

## **What exactly are Reservations, Understandings, and Declarations?**

If the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recommends that a treaty is approved conditionally, they place stipulations on the ratification of the treaty. These Stipulations in international law are called Reservations, Understandings, and Declarations.

**Reservations** Specific qualifications or stipulations that modify U.S. obligations without necessarily changing the treaty language.

**Understandings** Interpretive statements that clarify or elaborate, rather than change the provision of a treaty. They do not alter the obligations imposed by the treaty.

**Declarations** Statements of purpose, policy, or position related to matters raised by the treaty in question. They do not alter the obligations imposed by the treaty..