

Global Protocol Professionals Gather in Miami

The 24th Annual International Protocol Education Forum concluded with a resounding success from July 21st to 24th in the vibrant city of Coral Gables, FL. Hosted by the Protocol & Diplomacy International–Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA), the Forum welcomed 140 distinguished professionals in protocol and diplomacy representing 18 countries.

The Forum commenced with a captivating opening ceremony held at the historic Biltmore Hotel on Monday, July 21, 2025. Attendees were greeted with the Junkanoo Dance Band and welcome remarks that set an inspiring tone, celebrating the Forum's theme—*"Cultivating Cultural Connections."* Ms. Catherine Wilson, President of PDI-POA, welcomed members and guests to the Forum. The Honorable Cord Byrd, Florida's Secretary of State, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava (video message), the city of Coral Gables Mayor Vince Lago, and Mr. Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department delivered powerful keynote addresses, emphasizing the essential role of protocol in fostering respectful and productive relations.

For the first time, Miami-Dade County proudly hosted this premier event. As the Gateway to the Americas™, the region's strategic importance in diplomacy, trade, and consular affairs made it an ideal venue. The multicultural and dynamic international community enriched the conversations, underscoring Miami's rising profile as a nexus of global engagement.

Throughout the Forum, participants were engaged in thought-provoking panels, interactive workshops, and high-level networking sessions that tackled emerging challenges and opportunities. Topics ranged from protocol in crisis communications to innovations in digital diplomacy. Delegates left energized, equipped with new tools, and ready to bring enhanced diplomacy to their respective roles. The spirit of this year's Forum was perhaps best captured in the reflections shared by its attendees. The event sparked thoughtful conversations, fostered lasting connections, and garnered collective admiration for both the hosts and the speakers. *"The Forum provided a rare space for protocol professionals to share not just knowledge, but culture. I left with practical tools and new friendships that I'll carry forward,"*
- Mrs. Roseannete Obo Akinlabi, PDI-POA Forum first-timer (Lagos, Nigeria).

"The plenary breakout sessions were incredibly relevant to today's global challenges. The Miami Forum offered the perfect backdrop for fostering inclusive diplomatic dialogue."
- Mr. Axel Tullmann, Protocol Officer, Protocol & International Affairs, Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department.

As the final applause faded and farewells were exchanged, it was clear that the 2025 Forum had cultivated far more than cultural connections—it had planted seeds of lasting partnership and a shared commitment to diplomacy. Miami's inaugural hosting marked a milestone, one that may well become a tradition for years to come. The 25th Annual PDI-POA International Protocol Education Forum will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 20 to 23, 2026.

Founded in 2002, PDI-POA continues to shape the global protocol landscape by offering exceptional education, mentorship, and professional development. The Forum reaffirmed its mission: advancing understanding, respect, and cooperation through the mastery of protocol.



L-R: U. Desmond Alufohai, Forum Co-chair, Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, Catherine Wilson, President of PDI-POA, Honorable Cord Byrd, Florida's Secretary of State, Honorable Dariel Fernandez, Miami-Dade County Tax Collector, and Murphy Folorunsho.



U. Desmond Alufohai
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Summer, with its warmth and extended days, naturally brings people together—across backyards, borders, and cultures. Just as the season encourages us to connect and celebrate, so too do the worlds of diplomacy, protocol, and international affairs remind us of the importance of interaction and respect.

In diplomacy, meetings are guided by the spirit of collaboration. Summer's relaxed pace can inspire us to adopt a similar openness in our own lives, welcoming new perspectives, forging stronger relationships with neighbors or with other people. Like diplomats at the negotiating table, we find value in listening carefully, communicating clearly, and seeking common ground.

Protocol, often regarded as the art of courtesy and tradition, teaches us that respect for others' customs is key to forming meaningful connections. Summer gatherings, whether multicultural festivals, conferences, or shared meals, offer us the opportunity to practice these principles.

International affairs remind us that our actions have a ripple effect that extends far beyond our immediate surroundings. The bonds we build locally reflect the ties that unite nations in times of cooperation and challenge.

This summer, may we carry forward the lessons of diplomacy and protocol: engaging with empathy, celebrating diversity, and recognizing the power of connection. In doing so, we shape a season, and a world, marked by respect and shared purpose.

