

07-125

The Secretary of State presents her compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and refers to the services provided to the diplomatic and consular community by the Department's Office of Foreign Missions, including provision of diplomatic license plates.

The Department wishes to advise the Chiefs of Mission that beginning in September 2007, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions ("OFM"), which is a directorate of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, will begin issuing newly designed diplomatic license plates to replace the current distinctive red, white and blue diplomatic license plates. The public announcement of the new initiative will be made on August 28, 2007. Chiefs of Mission are invited to visit the Department's website at www.state.gov/m/ds/rls/85896.htm for more information about the new plates.

OFM will begin issuing the new license plates to all official vehicles used by the Chiefs of Mission on September 4 and, thereafter, will issue the new plates for all new registration applications. Beginning in October 2007, OFM will require missions and personnel whose vehicles registrations expire in that month to obtain

the new license plates, as well as their new month/year registration sticker, in exchange for their old plates. OFM will continue each month to replace expiring registrations with the new plates for a full year. Missions will continue to see old and new plates for a year after the first issuance. After December 31, 2008, the old plates will no longer be valid and any vehicle displaying the old tag will be subject to subject to citation and fines for failure to renew their registration as required.

Should the Chiefs of Mission have any questions or comments please refer to the website listed above to obtain more information.

Enclosure:

As stated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'OU'.

Department of State,

Washington, June 7, 2007.