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MINISTERIE VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN
AFDELING VERBINDINGEN
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AAN: MINISTERIE VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN

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FC

CODETELEGRAM

Plaats van afzending: LONDEN

Datum van afzending: 11-3-55

Inhoud (Paraphrase) —

Datum van ontvangst: 11-3-55

ZIET GEHEIM

Hasselman werd heden door Allen ontboden. Deze stelde hem na een korte mondelinge uiteenzetting een informele aantekening ter hand waarvan de tekst hieronder volgt:

1. Arms for Indonesia. On December 7 last the Netherlands Ambassador left with Sir I. Kirkpatrick an aide memoire in which the hope was expressed that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to take measures to prevent military equipment, in particular equipment for amphibious operations, from being delivered to Indonesia until it was clear that the Indonesian Government had no intention of using such equipment for operations against Netherlands New Guinea. This demarche was made at a time when the Netherlands Government were anxious about the possible consequences of the New Guinea debate in the General Assembly of the United Nations.
2. We have hitherto been so cautious about granting export licences for arms to Indonesia that in effect there has been almost a complete ban. Our policy was based primarily upon our concern about the possibility of the smuggling of small arms from Indonesia to Malaya, and in general we were anxious not to add to the substantial stocks of arms in South East Asia which might get into the wrong hands.
3. On these more general grounds we doubt whether there is justification for maintaining the restrictive policy we have pursued hitherto. By and large we believe the Indonesian armed forces to be anti-communist and a relatively stable influence in the nation. We consider that it would be in our general interest to help the Indonesian Government to assert its authority within its own territories and that it would be in the particular interest of Malaya to supply equipment to the Indonesians which might help them to suppress or reduce smuggling and illegal immigration.
4. We also have to take into account the fact that during the four years 1950-1953 exports of arms, ammunition and military explosives reaching Indonesia from other countries amounted to at least the following values: Switzerland 4 million pound sterling, Belgium 3¼ million, Sweden 2¼ million, Italy 2½ million, Denmark 1½ million, West Germany 1 million, total 15½ million pound sterling. It is understood that representatives of a Netherlands firm trading in Indonesia are at present in this country seeking to purchase substantial quantities of small arms ammunition for the Indonesian Government.
5. It would be useful if we could receive a statement of the present views of the Netherlands Government on this matter. There might perhaps be certain items the import of which from this country to Indonesia would cause them especial anxiety. On the other hand, there might well be a wide range of other military or semi-military items the export of which would cause them

Ter beveiliging van code-verbindingen zijn o.a. de volgende punten van belang:—

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1. Op een codetelegram mag telegrafisch niet in open taal worden geantwoord.
2. Over de inhoud van een codetelegram mag niet met verwijzing naar dat telegram per telefoon worden gesproken.
3. Dossiers, welke codetelegrammen bevatten (ook in paraphrase), dienen veilig te worden opgeborgen.
4. Kladpapier, carbonpapier en dergelijke verband houdende met codetelegrammen dienen te worden verbrand (versnipperen is niet voldoende).

CODETELEGRAM

no particular concern. It would also be useful to know which other Governments have been approached by the Netherlands Government in this matter; and with what result.

6. There is one immediate order which a British firm is anxious to fulfil. This order is for five motor-torpedo-boats destined for the Indonesian police. In our view these vessels are a legitimate requirement for the maintenance of security and stability in an archipelago. The Australians see no objection to the proposed transaction. The total value of the order is about one million pond sterling. The vessels are not armoured but are made of wood with an aluminium sheating. They would be sold unarmed. The following are additional particulars: displacement 50 tons, length 71 feet, breadth 19 feet, draught 5 feet, designed speed 46 knots.
7. There is a possibility that because of the delay in giving official clearance for this sale the Indonesians may already have decided to take their order to a Norwegian firm. It seems certain that if there is to be any possibility of the British firm concerned securing this order they must be told that there is no official objection almost at once."

Daar, naar Allen zeide, het Foreign Office onder druk staat van het Ministry of Supply en de Board of Trade verzocht hij spoedigst, liefst binnen enkele dagen, de inzichten van de Nederlandse Regering te mogen vernemen. De argumenten, die door voormelde Ministeries worden aangevoerd, zijn vooral, dat belangrijke exportorders verloren gaan en dat andere landen zich van deze orders meester maken.

Hasselman heeft uiteraard toegezegd eerst om instructies te zullen vragen, doch hij heeft gemeend er reeds thans op te mogen wijzen, dat de Britse toestemming voor de export van motor-torpedo-boten, voor zover hij aannam, door ons niet gaarne gezien zou worden.

Allen gaf te verstaan dat, indien Nederland tegen deze order ernstige bezwaren had, het Foreign Office vermoedelijk wel bereid zou zijn ons ter wille te zijn. Gaarne spoedig bericht.

STIKKER 175.

NW/

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5. Afschriften van paraphrassen van codetelegrammen mogen uitsluitend door de afd. Verbindingen vervaardigd worden.