



Review Article

Diplomatic Protocols: Illuminating the path Improving Political Relations between States

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ABSTRACT

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Throughout history, it has been traditional to formally receive political and diplomatic representatives at various levels during national, regional, and worldwide events using diplomatic protocols, which originated from diplomatic courtesies. Establishing trust and confidence in those who will be taking part in future meetings and conversations begins with the use of protocols. Officials' concerns are lessened when hosts adhere strictly to these guidelines since they know what actions and behaviors are appropriate at a given time and place. Understanding this notion reduces anxiety and boosts their confidence during conversations. Protocols create the conditions required for state representatives to communicate successfully, hence promoting state-to-state and international contact. A state's ties may become strained if protocols are not followed precisely and correctly. As a result, it is evident that protocols and their use in diplomatic relations have a substantial impact on the political and diplomatic ties between nations as well as on the development of links between states or parties. We have chosen to concentrate this research on investigating the function of protocols in diplomatic contacts due to the significant significance and influence of protocols in diplomatic relations.

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1. Introduction

Protocols are crucial for maintaining diplomatic ties. Protocols are widely recognized as a crucial component of diplomacy, and achieving success in the diplomatic process heavily relies on following to established diplomatic conventions and practices. Adhering to diplomatic protocol is crucial for a diplomat when communicating and behaving. Protocols encompass a collection of regulations and traditions that must be observed prior to the commencement of meetings and negotiations, as well as during formal ceremonies, speeches, and the subsequent proceedings. The importance of diplomatic protocols in preserving harmonious and respectful international relations cannot be overstated (Kazemi, 1991). These protocols ensure that negotiations are handled with proper regard for the dignity and customs of all parties involved. To underscore the importance of diplomatic etiquette, it is worth noting that in an informal context, when diplomatic norms are violated and there is no formal structure, the words and actions of diplomats and government officials are not regarded as trustworthy. It is feasible to subsequently withdraw these remarks and actions without encountering political or legal repercussions. Conversely, when a government official or diplomat speaks or acts in a formal environment and follows established protocols, such as speaking from a podium or writing in an embassy note, their remarks or actions have legal consequences and are considered trustworthy. Diplomats are required to adhere to established standards of

worth, trustworthiness, and decorum, which are overseen by protocols that govern their language and conduct. Diplomats at all levels are mandated to undergo protocol training as it establishes the standards for proper conduct in social encounters, conferences, meetings, speeches, travel, and individual and group negotiations (Zolain, 2002, p. 19).

These observations emphasize the technical aspect of protocols as a crucial component of diplomacy, guaranteeing that all encounters are carried out with the required formality and respect. Diplomats require comprehensive training to efficiently traverse international relations, adhering to established norms and practices that enhance diplomatic engagement and communication due to the technical nature of protocols (Khaloozadeh, 2015, p. 119). Every ministry or government agency usually has a protocol branch that is in charge of arranging visits and formal meetings with anybody who wants to meet with them. However, more than any other government agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in any given nation is largely concerned with protocol management. State negotiations, treaty signings, flying the national flag, playing the national anthem, utilizing the official emblem, choosing and using official titles, planning ceremonies for government officials' travel, receiving ambassadors, distributing and bestowing decorations, setting up the hierarchy of state officials, making sure that government regulations regarding the residence of foreign diplomats and diplomatic mission staff are followed, and hosting official banquets are just a few of the significant events that require adherence to protocol. In every

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country, these are all considered to be parts of the diplomatic process. One crucial aspect of adhering to protocols is that, when done correctly, they don't draw attention to themselves. However, even the smallest mistake or omission throughout the process can ruin all diplomatic efforts and possibly cause the concerned country to become unhappy (Dabiri, 1995, p. 84).

