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Items 101 and 107 of the
preliminary list*

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Letter dated 14 June 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith the text of an interview with H.E. Mr. Peter Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, by a diplomatic correspondent of the Bulgarian News Agency on the subject of Bulgarian-Turkish relations, dated 8 June 1989.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 101 and 107 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Metodi DIMITROV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, by
the Bulgarian News Agency on the subject of Bulgarian-Turkish
Relations, dated 8 June 1989

New legislation has been recently adopted in our country, in accordance with the innovative process of restructuring in Bulgaria and in the spirit of the provisions of the Vienna document. The new legislation enables all Bulgarian citizens to travel wherever they wish to any part of the world.

A statement made by the President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, on 29 May 1989, clarified this question in the light of the problems in Bulgarian-Turkish relations. It called upon Turkey to open its borders to the world in compliance with international standards and agreements, just as Bulgaria had done for everybody, including all Bulgarian Muslims willing to leave for Turkey temporarily or for good.

The Bulgarian side has assessed positively the fact that Turkey responded to the call, opening its borders and starting to receive Bulgarian citizens desirous of visiting it in the spirit of the Vienna accords.

This step has created the prerequisites to proceed to a gradual normalization of Bulgarian-Turkish relations and to resolve a series of questions pending between our two countries. The development of bilateral co-operation in the fields of the economy, science, culture, environmental protection and other matters would also constitute our joint contribution to all-Balkan co-operation. A similar approach would set a good example of how the CSCE accords of Helsinki, Madrid and Vienna could be conducive not only to the improvement of the climate in Europe, but in bilateral terms as well, concerning Bulgaria and Turkey in particular.

Some difficulties may appear along this road, but the Bulgarian side will make efforts to overcome them. Bulgaria would like those of its citizens who leave for other countries, including Turkey, to harbour good feelings for their native land. The Bulgarian side will continue to take an active part in the CSCE process in all its aspects, including its human dimension and the contacts among people from various countries.
