

*Plv. gezant te Canberra (Hasselmann) aan minister van Buitenlandse Zaken (Stikker), 11 feb. 1950*

Onderstaand telegram werd onder nr. 58 aan Dirvo geseind.

Heden werd ik bij Burton ontboden die mij een nota inzake Nieuw-Guinea overhandigde. Hieronder volgt de vrijwel letterlijke tekst van genoemde nota.

'Australian Government has not expressed view either in public or to Governments of Netherlands or United States of Indonesia. During recent Hague negotiations, Australian member of UNCI threw his weight behind postponement of decision when it was clear that Republican authorities were determined to bring Dutch New Guinea within USI. Netherlands authorities willfully appreciate Australia's vital strategic interests in Dutch New Guinea which are in fact no less than Australia's vital interests in Australian NG and Papua. Australian Government proposes to make quite clear to authorities in USI that it regards itself as directly concerned in the determination of the future administration of DNG. This further referred to in the last paragraph of this communication. Australian Government does not regard DNG as forming part of Indonesia. We believe that the peoples of DNG have little or nothing in common, except past common administration, with peoples of Indonesia. Their developmental problems are separate, and level of political development necessitates placing them in category quite different from states of USI. In fact, we regard DNG as having much in common from both ethnic, administrative and developmental point of view with our own territories of NG and Papua. Australian Government for these reasons would greatly appreciate at very early date exchanging views with Netherlands Government on future administration of NG. In particular it would appreciate being kept fully informed of any negotiations which take place between Netherlands authorities and other states. It may be that the Netherlands Government after examining problem may feel concerned about administrative and developmental problem which the territory presents and also defense expenditure which would be necessary to protect the territory. Ways in which the Australian Government may assist in these matters is the aspect of broad problem which we would request should be discussed before any change in the present status of the territory is contemplated. If your Government felt so inclined, the Australian Government would be prepared to consider even more fundamental proposals on the future control of the territory. In our view political and economic stability in the newly created USI is vital, not merely to our own security interests but also to those of all western peoples having interests in SE Asia. Inclusion of DNG however with USI would not in our view add to this stability and may in fact result in DNG being undeveloped, undefended and a major weakness in SE Asian strategic planning. Indeed we would view with profound misgivings any transfer of sovereignty to USI. Australian Government wishes to inform Netherlands Government that, subject to any contrary advice Netherlands Government may have to offer, it proposes to send a note to Government of USI emphasizing Australia's vital interests in future administration of the Dutch territory of New Guinea.'

Door Burton werd er speciaal op gewezen dat de Australische regering zich kon indenken dat de verdediging en de ontwikkeling van Nieuw-Guinea onoverkomelijke financiële lasten voor Nederland met zich mee kon brengen en dat de Australische regering er gaarne toe genegen was om daarin op ruime schaal bij te dragen, op een eventueel nader uit te werken wijze. De Australische regering heeft nota genomen van het feit dat de Nederlandse regering tot dusverre geen verklaringen in het openbaar heeft afgelegd met betrekking tot Nieuw-Guinea doch dat met name Sukarno dit wel doet. De Australische regering is derhalve van mening dat het in het belang van alle partijen is dat reeds thans haar standpunt wordt duidelijk gemaakt, aangezien zij ten eerste geïnteresseerd is. Vermoedelijk zal Spender terstond na de opening van het parlement op 23 Februari, vooral ook gezien de grote publieke belangstelling, een verklaring

over de buitenlandse politiek en speciaal inzake Nieuw-Guinea moeten afleggen. Hij is van oordeel dat het wenselijk is dat de Indonesische regering voordat een dergelijke verklaring wordt afgelegd wordt ingelicht omtrent het standpunt van de Australische regering. Indien U bezwaren hebt tegen een mededeling aan de Indonesische regering zoals bedoeld in de laatste alinea van bovenstaande nota moge ik U verzoeken mij Uw reacties en desiderata zo mogelijk voor het eind van de volgende week telegrafisch te berichten.