It is essential for diplomatic workers to understand and abide by diplomatic procedure. It is essential that they follow these guidelines in their daily work from the start. They ought to be aware of the importance of these rules and do their duties in a way that upholds the reputation of their government. This is due to the fact that occasionally the government's reputation may suffer by breaking these norms. In the context of diplomacy, protocols serve as a tactical tool that shape the dynamics between official representatives of different countries and the outcomes of their interactions. Protocols can be broken by any small incident, even if the responsible authorities had little influence over it (Khaloozadeh, 2015). Every now and again, unforeseen circumstances can throw off the planned order of protocols and force the protocol officers to take on more responsibilities. During formal and diplomatic contacts, even the smallest oversight or protocol blunder can have serious repercussions (Sadr, 1992). Additionally, it could cause hostility in international diplomatic ties. The reason protocol challenges are sensitive is that even seemingly unlikely events can cause problems and have unfavorable outcomes without being linked to any specific person or entity. In spite of these circumstances, the protocol department is nonetheless responsible for its duties. Any unplanned or unanticipated errors are the responsibility of the protocol department.

2. Objectives and importance

A study is conducted to highlight the significance of this component in global political and diplomatic exchanges, with a particular emphasis on the function of protocols in diplomatic relationships. This ensures that distinguished dignitaries from other countries will be treated with the utmost care and that there won't be any inconsistencies in official procedures that could cause miscommunications or damage the goodwill between the parties. The main worry is whether diplomatic and political ties between countries could be jeopardized and worsened more quickly if certain protocol requirements are not strictly followed. Despite the challenge presented by the dearth of trustworthy scientific resources, it was essential to use a library research approach and historical examples of diplomatic ties and connections between governments in order to explore this topic. Disregarding diplomatic protocol exposes a lack of etiquette and etiquette, perhaps damaging the rapport between the concerned parties. Should these requirements be formally enshrined in law, breaking them could result in obligations and even legal repercussions. Considering the importance of manners in diplomatic dealings, let's start by looking at what protocol is. Next, we will talk about the importance of diplomatic protocols, explain why they are required, and name the particular authorities who have a duty to follow them when they arrive and depart. Through an analysis of this article and a response to the given topic, the goal of this debate is to improve understanding of the function and importance of diplomatic etiquette.

3. Definition of Protocols

The term "protocols" (تشریفات) is the plural form of the Persian word "تشریف". According to the Amid Persian Dictionary, it denotes the action of showing respect, rising in status, and magnifying. Additionally, it might denote garments of distinction or the action of bestowing such garments (Amid, 2000). In the Moein Persian Dictionary, the word pertains to rites that are associated with dignified hospitality or the essential components

of dignified hospitality (Moin, 2003). Protocols are established procedures or acts that convey respect, honor, and elevation, typically in formal or ceremonial contexts. Diplomatic protocol encompasses a predetermined collection of rites and etiquette that are adhered to during interactions between governments or international organizations. The goal of this is to ensure that authorities and representatives are afforded respect and decency. Essential respect and admiration are vital for fostering positive relationships and encouraging diplomatic exchanges. Protocols, in a comprehensive and all-encompassing manner, refer to a collection of regulations, standards, customs, and conduct that are generally based on social decorum and are adhered to by individuals in their interactions with others.

The result of adhering to these norms is the cultivation of understanding and friendship among individuals. Protocols have been ubiquitous in all societies and throughout the course of human civilization. André Malraux, a renowned French scholar, notably asserted that protocols are indispensable for the survival of any civilization (Qureshi, 2020). Protocols are adhered to in several areas, such as family, religion, nation (both formal and informal), and international settings. However, the protocols we are especially referring to are the diplomatic processes that are universally employed in practical diplomatic interactions across all nations.

