

*Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken (Beyen) en minister zonder portefeuille (Luns) aan plv. hoge commissaris te Djakarta (Van Ittersum), 22 nov. 1953*

BPM-Directie alhier lichtte ons vertrouwelijk in over volgende confidentiële informatie, langs eigen kanalen uit Londen ontvangen, nopens reactie Indonesische Ambassade aldaar op démarche Britse Gezant te Djakarta betreffende BPM-terreinen Noord-Sumatra.

"The Indonesian Ambassador visited the Foreign Office recently and in referring to the Aide-mémoire stated that he had been instructed to present a copy of the actual text used in the Government statement in Parliament. He pointed out that it was carefully drafted so as to be fairly vague and general in its terms and that it contained no reference to any immediate plans for taking over the oilfields. In fact the Government recognised that this was one of those problems that must be approached as gradually as the state of opinion would allow, and their chief aim was to delay taking any action for the time being. The Government were, in any case, well aware of the foreign interests involved and due account would be taken of those interests when the time came to contemplate a solution of the problem. A copy of this text is attached.

Dr. Subandrio went on to hint delicately that his Government found it somewhat embarrassing in its present difficulties both with the Achiness and with the Communists to receive communications on behalf of foreign interests such as had been found necessary to address to them, since it was damaging to the Government to be made to appear more vulnerable than it was already to the charge of undue deference towards foreign 'imperialism'.

The Ambassador was told that the Indonesian Government's grave difficulties were fully understood in London and that Her Majesty's Government wished them all success in solving them. It had, however, been felt that it was necessary to make quite sure that in any consideration that was being given to the problem of the oilfields in North-Sumatra the British interests were not being overlooked. It was, therefore, reassuring to learn that the Indonesian Government had no immediate action in mind and that they had taken note of the British interests at stake.' Bericht is gedateerd 29 October 1953.

Wij verzoeken U aan Morland mede te delen, dat wij menen uit Londen begrepen te hebben, dat Indonesische Regering gereageerd heeft op Britse nota inzake BPM-terreinen in Noord-Sumatra en hem te vragen of dit juist is en zo ja wat de inhoud van het antwoord was.

Indien Indonesië inderdaad op Britse nota heeft gereageerd, gelieve U Luar Negeri te laten blijken, dat Indonesische Regering op Britse stap antwoord heeft gegeven, en te vragen of wij ook nog enig antwoord op Nederlands aide-mémoire terzake kunnen verwachten.