

C o p y.

Canberra, 13th Nov. 1957.

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Minister for External Affairs

My dear Ambassador,

Following the discussions held yesterday between Mr. G. Ph. Helders, Minister for Affairs Overseas in the Netherlands Government, on the one hand, and Mr. P.M.C. Hasluck, Australian Minister for Territories, and myself on the other, I desire to confirm that the attached memorandum embodies the agreement reached between the Ministers mentioned on further measures, to be recommended to their respective Governments, designed to improve the level of co-operation between the Netherlands and Australian Governments in the administration of their respective territories in New Guinea.

With regard to paragraph 4(e) in the accompanying memorandum, envisaging an exchange of information on territorial matters through the respective Embassies of the two Governments, Mr. Helders suggested that the Netherlands Government might wish to attach to the Netherlands Embassy in Canberra a senior officer of the Department of Affairs Overseas, whose function it would be to maintain regular liaison on territorial matters with the Departments of External Affairs and of Territories, and other government departments concerned with the development of the Australian territory. Mr. Hasluck and I assured Mr. Helders that, should the Netherlands Government decide to make such appointment, this would be welcomed by the Australian Government.

Upon receipt of advice from you that the proposed measures have the concurrence of the Netherlands Government, and after the approval of the Australian Government has been obtained, the Australian Government Departments concerned will immediately take the steps necessary for their implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Signed.

(R. G. CASEY)

Minister for External Affairs

His Excellency Mr. A.H.J. Lovink,
Ambassador of the Netherlands,
Royal Netherlands Embassy,
120 Empire Circuit,
Yarralumla,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

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Memorandum of agreement on Measures for improving the level of
Co-operation between Australian and Netherlands Territories
in New Guinea

- The general purpose is that co-operation should take place naturally and without fuss in the course of the administration of each of the two Territories and that it should take place on actual practical tasks being carried out in the Territories.
- To make such co-operation effective it is necessary to have some understanding of the ultimate objectives which both Governments have in mind. This means that there is also a need for discussion from time to time between those responsible for directing the administration of the Territories. Such discussion can best be arranged to deal with actual situations and problems as they arise or seem likely to arise.
- To ensure that the intention to co-operate is carried out effectively there is need for a regular exchange of information and for some central direction of the ways in which further measures of co-operation might be developed.
- The immediate measures suggested are:-
 - (a) Liaison officers to be appointed from each Administration at the headquarters of the other Administration (i.e. Port Moresby and Hollandia).
 - (b) Arrangements to be made for senior officers from both Netherlands New Guinea and Australian New Guinea to meet at Canberra, as required, with senior officers of the Australian Department of Territories, other Commonwealth Departments and the Netherlands Department of Affairs Overseas.
 - (c) A definite date, say in May or June, 1958, to be set for the first meeting in Canberra. At that meeting each of the Territorial Administrations will report on the measures of administrative co-operation already taken or proposed to be taken and particular questions which have been raised by either Administration will be discussed.
 - (d) Discussion to take place between the Netherlands Minister for Overseas Affairs and the Australian Minister for Territories when occasion requires an exchange of Ministerial views on policies affecting both Territories.
 - (e) A full and regular exchange of information on Territorial matters to be continued through the Embassies of the Netherlands and of Australia at Canberra and The Hague.
 - (f) Having regard to the nearness of Australia to New Guinea and the ease of travel between Biak and Canberra the Australian Government encourages the Administration of Netherlands New Guinea to make use of any facilities for research or investigation that may be more readily available in Australia than in the Netherlands.
- 5. These arrangements relate only to co-operation between the two Governments in the administration of their respective territories, and do not affect existing arrangements for normal inter-governmental consultation and diplomatic relations.

Canberra,
12th November, 1957.