Diplomatic Protocols: Foreign policy and diplomacy are closely intertwined, as diplomacy serves as a crucial means for one country to exert its influence and assert its interests over another. It encompasses all individuals and officials in a nation who bear the responsibility of implementing decisions related to foreign policy. Diplomacy encompasses two essential components of foreign policy: the development and implementation of strategies that rely on existing norms. Protocols are considered indispensable and crucial in diplomacy, as they are rooted in diplomatic traditions and foster respect. Put simply, diplomacy lacks effectiveness in the absence of protocols (Vafai, 2015). Protocols encompass more than mere hierarchical structures and positions. They are a form of meticulous execution and strong management that aim to provide fairness and effective governance, ensuring that all matters are handled appropriately. Diplomatic protocols are fundamentally regarded as a crucial component of diplomatic interactions, functioning as enablers for diplomats. They are reputed to assist in organizing and strategizing conferences, lectures, banquets, outings, and tours. Protocols, which are an essential component of diplomacy, are intricately interconnected and cannot be disentangled. Protocols are not regarded as superfluous aristocratic rituals or frivolous diversions, but rather as a significant and influential art form, according to scholars. They consist of a sequence of purposeful and deliberate actions that conclude communication and impart cultural and civilizational messages that enrich and elevate interactions. Protocols enhance communication, lend formality to meetings, conferences, and negotiations, and establish obligations, all of which streamline the work of diplomats. (Aghai, 2003, pp. 158-59) Protocols serve as the guardians and enforcers of the advantages and rights that ambassadors possess, thereby assisting diplomacy in all circumstances. Diplomatic etiquette is more than just socializing at parties, dressing formally, participating in secretive endeavors, or seeking attention. Protocols establish the structures that state representatives must follow in order to promote the development of stronger connections and relationships between nations and peoples. Violation of these protocol standards indicates a deficiency in social decorum and politeness, potentially resulting in repercussions in certain situations (Zolain, 2002, p. 17). This viewpoint emphasizes the crucial importance of diplomatic protocols in ensuring the efficient operation of international relations. It underscores the

significance of respect, order, and the promotion of diplomatic interactions. Contrary to being shallow demonstrations, these conventions function as the basis for significant exchanges and the preservation of honor and esteem between nations.

4. Significance of Protocols in Diplomacy:

When one sees protocols as a set of pointless rules, they get oversimplified. Every step of the process could have implications beyond what is immediately apparent. Knowing the protocols and following them will help officials feel less anxious. Protocols are fundamental to diplomatic relations. The rules and procedures that control our dealings with certain people are part of the concept of diplomacy. These variables include the precise moment and place as well as the ability to judge what behavior is appropriate or inappropriate. Selecting to impede normal and suitable behavior when interacting, especially with foreigners, clears the air and increases confidence. It is emphasized how crucial protocols are to preserving cordial and smooth international relations since they guarantee that diplomatic talks are conducted appropriately and in line with the goals and preferences of all relevant parties (Kazemi, 1991). According to studies, maintaining diplomatic etiquette is crucial for maintaining international relations between countries. Breaking the commonly recognized rules of international etiquette might make it more difficult to form international alliances or possibly lead to expulsion from them. Academics and professionals in the field agree that adhering to diplomatic conventions and norms—especially by official authorities and operators—is essential to success in foreign policy. As such, the content and organization of protocols serve as concrete manifestations of the prevailing social group (Kazemi, 1991). Consequently, the more centralized and distinct the controlling body, the more complicated the procedures. When establishing personal ties, people follow a set of established customs, manners, etiquette, conventions, traditions, and behaviors known as diplomatic protocol. The parties concerned are encouraged to grow in mutual respect and understanding by following these recommendations. Protocols are a set of regulations and conventions that are centered on civility and are an essential part of diplomacy. They are used in government-to-government correspondence on a number of national and international levels. President John F. Kennedy stated that kindness does not imply weakness at a UN speech. This claim garnered attention from the media worldwide. The subject turns to civility, which is founded on the international standard of conduct that directs diplomatic interactions (Eidenmuller, 1961).

5. Behavioral Approaches to diplomatic protocols

Every formal event, regardless of whether it is a government function or a private gathering, is accompanied by a specific set of protocols that are suitable for the importance of the occasion. Strict adherence to these recommendations is absolutely essential and must be done with utmost caution. Furthermore, engaging in such actions is an essential component of the responsibilities and domains of diplomacy (Sadr, 1992). Diplomatic protocols encompass a wide range of topics, including the establishment of diplomatic relations, the submission of credentials by ambassadors, government officials' travel arrangements, negotiations, the signing of agreements, and diplomatic invitations. Each of these themes will be discussed sequentially in separate sections. The implementation of protocols for high-ranking authorities, such as prime ministers, heads of state, and parliamentary leaders, holds particular importance. These protocols are meticulously crafted to exemplify the significance and reverence for these responsibilities, guaranteeing that all discussions and activities conform to the decorum and customs anticipated in diplomatic engagements (Onderčo, 2017). Based on the provided information, it seems that you are seeking an

