

Telegram from Arthur Creech Jones on the negotiations between the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic (9 January 1948)

Caption: On 9 January 1948, the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Arthur Creech Jones, reports on the negotiations between the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia. He particularly mentions the message sent on 26 December 1957 by the Committee of Good Offices to the two opposing parties, which proposed a ceasefire taking the 'Van Mook line' as a demarcation line.

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SAVING

the Secretary of State for the Colonies

To the Officer Administering the Government of

Date 9 January, 1948.

No. Saving.

(1)	Singapore	No. 3
(2)	Malayan Union	No. 3
(3)	Hong Kong	No. 14

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INDONESIA

Committee of Good Offices appointed by the Security Council sent message on 26th December to both Dutch and Republicans calling attention to delays in progress and blaming both sides. They urged immediate action on points on which agreement in principle had already been reached and called for a truce. In order to expedite a settlement they made certain suggestions in two annexes. They reminded parties that a report to the Security Council was due and asked for early reply so that report could be made.

2. It is understood that first annex deals with cease fire arrangements, suggests a demarcation line approximating to Van Hook line and a neutral zone which would be controlled by Dutch and Republican police and investigated by Military Observers in places where Republicans claim that they have military forces within the line, and that second annex calls on each party to put forward proposals for applying Linggadjati principles so that with the help of Committee area of disagreement can be narrowed down. Dutch are requested meanwhile to cease their activities in connexion with creating separate states.

3. United Kingdom Consul General Batavia, though without official information, understands that Republicans have accepted these proposals with minor amendments and that Dutch have accepted most of them.

4. Dutch have issued in Batavia official communique dated 30th December announcing policy of Netherlands Government towards Indonesia. After sketching recent history and blaming Republican Government for unwillingness or inability to co-operate with Netherlands authorities during period of transition following signing of Linggadjati agreement, statement refers to Dutch commitment to protect against Republican threats populations which had organised themselves within framework of Linggadjati in these areas when order had been restored. Co-operation of such organisations must be accepted so that reliable police force could be formed to replace Netherlands troops whose police task had always been considered temporary. Statement concludes by saying nothing could be more gratifying to Netherlands than cessation of violence on the part of the Government of the Republic and guarantee of order and security which would make it possible to begin peaceful reconstruction of whole of Indonesia as a federal state. Guarantee would have to be provided by Member States and organized territories. Until United States of Indonesia has been established Netherlands Government remain responsible in last resort for security and liberty of those under their protection. They will only be justified in transferring that responsibility to a federal government which can guarantee that security and liberty

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