



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/44/411  
21 July 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

Forty-fourth session  
Items 101 and 107 of the provisional agenda\*

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Letter dated 21 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, the text of the statement made today by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, in reply to the statement made on 20 July 1989 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the subject of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the text of this statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 101 and 107 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

---

\* A/44/150.

ANNEX

Statement made on on 21 July 1989 by the spokesman of the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

The salient feature of the statement made by the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday is that the Zhivkov Administration has not deviated from its unserious, insincere and intransigent position based on denial of facts. It is regrettable that this has become manifest once again.

The assertions contained in the Bulgarian statement are as far from the truth as the assertion that there is no Turkish minority in Bulgaria or that our kinsmen, some of whom have been deported, while others have fled leaving behind all their possessions and whose total number reached the figure of 177,063 today, are "tourists".

The Turkish views that were made known to the Soviet Ambassador in Ankara with the request that they be transmitted to the Bulgarian side contained no element that had not been made public before. In any case, it could not be otherwise.

These views that were transmitted to the Bulgarian side were that we were requesting the ending of the inhuman oppression of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria and the full restoration of all the rights that had been taken away from our kinsmen. We also held the views that those of our kinsmen wishing to do so should be allowed to go to Turkey within the framework of a comprehensive emigration agreement and without prejudice to any of their rights.

We expressed our agreement with the dates proposed by the Bulgarian side in the views transmitted to us and also contained in the statement of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, we indicated clearly that we were not prepared to meet for the sake of meeting at either a technical or political level. In other words, we were not prepared to negotiate on an unclear basis. In brief, the Bulgarian side has been informed that if the Bulgarian Government is prepared to enter into negotiations with a view to ending the tragic situation of our kinsmen, which is being followed by mankind with universal revulsion and concern, and if an agenda can be prepared bearing in mind the humanitarian aspects and the gravity and urgency of the question, then we would be prepared to meet on the proposed dates.

The Bulgarian reply, which was transmitted to the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs by the Soviet Ambassador on 18 July 1989, revealed that the Zhivkov Administration is not seeking this type of meaningful negotiation but rather is trying to get this question dropped from the international agenda through a propaganda exercise. This demonstrates that the expected negotiation cannot take place. The statement made on 19 July 1989 was designed to counteract the efforts of the Bulgarian Government to mislead public opinion by twisting the facts.