explanation or rendering of a specific written work that discusses diplomatic protocol and its significance. This book primarily focuses on the principles of national equality in terms of rights, the responsibility of the host nation to safeguard and defend visiting heads of state, and the procedures for welcoming and ensuring the safety of these esteemed individuals upon their arrival. This text highlights the importance of treating heads of state equally and ensuring their protection when they visit other countries, in accordance with international conventions and practices (Qureshi, 2020). This applies regardless of whether their own country has a republican or monarchical style of government. This emphasizes the importance of diplomatic procedure and the responsibility of the host country to guarantee the safety and respect of visiting dignitaries. Instead of being governed by rules specific to individual nations, these acts of civility and immunity are considered established norms according to international law and tradition. Another subject of conversation is the manner in which the families and accompanying group of important visitors are treated. This suggests that, regardless of differing viewpoints, people are often treated with a comparable degree of respect and politeness.

This perspective emphasizes the challenging equilibrium between formal diplomatic protocols and the fundamental principles of respect and security upheld by these traditions. It aligns with the core concepts of diplomatic law and international relations (Aman, 2019). Officials in every country possess distinct levels of political, social, and legal esteem, as well as exclusive legal and political authority and entitlements. Respect is perceived as a matter of tradition, legislation, and moral principles, and is contingent upon their status in both domestic and global settings. Officials are required to adhere to a specific level of etiquette due to their status and role in various political, social, and legal settings, which is of utmost importance. Therefore, in accordance with established protocol standards, it is crucial to carefully examine and determine the classification of protocols and the formal precedence among authorities.

6. Precedence and protocols in diplomatic relations:

Precedence and protocol in diplomatic relations refer to the act of prioritizing one official position above another based on their legal and political status, as well as their role in carrying out formal activities. A nation that complies with their authority and respects their position recognizes this prioritization. These roles are acknowledged by other countries as valid representations of their nations, and they are esteemed for this reason. Handshakes, talks, chats, and general social interactions with them are conducted in a manner that demonstrates respect for the legal and political standing of their individual states (Teorell, 2022). Consequently, a hierarchical system is employed to categorize officials from various nations based on formal precedence, with the highest ranking at the top and the lowest ranking at the bottom (Vafai, 2015). The order of precedence is essential for establishing the hierarchy and procedure in planning events that require official positions on certain occasions. The issue of etiquette involves not only establishing a hierarchy of importance, but also pre-determining the guests' rank and position, the characteristics of the ceremony or feast, the goal of the gathering, and its nature. All of these factors are dependent on the specific event. The lists of precedence for government officials vary in sequence and structure across different countries, but they are often established according to broad criteria and international principles, showcasing some variability. Every nation examines and follows these norms with equal scrutiny. Protocols, especially precedence,

hold great significance in the field of diplomacy. Officers working in the diplomatic and consular sectors are obligated to adhere to and accountable for these standards. Precedence is applicable in any situation where there is interaction between official and governmental authorities, and not limited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic personnel (Khaloozadeh, 2015). Protocols and precedence are crucial in various instances, such as when a minister extends an invitation to a foreign minister, when an official organizes a formal banquet at their residence, when official dignitaries require seating and transportation arrangements, and when flags are raised and displayed on vehicles. In such instances, hierarchy and order significantly influence the determination of procedures and priorities. Government officials in all nations are categorized based on a hierarchical framework, where those in higher ranks possess the authority to direct individuals in lower positions. International relations adhere to the principle of precedence, which involves prioritizing one official position over others in diplomatic processes and state interactions. Ignoring the principle of official precedence can result in challenges and tensions in the relationships between the host country and other nations, particularly concerning government officials and foreign diplomatic representatives residing in that country. Throughout history, the lack of a global accord that defined the hierarchy of state officials and their representatives has resulted in significant international conflict. The Vienna Convention of 1815 created a hierarchical structure and order of importance for diplomatic representatives from different countries. The Vienna Congress of 1961 settled any conflicts and established exact principles that determine the order of importance (Haldén, 2011).

