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STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

Note by the Secretary-General

CORRIGENDUM

The following statement, received from the Government of Cambodia, should be inserted between the statements of the Governments of Brazil and Finland.

CAMBODIA

"... On the whole, resolutions B and C adopted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its ninth session are fully subscribed to in Cambodia.

This is at once apparent from a statement of the principles applied at all levels of education in Cambodia: these are the principles of tolerance and of the right to education of all persons resident in the Kingdom.

1. Education is compulsory: Everyone has a right to education. It is compulsory under the law for parents to send their children of either sex to school on attaining the prescribed age, except in case of serious illness or established indigence or where the school is too far away. Pursuant to these provisions the State is required to build schools and train teachers in sufficient number. In the enjoyment of this right the ethnic minorities are placed on an equal footing with nationals.
2. Education is free: National education is free at all levels for both nationals and aliens. In addition, the Government awards scholarships each year to deserving pupils whose parents are in difficult circumstances. Cambodian schools also admit aliens and on the same terms as nationals.
3. Education is non-religious: Education in Cambodia at all levels is neutral in matters of religion and politics. Only the universal truths, like the scientific truths, are taught. There is no religious instruction

in schools, even in the schools built, maintained and staffed by priests (Buddhists). Parents accordingly need have no fear for the conscience of their children.

Very broad tolerance in everything pertaining to race, colour, religion and political opinion is the basic feature of Cambodian education.

With regard to sex, the fact that there are fewer women than men in schools, Government service and industry is not due to the existence of any particular barrier to them. Special efforts are now being made to ensure that at least as many girls as boys attend school.

In truth, very few countries can claim to offer as neutral and tolerant a type of schooling as that provided in Cambodia. In this respect Cambodia can claim a leading place in the community of nations, in the common effort to achieve international understanding and world peace."
