

No. 4941.

New York, December 17, 1956.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to our conversation of October 16, 1956, concerning the use in United Nations documents of the term "West New Guinea" as an appellation for the territory of Netherlands New Guinea. You were then good enough to state your readiness to reconsider the relevant Secretariat instruction, in view of the formal request of the Netherlands Government that this instruction be withdrawn and that in all documents emanating from the Secretariat only the term "Netherlands New Guinea" be used. As I explained on that and on previous occasions, the latter appellation is the only correct one, constitutionally and legally, as the Indonesian claim on the territory cannot and does not alter the fact that Netherlands New Guinea is an overseas part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands under Netherlands sovereignty and administration.

It has been brought to the attention of the Netherlands Government that the instruction under reference applies not only to the United Nations Secretariat but also to the Specialized Agencies, as a result of which correspondence between the Government of Netherlands New Guinea and the Regional Office at Manila of the World Health Organization has suffered.

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To the Secretary General
of the United Nations.

The Netherlands Government has, therefore, directed me to ask you to be good enough to inform me of the result of your renewed consideration of your position in respect of its request that in United Nations documents and publications for which the Secretariat or the Specialized Agencies are responsible only the term "Netherlands New Guinea" be used.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

C.W.A. Schurmann.