7. The Precedence of heads of State

There is no fixed international rule for determining the order of precedence among heads of state, and diplomatic law does not address the precedence of country leaders nor establishes rules for it. However, in various occasions, the following principles can be used to prepare a list of precedence for heads of state:

1. Permanent heads of state take precedence over temporary heads of state.
2. The dignity of major countries should be preserved as much as possible, ensuring their representatives have precedence within their category.
3. Heads of state from countries with an ancient history are given precedence over newly established countries.
4. Fully independent countries take precedence over those with limited independence.
5. In the United Nations, countries with equal status are given precedence based on the date of entry.
6. Neighboring countries are given precedence over distant countries.
7. Among countries with equal conditions, precedence should consider the date of appointment, start of work, or the age of the representative.
8. The order of precedence among heads of state can be determined based on the alphabetical order of the country names.

8. Protocols for hosting high-ranking officials

The travels of high-ranking government officials have a crucial role in advancing political and diplomatic objectives related to foreign policy and international relations. These travels necessitate rigorous compliance with and surveillance of specific

protocols. Negative consequences may arise if diplomatic protocol procedures are executed poorly or experience interruptions. Government personnel are subject to varying rules regarding their travel plans based on their status. However, the travel arrangements for heads of state, such as presidents or kings, are handled in a distinct manner. Diplomatic conventions form the foundation for diplomatic protocols (Aman, 2019). The implementation of protocols varies and diverges among nations in terms of the behavioral methodologies and execution techniques employed, despite the widespread adoption of these principles. The implementation of protocol norms might provide insight on a nation's attitude towards a visiting country. For instance, when the host nation implements complex protocols during a visit, irrespective of the purpose of the visit, it conveys a message to foreign observers and media that the visit was successful and resulted in positive outcomes or at least that the visitor departed with favorable memories. Distinguished officials from various nations are organized into distinct hierarchies (Khaloozadeh, 2015). As per their position and hierarchy outlined in their country's constitution, every official must be welcomed in the host nation with certain protocols that vary depending on whether they are heads of state (such as presidents or monarchs) or other officials. Hence, it is imperative to commence with the protocols that pertain to a head of state, such as a president or monarch, and subsequently delineate the regulations that are applicable to other dignitaries during their visit to the host nation.

9. Protocols for the Head of State

Protocols for the head of the country (king or president) are subject to the type of visit the head of state is making to the host country. Travel by heads of state is divided into two types: official and unofficial visits. To properly understand the distinction between these two types of visits, it is necessary to discuss each one separately.

A - Official Travels

Official travels of the head of state are A - Official Travels of the Head of State: Official travels of the head of state are categorized into three types, each as follows:

1. Official State Visit
2. Official Visit by the Head of State
3. Working Visit by the Head of State
4. Official State Visit: Among the most important official travels of the head of state, requiring high-level state protocols. This type of visit occurs through an official invitation from the host country's head of state or sometimes at the formal request of the visiting head of state. Official state visits sometimes solely have a ceremonial aspect and do not have a specific agenda other than expressing friendship and closeness between countries. Usually, this type of visit happens once during a leader's tenure and requires reciprocal relations. The realization of this depends on various circumstances.
5. Official Visit by the Head of State: The purpose of this type of visit is not merely to see the host country but often involves an invitation by the host country's officials for other purposes such as attending a conference organized in the host country where the host country's head of state also participates. The protocols in this scenario differ from the first type.
6. Working Visit by the Head of State: Refers to visits invited by a national, regional, or international organization residing in a country. In this trip, the host country's responsibilities towards the visiting head of state are limited, mostly concerning security issues. Other travel-

related matters are arranged through the inviting organization in cooperation with the host government, such as participation in the United Nations General Assembly, NATO headquarters, regional organizations like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and supra-regional organizations like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The head of state attending such conferences or occasions in the country is also a guest of the institution or organization.

