

*These notes refer to the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46)
which received Royal Assent on 19th November 1998*

SCOTLAND ACT 1998

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCHEDULES

Schedule 5

Part I: General Reservations

Part I, Paragraph 7: Foreign affairs, etc.

Details of Provisions

Reservation

Paragraph 7(1) provides that international relations, including:

- (a) relations with territories outside the UK, the European Communities (and their institutions) and other international organisations;
 - (b) regulation of international trade; and
 - (c) international development assistance and co-operation,
- are reserved matters.

Subject to the exceptions in paragraph 7(2), this means that the conduct of international relations, including conduct of relations with the European Communities, is therefore a matter reserved to the UK Parliament and UK Government.

The reservation of international relations does not have the effect of precluding the Scottish Ministers and officials from communicating with other countries, regions, or international or European institutions, so long as the representatives of the Scottish Parliament or the Scottish Ministers do not purport to speak for the United Kingdom or to reach agreements which commit the UK.