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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTIETH SESSION

TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT
OR PUNISHMENT

Note verbale dated 12 August 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" in the agenda of the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

An explanatory memorandum is enclosed herewith in conformity with rule 20 of the above-mentioned rules of procedure.

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. An item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" has appeared on the agenda of the General Assembly since its thirtieth session, in 1975. Under this item the General Assembly, on 10 December 1984, adopted the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, without a vote. In a press statement, the Secretary-General referred to the Convention as an "extremely important milestone in the continuing efforts of the United Nations to promote and ensure greater respect for human rights".

2. It is proposed that, in conformity with the practice followed in the case of the other major human rights instruments, the consideration of the status of the International Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment take place under a separate agenda item. Under this item, consideration can be given also to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and to the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in general.