B: Unofficial Travels

These types of journeys by the head of a country occur unilaterally, without a formal invitation from a high-ranking official of the host country. In such instances, the host country is not bound by specific commitments under international law, and protocols are not deemed necessary. However, it is imperative to implement security measures as required. This type of travel is categorized into two distinct groups: firstly, journeys that are officially disclosed to the host government, encompassing personal excursions or transits. The second category is clandestine international travel without previous notification or disclosure of one's identification. In the first category, although there are no formal protocols, it is crucial to guarantee the security, hospitality, and respectful reception of the visiting head of state by an appointed representative from the host nation, accompanied by the ambassador of the guest country. An instance of this scenario would be when a visiting head of state travels to another country for the purpose of receiving medical care (Aman, 2019). Occasionally, the host country may bear the costs of travel, arrange lodging, and provide transportation for the guest. This is primarily contingent upon the caliber of the diplomatic ties between the two nations. In the event that the travel includes transiting through the host country to reach a different country, and if an unforeseen emergency or technical problem occurs that necessitates the head of state's aircraft to make an unplanned landing or brief stop, the host government will promptly implement the necessary emergency actions (Kazemi, 1991). When the landing is intended for refueling, the embassy informs the appropriate authorities of the host country. Upon the arrival of the visiting head of state, they are greeted by the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry or a cabinet member in the VIP lounge of the airport.

In the event that travel takes place without advance notice and without disclosing one's identity, effectively bypassing protocols and staying hidden from the media, the host government is not obligated and cannot be held accountable for any incidents. (Sadr, 1992) However, if a traffic or criminal incident occurs during such a visit, requiring the head of state to disclose their identity to the host government, the host government then assumes responsibility for their safety and security. Due to the increasing specialization of international affairs, it has become imperative for cabinet ministers to travel to other nations for the purpose of engaging in negotiations, participating in commissions, and attending conferences. These journeys, referred to as "working visits," are regulated by the provisions of the 1969 Special Travels Convention.

10. Protocols for the Ambassador's

Ministers and ambassadors serve as diplomatic representatives of their heads of state and are offered hospitality upon their arrival in the host nation. Nevertheless, the reception extended to senior officials from the visiting nation in the host nation differs from this welcome. An ambassador's greeting at the host nation consists of two primary components. The initial phase is executed in a direct and uncomplicated manner and occurs when the delegate becomes a part of the host country. In the

contemporary day, when air travel is the usual means of transportation, the responsibility of receiving the ambassador at the VIP section of the airport lies with the chief of protocol or one of their senior protocol officers (Aman, 2019). Upon the ambassador's arrival outside of regular working hours or on weekends, a member of the protocol team is responsible for greeting and escorting them to their assigned accommodation. Up until now, the ambassador's greeting has been founded upon propriety and civility. Currently, the ambassador is regarded as a visitor and does not hold any formal role. The protocol mandates that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promptly assist in arranging the ambassador's meeting, enabling them to officially deliver their credentials to the appropriate authorities within a specified timeframe. It is strongly advised to avoid significant delays in sending credentials, especially in nations where the ambassador's official responsibilities cannot commence until credentials are provided. The second set of protocol refers to the essential and obligatory procedures that the ambassador must adhere to in order to officially assume the position of envoy to the head of state of the host nation, following the submission of their credentials. As a consequence, they are now able to fully experience the privileges and advantages specified in the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (Qureshi, 2020).

11. Conclusion:

The aforementioned research highlights the significance of diplomatic protocol in international relations between states, to the point where breaching the norms of protocol that the international community upholds can make it difficult or even impossible to forge new alliances or connections with other nations. Scholars and experts in international affairs contend that official authorities, especially foreign policy operators, must respect diplomatic conventions and norms in order for foreign policy to be effective and for national interests to be advanced. When statements and actions taken by a government official or diplomat are made in a formal setting, backed up by procedures, or recorded, they have legal significance. Protocols govern every diplomat's word and deed as a result, endowing them with formality, respectability, and dignity. Even if mistakes are unintentional or accidental, if officials and non-officials lack a solid understanding of diplomatic procedure, they could cause major communication problems for government organizations and private businesses. The following protocols should be closely followed and considered when hosting high-ranking officials from other countries or significant international organizations in order to prevent errors in diplomatic protocol: The personnel and representatives of the protocol department should be well educated and experienced in their respective disciplines. Before organizing the protocol ceremony, protocol staff and hosts should regularly access protocol techniques, taking into consideration the rank of the guest representative and the strength of the political ties between the visiting and host countries. This will help to avoid mistakes or errors during the actual implementation. Before leaving for any reason, senior officials should be conversant with the traditions and etiquette of both countries. If any unintentional actions are taken that go against protocol, the opposite side should apologize as soon as possible to prevent any negative impact on the goodwill and relations between the parties.

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