

15-761

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to advise of Fiscal Year 2015 legislation that might affect foreign aid to countries. The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2015 (Section 7053 of Title I, Div. J, P.L. 113-235), requires the United States to withhold foreign assistance funds equal to 110 percent of the amount of unpaid fully adjudicated parking fines and penalties owed by the central government of the country to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Such assistance must be withheld until the Secretary certifies to the United States Congress that amounts owed are fully paid to the governments of Washington, D.C. and New York City.

The amount to be withheld is calculated from the amount owed on parking violations, by vehicles registered to the Department of State, that were incurred during the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 2014. The amount of assistance withheld under this year's Act will not include parking fines and penalties for which assistance was previously withheld under prior legislation for the same period.

For each country affected, enclosed is a notification of the total amount of unpaid or unresolved parking tickets. The amounts owed to Washington, D.C. and New York City are separated. The amounts attributable to offices in New York City are not broken down between the United Nations Permanent Mission ("PM") and Consulate ("C").

If the amounts owed are fully paid to the governments of Washington, D.C. and New York City before September 15, 2015, the withheld funds could be provided after the Secretary certifies this information to Congress.

The Department encourages all affected missions and mission members to contact the appropriate city officials to confirm the accuracy of the parking violation data, and to then take the necessary steps to resolve all outstanding valid parking tickets either by paying amounts owed or successfully adjudicating settlements of the violations. Please note that the Secretary can only certify information to Congress based on written confirmation from the jurisdiction that the amount in question has been fully satisfied. Missions should obtain such confirmation from both jurisdictions for submission to the Department.

Questions regarding parking ticket foreign assistance withholding should be directed to Derek Gates of the Office of Foreign Missions at 202-895-3682 or OFMCustomerService@state.gov.

Enclosure:



As stated.

Department of State,

Washington, August 27, 2015.