricted parking areas at these two airports is provided solely for business purposes and may only be used by mission members whose vehicles bear diplomatic “D” license plates and display placards issued by OFM. Vehicles of staff members with “S” license plates will not be admitted into reserved lots. If a placard is lost, Embassies are reminded to notify OFM as soon as possible in writing on mission letterhead with the number of the lost placard so that a replacement can be issued. OFM will notify the airport to treat the lost placard as stolen if someone attempts to use it to gain unauthorized access to restricted parking areas.

At Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), there is a limited restricted lot adjacent to the South Metrofare Plaza and directly across the street from Public Parking Garage A marked “Reserved for Congressional, Supreme Court and Diplomatic Corps” (see enclosed map). If the restricted parking lot is full, vehicles bearing diplomatic “D” license plates and displaying placards may also use any public parking facility. Upon exiting, diplomats are required to sign parking tickets and present their
diplomatic identification cards to the parking attendant to be exempt from payment.

At Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), there are special reserved and marked rows available to diplomatic personnel in the short-term parking areas near the terminal (see enclosed map). Vehicles bearing diplomatic “D” license plates and displaying placards may also use any public parking facility at the airport. Upon exiting the latter, diplomats must sign parking tickets and present their diplomatic identification cards to the parking attendant to be exempt from payment.

At Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), due to limited facilities, only Chiefs of Mission in possession of a diplomatic identification card which lists their ‘Title’ as “Ambassador” are eligible for free “VIP” parking. There is no need to display the aforementioned airport parking placards at BWI. Chiefs of Mission may park at the Express Service Parking (ESP) lot located on Terminal Road and Aviation Boulevard (MD 170) (see enclosed map). After taking a parking ticket to enter this parking area, Chiefs of Mission are allowed to park in reserved parking spaces numbered 28 through 47 along the right side of the
lot. If none of these spaces are available, Chiefs of Mission are permitted to park in any available space. An Express Service Parking van will transport VIPs from their vehicles to the terminal at the lower level designated bus stops (Pier A, C, D, & E). A ticket with the parking space number will be provided by the van operator to present upon return so that Chiefs of Mission can be taken directly to their vehicles. Upon departure, Chiefs of Mission are required to sign parking tickets and present their diplomatic identification cards to the parking attendant to be exempt from payment.

Missions further are informed that, at BWI, Chiefs of Mission may also park in the Daily Garage across the street from the Express Service Parking lot. This option is available at any time and may be preferred during inclement weather. However, there are no designated VIP reserved parking spaces in the Daily Parking garage and VIP transportation is not provided to the terminal. Guests must board buses at one of four enclosed bus stops on level two of the garage. Please note that BWI’s diplomatic parking policy applies only to Chiefs of Mission in possession of a diplomatic identification card which lists their ‘Title’ as Ambassador. Other diplomats, (including those with the diplomatic ‘rank’ of ambassador but not currently serving in
the role of Chief of Mission and possessing a diplomatic identification card with a ‘Title’ of Ambassador), staff, and family members are not eligible.

Inquiries regarding diplomatic airport parking may be directed to the Office of Foreign Missions at 202-895-3500 or at OFMCustomerService@state.gov.

Enclosure: As Stated.

Department of State,

There are three Restricted Parking Lots available for use by authorized Congressional, Supreme Court, and Diplomatic Corp members. The following rules apply for use of the Restricted Parking areas.

Restricted Parking areas:

- There is a Restricted Lot located directly across the street from Public Parking Garage A (see map). Requirements for use of the lot are as follows:
  - **Members of Congress**: display a current Congressional vehicle plate issued by the Sergeants-at-Arms for the House or Senate.
  - **Members of the Supreme Court**: display a vehicle dashboard-parking placard issued by the Marshal of the Supreme Court.
  - **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**: display a “D” license plate affixed to the vehicle and their Diplomatic Parking placard issued by the U.S. Department of State on the vehicle dashboard.

These items must be shown to the security guard when entering the lot and continue to be displayed and visible while the vehicle is parked.

There are two other Restricted Parking areas that are not attended (see map). Authorized users must display the official plate and/or placard as described above while parked in these Restricted Parking areas.

When the Restricted Lots are full, authorized users may use the public lots as follows.

**All Public Parking Lots / Garages:**

- **Entering**: Take a parking lot ticket from the machine at the entrance to the lot.
- **Exiting**: Present the parking lot ticket and the official government identification card to the cashier and you will be allowed to exit without payment. If your official identification card is not presented, the cashier will record your official placard and you will be allowed to exit without payment.

**NOTE**: Diplomats must display their “D” license plate affixed to the vehicle and present their Diplomatic Parking placard to the cashier to be allowed to exit without payment.