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DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Diplomatic Excellence: Best Practices for Protocol in International Affairs

The first plenary session of the 24th Annual International Protocol Education Forum, organized by Protocol & Diplomacy International – Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA), took place on Tuesday, July 22, from 8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. A distinguished panel comprising Ambassador Antoine Boustany, Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami, Consul General Oliver Mair, Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami, and Mrs. Rose Hedgemond, President & Founder of Avenues of Excellence Finishing School, Inc., led an insightful session on "Diplomatic Excellence: Best Practices for Protocol in International Affairs." This session was a highlight for those keen on mastering the nuances of diplomatic protocol and international relations.

The discussion underscored the critical importance of cultural awareness, etiquette, and effective communication in diplomacy. Ambassador Boustany, with his extensive experience, emphasized the importance of diplomats being culturally sensitive and adaptable. He shared anecdotes illustrating how understanding cultural differences can prevent misunderstandings and foster stronger international relationships. "Cultural awareness is not just a skill but a necessity in diplomacy. It allows us to build bridges and create lasting partnerships," he remarked.

Consul General Mair focused on the practical aspects of diplomatic protocol. He provided participants with strategies for navigating formal events and high-level meetings with grace and professionalism. His tips on proper etiquette and decorum were particularly well received, offering attendees actionable advice to enhance their diplomatic engagements. "Protocol is the framework within which diplomacy operates. Mastering it ensures that we represent our countries with dignity and respect," he stated.

Mrs. Hedgemond highlighted the role of effective communication in diplomacy. She stressed that clear and respectful communication is the cornerstone of successful international relations. Her discussion included interactive elements, allowing participants to practice and refine their communication skills in various diplomatic scenarios. "Effective communication is the key to resolving conflicts and building consensus. It is the foundation of all successful diplomatic efforts," she explained.

Participants left the session equipped with practical strategies for handling cross-cultural interactions with confidence. The insights gained from this session are invaluable for anyone involved in international affairs, providing a solid foundation for conducting diplomacy with excellence.

Key Takeaways from the Session:

- * **Cultural Awareness:** Understanding and respecting cultural differences is crucial in diplomacy. Ambassador Boustany emphasized that cultural sensitivity can prevent misunderstandings and build stronger international relationships.
- * **Etiquette and Protocol:** Consul General Mair provided practical tips on navigating formal events and high-level meetings. His advice on proper etiquette and decorum helps diplomats represent their countries with dignity and respect.
- * **Effective Communication:** Mrs. Hedgemond highlighted the importance of clear and respectful communication. She provided strategies for resolving conflicts and building consensus, which are essential for successful diplomatic efforts.
- * **Interactive Learning:** The session included interactive elements, allowing participants to practice and refine their skills in real-time scenarios. This hands-on approach helped attendees gain confidence in their diplomatic abilities.
- * **Professionalism and Confidence:** Overall, the session equipped participants with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of international diplomacy with professionalism and confidence.

The session was a resounding success, leaving attendees better prepared to handle the challenges of international diplomacy. The practical strategies and insights shared by the distinguished panel will undoubtedly contribute to the participants' future success in the field of international relations.

Attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with leading experts in protocol and diplomacy. Many noted that the knowledge gained would have an immediate impact on their professional roles. The event fostered meaningful connections among participants, facilitating future collaboration.

Also, organizers received positive feedback and are already planning next year's forum in the city of Indianapolis aiming to build upon this year's achievements and further advance international cooperation.

Distinguished Panelists from L-R:

Mauri Earl (moderator), Ambassador Antoine Gilbert Boustany, Mrs. Rose Hedgemond, and the Consul General of Jamaica Roderick Oliver Mair.



AI Etiquette Guidelines for the Workplace

As we navigate the evolving landscape of new communication technology, the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the workplace is becoming increasingly prevalent. While AI can enhance productivity and efficiency, it also brings an evolution of professional etiquette that employees should consider to foster a respectful and harmonious work environment. Here are some essential tips:

Maintain Human Interaction

While AI can handle many tasks, it's essential to maintain personal connections with colleagues. Avoid becoming overly reliant on AI for communications and remember to engage face-to-face or through traditional communication channels when appropriate. It's crucial to know when it's relevant to rely on AI and when to prioritize personal interaction. Use AI to draft communications or assist in tasks; but always approach sensitive discussions with a human touch.

