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SOURCE Izhev.

DENY TURKISH ACCUSATIONS IN MINORITY PROBLEM;
NOTES FRIENDSHIP OF JEWISH MINORITY

BULGARIA TO PROVIDE TURKS PASSPORTS -- Sofia Izhev, 20 Aug 50

The statements recently made by Turkey, accusing the Bulgarian government of mistreating and forcibly evacuating the members of its Turkish minority, are entirely false and highly malignant. It is a matter of common knowledge that not a single member of the Turkish minority has been forced to leave Bulgaria against his will. Those who choose to emigrate, however, are not stopped; on the contrary, the Bulgarian government has proposed to the Turkish government that on a certain date the latter accept all persons of Turkish ancestry who wish to leave Bulgaria. On its part, the Bulgarian government will provide them with passports. But nothing seems to satisfy the Turks, whose only purpose is to cover their own shady maneuvers.

Radio Ankara has lost all restraint, insulting Bulgaria and carrying its arrogance so far as to call the country "a former Turkish province."

In the meantime, the Turkish population of Bulgaria continues to live undisturbed, and in large groups, at exactly the same places where it used to dwell before the liberation of the country from the Turkish yoke. It enjoys the same rights as the rest of the population, in complete contrast to the Bulgarian population of Eastern Thrace, persecuted in every manner by the Turkish government. Thus, for example, in Edirne, which was an important Bulgarian cultural center, there were three Bulgarian high schools, 14 preparatory and primary schools, and four Bulgarian churches. Now, there are only ruins in their place. The impressive building of the Bulgarian High School is empty, the doors are sealed, and the other buildings have been entirely or partly demolished. The same conditions are true in Istanbul, where most Bulgarian institutions have been taken over by the Turkish administration, and every trace of their Bulgarian origin completely obliterated. The entire province of Eastern Thrace, a Bulgarian land, has been fully "de-Bulgarized."

The Turks would do better to keep silent about national rights, freedom, and tolerance, and keep in mind that some crimes, however ancient, are never too old to be forgotten.

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JEW'S OFFER GIFT TO SOFIA MUNICIPAL SOVIET -- Sofia Izgrev, 14 Jul 50

The Jewish Scientific Institute and the Central Jewish Community have offered a valuable collection of books, documents, and various articles to the Archives Division of the Sofia Municipal Soviet. The act emphasizes the long-standing friendship between the Bulgarian people and the Jewish minority in the country.

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