

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA.

NUMBERED LETTER

R-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
AL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA, CANADA.  
e. Canadian Embassy.  
The Hague.  
Future of Netherlands New Guinea  
Views of Natives

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TO: <i>Sheridan</i>
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REGISTRY

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Three Papuan advisers to the Dutch delegation at the United Nations General Assembly, Messrs. N. Jouwe, H. Womsiwor and N. Tanggahma, arrived in the Netherlands December 8th to join ten fellow-members of the New Guinea Council who are spending a month in this country. In a press interview Mr. Jouwe said Dutch-Indonesian talks on New Guinea would be useless since President Sukarno did not recognize the right of self-determination of the Papuans. His experience in New York had increased his optimism about the future of New Guinea since the United States, after twelve years of indecision, finally had recognized the right of self-determination of the Papuans.

2. Mr. Jouwe said he thought it possible New Guinea would be independent under Papuan leadership in the foreseeable future. He said he had noticed "too emotional and too sentimental a desire for the immediate and complete liquidation of colonialism" among many members of the United Nations. He and his two colleagues had contacted at the General Assembly many representatives of the Asian and African countries who were generally badly informed on New Guinea, considering it a mere Indonesian Katanga. Representatives of the Malayan Federation, Ceylon, Pakistan, Liberia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria had told the Papuan advisers that in opposing the Brazzaville resolution they had had to choose between their principles and their solidarity with Indonesia. The Ambassador of Ghana had said "We share your views completely and stand behind you but Nkrumah is a great friend of Sukarno's and therefore we have to vote against."

3. We met the three Papuans at a small and informal gathering at the home of the Australian Counsellor. They told us they expected the New Guinea Council would give its recommendation on the future of the colony to the Dutch Government in January. Mr. Womsiwor indicated he thought the best fate for his country lay in union with the part of New Guinea now

Karachi  
Lahore

under Australian control. He said it was unfortunate many members of the Afro-Asian group at the United Nations had not realized his people had more in common with the other inhabitants of the island than with the Indonesians. We asked Mr. Womsiwor how he viewed the Indonesian threats of a resort to arms. He replied he personally considered President Sukarno "capable of anything".

4. Mr. Womsiwor said members of the Indonesian delegation at the General Assembly had told Afro-Asian representatives the Papuans in the Dutch delegation were from Surinam in the former Dutch West Indies, not New Guinea. The latter in turn had told Afro-Asian representatives the four Papuans included in the Indonesian delegation were "only puppets of Sukarno".

5. The twenty-nine members of the New Guinea Council -- including the 23 native members -- are being brought to the Netherlands in groups of ten to familiarize themselves with problems of government and administration. Their general appearance and conduct indicate the efforts of the Dutch Government to create a native "elite" in New Guinea to speed the process of self-determination are meeting with some success. The Australian Counsellor told us the Papuans he had met here under Dutch auspices compared more than favourably in intelligence, conduct and appearance with any natives of the Australian part of New Guinea he had met. This frank comment may not be appreciated in Canberra and we would request our colleagues there to safeguard it with their usual discretion.

*P. Malone*  
THE EMBASSY

\* P. S. - The ten-strong group currently in the Netherlands issued a communique December 20th stating it was "of paramount importance that the development phases of the Dutch and Australian parts of New Guinea continue to be tuned to each other without any anticipation of a possible political union of the two parts". According to the communique the group hoped that "a real possibility" could be found to start Dutch-Indonesian talks under conditions expressed in the Brazzaville resolution. The New Guinea Council should give every possible support to such talks providing they were continued "under certain conditions relating to the right of self-determination".