Keep a Professional Tone

While it may be tempting to engage with AI informally, it is essential to uphold a professional tone in all workplace communications. Utilizing appropriate language and avoiding slang or overly casual expressions sets a standard for respectful interactions, even in virtual communications. While AI is not a sentient being, treating it with respect mirrors your approach to interpersonal relationships.

Acknowledge Contributions

AI can play a significant role in enhancing productivity; however, it should not overshadow human input. When utilizing AI-generated outputs, it is advisable to credit the tool when appropriate and supplement them with personal insights. Encourage team discussions on how AI can help streamline tasks or enhance creativity. This not only improves morale but also fosters innovation and teamwork.

Offer Feedback

AI systems improve over time with user feedback. If you notice inaccuracies or areas for improvement, provide constructive feedback, just as you would offer suggestions to a team member.

Be Inclusive

When deploying AI systems, ensure that all team members feel included in the process. Some may be hesitant or unsure about new technologies, so take the time to address their concerns and highlight the benefits. Together, you can create a collaborative environment where everyone feels comfortable utilizing AI.

Understand the Capabilities and Limitations of AI

Before engaging with an AI tool, it is essential to familiarize oneself with its features and functionalities. Gaining an understanding of the system's strengths, such as data analysis, scheduling, or creative assistance, can help establish realistic expectations while also mitigating frustration associated with any limitations.

Stay Informed

The world of AI is rapidly evolving. Make a point to stay informed about new developments and best practices in AI etiquette. Continuous learning fosters adaptability, ensuring that your approach to AI remains relevant and respectful.

TSA Ends Shoe Removal at Miami International Airport

Travelers passing through Miami International Airport (MIA) are stepping into a smoother, faster security experience. The airport has joined a growing number of U.S. airports in eliminating the long-standing TSA requirement for passengers to remove their shoes at security checkpoints. This change, recently announced by the Transportation Security Administration, marks a significant update to airport security procedures that have been in place for over two decades.

The shoe removal policy was initially introduced following the 2001 attempted shoe bombing by Richard Reid, known as the "Shoe Bomber," who tried to detonate explosives hidden in his footwear aboard a flight departing from Miami. Although Reid's attack was unsuccessful, the incident prompted heightened security measures, including the mandatory removal of shoes during TSA screening, to mitigate similar threats in the future.

After 20 years in effect, this policy has been reconsidered thanks to advancements in TSA technology and screening methods. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem emphasized that the agency has significantly evolved its procedures, allowing for enhanced security without the need for intrusive measures. With these improvements, travelers can now pass through checkpoints without removing their shoes, making the screening process more efficient while maintaining safety standards.

The change has been met with enthusiasm from passengers at Miami International Airport. Many expressed relief at the convenience and time saved by not having to remove shoes, especially when wearing white socks or traveling in less-than-pristine environments. Families traveling with children also noted the improvement, stating that this adjustment would make traveling with kids and teenagers much easier and quicker.

Other travelers echoed similar sentiments, noting that shoe removal did not increase their sense of security, while others appreciated the time and hassle this change would save. Eliminating the shoe removal step could significantly reduce long TSA lines and speed up the security process for all.

While TSA PreCheck members have enjoyed shoe removal exemptions for years, extending this benefit to all travelers is a welcome development. Many travelers noted that avoiding shoe removal was one of the key perks that made TSA PreCheck membership worthwhile. Now, this convenience is becoming standard for everyone.

This policy update aims to enhance the passenger experience by reducing wait times and streamlining security checkpoints across the nation. By removing the requirement to take off shoes, the TSA balances rigorous safety measures with traveler convenience, reflecting ongoing improvements in airport security protocols.

In summary, the end of mandatory shoe removal at TSA checkpoints represents a milestone in modernizing air travel security. Airports like Miami International are leading the way toward more efficient screening processes that maintain safety without compromising passenger comfort. Travelers can look forward to quicker lines and a more pleasant journey through airport security as they "step into" this new era of travel convenience.

BRIEFS & NOTES

National U.S. Postage Stamp Day (July 1, 2025)



National U.S. Postage Stamp Day was celebrated on July 1. On this day, we look back to 1847, when postage stamps were first introduced to the American public to pay for their mail. It commemorates the day postage stamps were first issued in the United States and has for years honored the fact that we can now easily send mail and parcels and pay homage to the thousands of mailmen and women in the country.

