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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Letter dated 8 May 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

The paragraphs on the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 3 should be replaced by the following text:

Historical documents confirm that when the Turks conquered the Bulgarian State in the fourteenth century, they instilled a spiritual and religious character into their assimilative policy in their attempt to crush the Bulgarian people's identity. After the conquest of Egypt by Sultan Selim I (1512-1520), who usurped the last Abbasid Khalif's title, a forced mass conversion to Islam was started in the Ottoman Empire with the ultimate goal of the Turkification of the enslaved population. All new converts, whether Bulgarians, Greeks, Serbs, Albanians or others, were referred to as "Turks" to emphasize that they were subjects to the Sultan in an administrative as well as a religious sense.

These facts were confirmed at the very time of the Ottoman Empire by a number of foreign diplomats and even by high-ranking officials of the Empire itself. Following is an excerpt from an article by Mithad Pasha, Grand Vizier (prime minister) of the Ottoman Empire, published in the French magazine "La revue scientifique de la France et de l'étranger" (No. 49/2 of 8 June 1878): "... And it should be recalled, first of all, that there are over a million Muslims among those Bulgarians in whom such keen interest is being expressed, without including either

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

the Tartars or the Circassians. These Muslims did not come from Asia to settle in Bulgaria, as is commonly believed: they are the descendants of Bulgarians who were converted to Islam at the time of the conquest and in the years which followed. They are the scions of a single country and of a single race and they share the same origins. Some of them speak no language other than Bulgarian."
