

Nr. 2596/780.

Canberra, 15 October 1956.

Onderwerp:

Opmerkingen in het Australische
Parlement over Nederlands Nieuw Guinea.

Foto Bt. 144.439 148464

In aansluiting op mijn berichtgeving langs andere weg heb ik de eer Uwer Excellentie te berichten, dat bij de behandeling van de Begroting voor het Department of Territories enkele leden van het Huis van Afgevaardigden zowel van Regerings- als van Oppositie-zijde, Nederlands Nieuw Guinea bij hun opmerkingen betrokken.

Het Labour-lid C.A.A. Morgan begon zijn betoog met de opmerking dat de toekomst van Nieuw Guinea voor Australië steeds belangrijker werd, mede in het licht van de Indonesische aanspraken op Nederlands Nieuw Guinea. Hij noemde N. Guinea de Achilles-hiel van Australië en meende dat het uiteindelijk een gevaar voor dit land zou opleveren tenzij het doelmatig werd ontwikkeld hetzij door Australië zelf hetzij door een bevriende en democratische regering. Ik moge de volgende zinsnede aanhalen uit de toespraak van de Heer Morgan zoals die werd weergegeven in Hansard van 11 October 1956.

"Let us not make the mistake of being lulled into a sense of indifference or complacency about it. We cannot afford to ignore the storm warnings near our own shores. Only to-day it was announced that Indonesia had renewed at the United Nations, its insistent claim to Dutch New Guinea - this time with the support of fifteen Afro-Asian nations which have formed a bloc favorable to the claim. Recently Dr. Soekarno, the President of Indonesia, visited the United States of America to make an unsuccessful plea for that country's support of his claim. Last week, be it marked, he was fêted in Peking by the Communists. Moreover, Mao Tse-tung, who is at the head of Communist China, pledged the support of that country to Indonesia's claim to Dutch New Guinea.

Surely the indigenous people of New Guinea should have some say in the determination of their future? The memorandum submitted by Indonesia to the United Nations is as follows: -

Dutch New Guinea continues to be a cancer in Indonesian-Dutch relations.

-It-

Zijner Excellentie
de Heer Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken
te
's-GR A V E N H A G E .-
c.c. Z.E. de Gouverneur van N.N. Guinea.

DOSSIER G 422

" It will continue to be an irritant in Indonesian-Australian relations also while Indonesia adopts its present attitude. Communist China is using Indonesia as a pawn in its own game just as Russia has been using Egypt and the Arab countries in its drive for world conquest."

Ook de volgende spreker, de Heer C.W.J. Falkinder (Liberaal) die bekend staat om zijn openhartige uitspraken, maakte melding van het dispuut over Nederlands Nieuw Guinea. Het trok de aandacht dat na zijn opmerking: "In my opinion, we should be utterly foolish not to take the strongest possible stand against New Guinea becoming a part of Indonesia" de Deputy Leader van de Oppositie, de Heer Calwell, interrumppeerde: "Hear, hear! You can say that again". Hierop vervolgde de Heer Falkinder:

" I should be surprised if any member of this Parliament had a different opinion. Although many people in New Guinea feel that there is insufficient interest taken in Australia in regard to this particular problem, I think that they can be assured that, at least in this Parliament, there is a very strong desire to maintain in Dutch New Guinea people who are very friendly towards Australia, because New Guinea can be described as our front doorstep."

Toen de Heer Calwell het woord kreeg besprak hij met name de opvattingen die ten aanzien van de toekomst van Nieuw Guinea leefden onder de autochthone bevolking:

" In their view, it would be better for the whole of the part of the island of New Guinea which we administer to be incorporated in the Commonwealth than to allow it to be threatened by Indonesians and others who might covet an opportunity to occupy it."

" If we were ever foolish enough to agree to any of the suggestions that are being put forward by Indonesia to-day, not only should we seal the doom of the indigenous people of New Guinea - they do not like the word "native" - but we should endanger our own security as well. What the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. Falkinder) said was perfectly true, and I entirely agree with him."

Toen de Minister for Territories, de Heer Hasluck, het woord nam om te repliceren op een aantal door andere

leden naar voren gebrachte punten, merkte hij o.a. op:

"This afternoon several honorable members referred to the future of western New Guinea. It is not within my province to comment on international relations; any statement regarding our relations as a nation towards the Dutch or the Indonesians will be made by my colleague, the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Casey). However, I want to say - and this is a point on which I agree most emphatically with the remarks made by honorable members this afternoon - that in deciding what is to happen in the long term in western New Guinea there seems to me to be one paramount consideration and that is the interests and the rights of the indigenous people. The imperialism of Indonesia, or, if you like, the imperialism of the Dutch, is a lesser consideration in deciding how to do the right thing than are the rights and interests of the indigenous people. I think that that is the one factor which, in international discussion, is being forgotten and overlooked. Every one talks about the Indonesian claim, the Dutch claim or somebody else's claim, but how seldom do people ask, "What is best for the indigenous people?". I could develop that point to express my own views but, as at the moment we are dealing with our own territories, I shall not trespass further on the field of international relations."

De opmerkingen van de vier hier boven bedoelde leden van het Huis van Afgevaardigden werden in de Australische pers vrij uitvoerig weergegeven. Tot op heden is mij echter geen redactioneel commentaar onder ogen gekomen.

De Ambassadeur,

W. G.
A. M. L. Winkelman.