The U.S. government post office first issued adhesive postage stamps valued at five and ten cents on July 1, 1847. In 1855, the use of stamps became mandatory. Initially, stamps would usually feature the face or bust of a former American president or another historically significant statesman. That all changed in the 1890s, when the post office realized that selling stamps as collectibles could increase revenue. It began issuing commemorative stamps in conjunction with major national expositions at first, and later for the anniversaries of significant national historical events.

The postal service in the U.S. began with the delivery of stampless letters. And the recipient had to pay for it. Luckily, not long after, new systems and inventions began to streamline the process, making it easier and cheaper to send mail. Private mail carriers delivered items like pre-paid letters and provisional post offices, much like we now have special couriers that send more extensive packages. That culminated in a universal prepayment system that required all letters to bear nationally issued adhesive postage stamps, indicating that letters or parcels had already been paid for, making the mailman's and the recipient's lives easier.

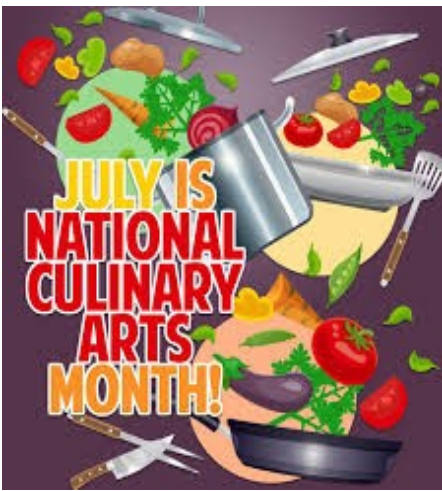
The Birth of the Postage Stamp began in the early 19th century. Before the advent of stamps, postal services were inefficient and often unreliable, with the recipient typically bearing the cost of delivery. This changed in 1840, when Sir Rowland Hill, a British educator and reformer, introduced the world's first adhesive postage stamp: the Penny Black. The Penny Black featured a profile of Queen Victoria and revolutionized the postal system by standardizing rates and simplifying the payment process. Its introduction marked the birth of modern postal services and laid the foundation for the hobby of stamp collecting, also known as philately.

[Philately](#) is the study of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postmarks, postcards, and other materials relating to postal delivery and history. The term "philately" also denotes the collecting of these items. The term was coined in 1864 by a Frenchman, Georges Herpin, who invented it from the Greek *philos* (love) and *ateleia* (that which is tax-free).

Stamps often have a fascinating history. Everything from the inspiration and the artist to the postal rate each year affects the value of a stamp. Collectors also consider quality and rarity. Philately has captivated enthusiasts for generations. This seemingly simple hobby opens a window into history, art, and culture, making it much more than just a pastime.

According to Guinness World Records, [the most expensive stamp in the world](#) is the British Guiana 1c magenta, which sold for £ 5,588,577 (approximately USD9,480,000) in New York on June 17, 2014.

Celebrating National Culinary Arts Month in July: Honoring the Creators of Delicious Memories



Every July, we come together to celebrate [National Culinary Arts Month](#), a time dedicated to the talented chefs, bakers, and culinary professionals who transform everyday ingredients into

extraordinary meals. Food does more than just fill our stomachs; it brings people together, creates memories, and delights the senses when crafted with care and creativity. The history of culinary arts is rich and flavorful. Although cooking has always been a necessity, it wasn't until the 18th century that chefs began to be recognized as artists rather than just household servants. The rise of "haute cuisine" in 19th-century Europe introduced refined techniques and precision in cooking, setting the stage for culinary artistry as we know it today. In America, the founding of Boston's first cooking school in 1879 marked a significant turning point, paving the way for generations of chefs and the publication of the country's earliest cookbooks.

[National Culinary Arts Month](#) has been celebrated since 2002 to honor these creative minds who spend countless hours behind the scenes. But how can you participate? Start by thanking a chef or baker in your life, letting them know their work is appreciated. Or, if you've always dreamed of mastering the kitchen, consider taking a cooking class or experimenting with new recipes at home. Host a recipe-sharing party or join an online

cooking group to spread the joy of good food. Whether you're a home cook or simply love a great meal, take time this month to savor, appreciate, and celebrate the magic of culinary arts!

