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**OSCE TOLERANCE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON PROMOTING
INTER-CULTURAL, INTER-RELIGIOUS AND INTER-ETHNIC
UNDERSTANDING
(Almaty, 12-13 June 2006)**

**THIRD SESSION
(Delivered in the Fourth Session)**

RIGHT OF REPLY

**BY AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

We heard in the preceding session a statement delivered on behalf of the United States in which reference was made to certain practices in my country, Turkey. Namely, criticism of Turkey's enforcement of its legislation on headgear in public places and on properties of certain religious foundations.

To put those remarks in perspective, firstly, they are not about tolerance. Secondly, they are lawful practices. Finally, the legality of the practice regarding headgear is upheld by the European Court of Human Rights.

On property disputes of foundations, I suggest the United States continues to monitor as legislation for redress and rectifying are in the works as part of our continuing reform effort.