BRIEFS & NOTES

World Chess Day (July 20, 2025)



In December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed July 20th as International Chess Day, in honor of the day the International Chess Federation (translated from *Fédération Internationale des Échecs* or *FIDE* in French) was established back in 1924 in Paris, France. FIDE is now based in Lausanne, Switzerland, and serves as the governing institution for the sport of chess and international chess competitions. It has established international standardized rules and regulations for the game of chess, as many play it today, and approximately 201 countries are affiliated members in the form of National Chess Federations.

While the exact origin of chess is uncertain, a war game in India called *chaturanga* is believed to be the earliest precursor of modern-day chess. From there, it is believed to have evolved into *shatranj* (or *chatrang*) when the game spread from India to Persia and to southern parts of Central Asia. Buddhist pilgrims, Silk Road traders, and others introduced the game to China by approximately 750 CE, and it subsequently spread to Korea and Japan by the 11th century. The game expanded to Europe through Persia, the Byzantine Empire, and the Arabian Empire, where Muslims introduced chess to North Africa and Spain, and the Vikings spread the game as far as Iceland and England.

Many countries have their unique versions of chess, with different boards, pieces, and rules. These chess variants, however, are distinct from the internationally recognized version of standard chess. They include:

- * *Makruk* (Thailand): Considered closer to the original Indian *Chaturanga* and known for its emphasis on positional play.
- * *Xiangqi* (China): The most popular version of the Eastern game is played on a board with lines instead of squares and features a "fortress" and a "river" that limit access to the enemy, making the game slower than standard chess.^{4,5}
- * *Shogi* (Japan): Known for its "drop rule," allowing captured pieces to be returned to the board.⁵

Here are some additional interesting facts about modern-day standard chess:

- ⇒ The word "Checkmate" comes from the Persian phrase "*Shah Mat*", meaning "The King is dead".
- ⇒ Chess aided in the development of strategic military training, dating back to ancient India and continuing to the present day.
- ⇒ The first chessboard with white and black squares can be traced back to Europe in 1090.
- ⇒ Influential chess players can play the game blindfolded, capable of visualizing the board and chess pieces in their minds.
- ⇒ The early form of chess, *chaturanga*, translates to "four divisions of the military" – the infantry, cavalry, elephantry, and chariotry. These divisions represent the pieces that became the modern-day pawn, knight, bishop, and rook.
- ⇒ The queen became the most powerful chess piece, influenced by Queen Isabella of Spain by the end of the 15th century.
- ⇒ Russia has the most chess world champions, often regarded as the "chess kingdom" by many.
- ⇒ In 2011, Armenia became the first country to make chess a mandatory subject in public schools for children aged six and above.
- ⇒ The first outer space chess game was played on June 9th, 1970, between cosmonauts and Earth-based opponents.
- ⇒ Alan Turing, considered the "father of computer science", created the first chess code algorithm in 1951, at a time when computers were not even capable of executing complex calculations.
- ⇒ In 1957, IBM engineer Alex Bernstein created the first chess computer program capable of playing a complete game against a human. In 1997, IBM's supercomputer "Deep Blue" defeated the reigning world chess champion at the time, Garry Kasparov from Azerbaijan, marking a turning point in AI vs. human competition.

Sources: [UN World Chess Day](#); [International Chess Federation \(FIDE\)](#).

Go: The Timeless Strategy Game That Rivals Chess



[Go](#), an ancient board game originating from China over 2,500 years ago, stands as a compelling alternative to chess. While chess is celebrated for its complex tactics and rich history, Go offers a unique strategic depth that draws millions of enthusiasts worldwide. Played on a 19x19 grid with simple black and white stones, Go's rules are easy to learn but incredibly challenging to master. The objective is to control more territory on the board than your opponent, a goal achieved not by capturing a king but by surrounding empty areas and strategically placing stones. Unlike chess, where each piece has specific moves, Go's uniform stones allow for creative freedom and deep strategic planning.

One key distinction is Go's emphasis on [balance and adaptability](#). Players must constantly evaluate the entire board, shifting between offense and defense, rather than focusing on a single target. The game's vast number of possible moves—far exceeding those in chess—ensures that no two games are ever alike.

Go also encourages patience, foresight, and flexibility. Players often sacrifice small groups of stones to gain larger advantages later, reflecting a long-term approach to victory. Its lack of draws ensures clear outcomes and rewards perseverance. For those seeking a mentally stimulating experience beyond chess, Go offers a rich and rewarding landscape of endless possibilities and profound strategy. It is a timeless challenge for minds of all ages.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JULY)

July 1, 1867 – Canada: With the passage of the British North America Act, the four separate colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper Canada, and Lower Canada were united into the Dominion of Canada. Initially, the day was known as Dominion Day, but on October 27, 1982, it was officially changed to Canada Day.

July 1, 1960 – Somalia: On June 26, 1960, British Somaliland gained its independence from the UK, and on July 1, 1960, Italian Somaliland became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship. Simultaneously with achieving independence, Italian Somaliland merged with British Somaliland to form the Somali Republic on July 1, 1960.

July 1, 1962 – Burundi: Gained independence from the Belgian-administered United Nations Trusteeship.

July 1, 1962 – Rwanda: Like its southern neighbor, Burundi, Rwanda gained independence from Belgian-administered UN rule.

July 3, 1944 – Belarus: After a public referendum in 1996, Belarus's Independence Day was moved to July 3 to commemorate the day in 1944 that Minsk was liberated from German occupation.

July 4, 1776 – United States: Declared independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.

July 5, 1811 – Venezuela: On this day, Venezuela gained independence from Spain.

July 5, 1962 – Algeria: Algeria gained independence from France on July 5, 1962.

July 5, 1975 – Cabo Verde (Cape Verde): In December 1974, an agreement was signed between Portugal and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, establishing a transitional government in Cabo Verde. On July 5, 1975, the newly elected National Popular Assembly declared Cabo Verde's independence from Portugal.

July 6, 1964 – Malawi gained independence from the UK. Since 1966, Independence Day has also been known as Republic Day.

July 6, 1975 – Comoros: On July 6, 1975, the Union of the Comoros gained independence from France.

July 7, 1978 – Solomon Islands: This day marks when the Solomon Islands gained their independence from the United Kingdom.

July 9, 1816 – Argentina: On Revolution Day, May 25, 1810, the Primera Junta, Argentina's first independent government, was formed, and on July 9, 1816, the Congress of Tucumán formally declared independence from Spain.

July 9, 2011 – South Sudan: The world's newest country, South Sudan, gained its independence from Sudan on July 9, 2011.

July 10, 1973 – The Bahamas: After 325 years of British rule, the Bahamas became a free and sovereign nation.

July 12, 1975 – São Tomé and Príncipe: Marks the day São Tomé and Príncipe gained independence from Portugal.

July 12, 1979 – Kiribati gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

July 14, 1789 – France: France's National Day, la Fête Nationale or le Quatorze Juillet, is celebrated annually on July 14 and commemorates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

July 19, 1949 – Laos: The Franco-Lao General Convention granted Laos limited self-government and independence within the French Union. The Franco-Lao Treaty, signed on October 22, 1953, recognized Laos's complete autonomy.

July 20, 1810 – Colombia: Celebrated annually on July 20, since 1810, when a group of patriots asked Spanish merchant Joaquín González Llorente for a flower vase. His refusal ignited simmering passions and stirred the residents of Bogotá into protesting Spanish rule, forcing the Viceroy to issue a decree granting limited independence. Once independence became permanent, Colombia gained its freedom from Spain.

July 21, 1831 – Belgium: Belgian Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 21. On this day in 1831, Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg swore allegiance to the new Belgian constitution and became Leopold I, the first King of the Belgians. His vow marked the beginning of an independent Belgium under a constitutional monarchy and parliament.

July 23, 1952 – Egypt: Revolution Day, Egypt's National Day, commemorates the military-led revolution that began on July 23, 1952, and led to the proclamation of the Egyptian Republic on June 18, 1953.

July 26, 1847 – Liberia did not fall under European colonial rule. In the early 19th century, the U.S. began sending freed slaves and other people of color to Liberia to establish settlements. On July 26, 1847, the settlers declared independence and established Africa's first republic.

July 26, 1965 – The Maldives: The Maldives gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

July 28, 1821 – Peru: Peru's Independence Day, also known as Fiestas Patrias, is celebrated annually on July 28th. It commemorates the liberation of Peru from Spain by José de San Martín. On July 29th, the establishment of the Republic of Peru is celebrated.

July 30, 1980 – Vanuatu: The island nation achieved its independence from France and the United Kingdom on July 30, 1980.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (AUGUST)

August 1, 1291 – Switzerland: The Swiss Confederation was founded on August 1, 1291. Since 1891, Aug. 1st is celebrated as the National Day.

August 1, 1960 – Benin: On this day in 1960, the Republic of Benin achieved independence from France.

August 3, 1960 – Niger: The Republic of Niger was founded on Dec. 18, 1958, and gained independence from France on August 3, 1960.

August 5, 1960 – Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) achieved independence from France. On August 4, 1984, it was renamed Burkina Faso.

August 6, 1825 – Bolivia gained its independence from Spain on August 6, 1825.

August 6, 1962 – Jamaica became an Independent Nation and a member of the British Commonwealth on August 6, 1962.

August 7, 1960 – Côte d'Ivoire: On August 7, 1960, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) achieved complete independence from France.

August 8, 1949 – Bhutan: Although Bhutan had been a unified kingdom since 1907, the Treaty of Friendship with India, signed on August 8, 1949, maintained Bhutanese independence.

August 9, 1965 – Singapore, on September 16, 1963, merged with Malaya, Sabah, and Sarawak to become part of Malaysia, ending 144 years of British rule. The union was fraught with internal friction. Singapore separated from Malaysia as a sovereign nation on August 9, 1965.

August 11, 1960 – Chad: Chad became an autonomous republic within the French Community in November 1958. After further restructuring, complete independence was attained on August 11, 1960.

August 13, 1960 – Central African Republic: The French colony of Ubangi-Shari (Central African Republic) gained its independence.

August 14, 1947 – Pakistan: In 1947, following the passage of the Indian Independence Act by the British Parliament, British India was partitioned into two new independent dominions: India and Pakistan. Pakistan was the first of the two to gain independence on August 14, 1947.

August 15, 1947 – India: After the British Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act, and Pakistan gained independence on August 14, India became an independent, democratic nation at 12:02 a.m. on August 15, 1947.

August 15, 1945 – North Korea: On this day, North Korea gained independence from Japan.

August 15, 1945 – South Korea: National Liberation Day is celebrated annually and commemorates the day when 35 years of Japanese occupation and colonial rule ended on the Korean Peninsula.

August 15, 1960 – Republic of Congo: In 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo achieved independence.

August 15, 1971 – Bahrain: Bahrain gained independence from the UK on August 15, 1971.

August 16, 1960 – Cyprus gained its independence from the UK. Celebrations were moved to October 1st to avoid the summer heat.

August 17, 1945 – Indonesia: On August 17, 1945, Indonesia declared independence from the Netherlands. After an armed struggle against Dutch forces, the United States of Indonesia achieved formal autonomy on December 27, 1949.

August 17, 1960 – Gabon: On August 17, 1960, it achieved independence from France.

August 19, 1919 – Afghanistan: After the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Afghanistan and Britain signed the Treaty of Rawalpindi on August 8, 1919. The British relinquished control over Afghan foreign affairs and recognized Afghanistan's independence. On August 19, 1919, Emir Amanullah Khan declared "independence" from British influence.

August 25, 1825 – Uruguay: After Uruguay gained independence from Spain in 1811, it was annexed by Brazil. On August 25, 1825, it regained its independence from Brazil.

August 27, 1991 – Moldova: Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union. It was formally recognized on March 2, 1992, when it gained membership in the United Nations.

August 30, 1991 – Azerbaijan: Declared independence from the Soviet Union on this day in 1991.

August 31, 1957 – Malaysia: The Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, read the Declaration of Independence of Malaya from British imperial rule. The larger nation of Malaysia, which included Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore, was formed on September 16, 1963.

August 31, 1962 – Trinidad and Tobago: At midnight on August 30, 1962, the Union Jack was lowered, and its flag was raised for the first time.

August 31, 1991 – Kyrgyzstan: The Kyrgyz Republic declared independence from the Soviet Union on this day in 1991.

ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries, and VIPs through MIA, and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.

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