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Aide-mémoire t.b.v. de besprekingen met de Australische Minister for Territories, Paul Hasluck, op 24 mei 1960.

The confidential memorandum of agreement on measures for improving the level of co-operation between Australian and Netherlands territories in New Guinea, which was drawn up on 12th November 1957 at Canberra after talks between Prime Minister Menzies, Minister Casey, Minister Hasluck and Minister Helders, suggests in para 4(d) that "discussions 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".

The Netherlands Government believes that such a discussion at this time would be most useful and welcomes the opportunity which the visit of Minister Hasluck offers in this respect.

Recent developments in non-self-governing territories in Africa, e.g. Belgian Congo, show that time is working against the realisation of concepts of administering powers which aim at a gradual social, economic and political development of their dependent territories in a lawful and orderly way.

The course of events seems to indicate that similar forces as are working in Africa at this moment will operate in New Guinea in the not too distant future and that it will be increasingly difficult for the Australian and Netherlands Governments to maintain harmonious relations with the indigenous populations in their territories on the one hand and on the other hand cope with an increasingly critical and hostile attitude of a majority of powers organized in the United Nations Organisation and oppose a world opinion that strongly favours the abolition of "colonial" tenures.

The Netherlands Government believes that in order to cope with this situation - with which in fact all countries administering non-self-governing territories are faced - it will not only be necessary, but even inevitable to keep ahead of events.

The Netherlands Government has therefore decided to accelerate the economic, social and educational development, and notably the political development, of the Netherlands part of New Guinea as much as will be feasible with a view to advancing the moment of native self-determination as much as possible.

The Netherlands Government would welcome a similar evaluation of the position by the Australian Government.

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In the opinion of the Netherlands Government the joint Australian-Netherlands statement of 6th November 1957 constitutes an adequate basis for the advancement of both territories.

The present co-operation fulfils definite requirements in the actual administration and contributes substantially towards the realization of the objectives of the two administrations to educate the indigenous population and develop the resources of both territories.

However, it is the considered opinion of the Netherlands Government that a further extension and consolidation, and notably a raising of the level of the Australian-Netherlands co-operation in New Guinea, should be the natural consequence of the common doctrine of the two Governments which base their policies in New Guinea on jointly agreed principles, aiming at the development of their territories to the point where the indigenous population will find itself in a position to determine its own political future.

After the television interview of the Australian Prime Minister of August 2, 1959, in which Mr. Menzies expressed his hopes of the development into an independent nation of native New Guinea citizens conducting their own affairs, the Netherlands Government believed to have reason for the expectation that the Australian Government would be prepared to expand the co-operation to a joint policy regarding the political advancement of the indigenous peoples of New Guinea.

It has been a major disappointment to the Netherlands Government that the Australian Government has not seen its way to agree to such a course of action.

In administering the Western part of the island and in raising the economic, social and political standards of the indigenous population the Netherlands Government does not pursue a political or economic aim. Its sole purpose is to meet its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. In fact Netherlands New Guinea is only a liability to the Netherlands.

The Netherlands Government has made it abundantly clear that it has no intention to "pull out". It intends to continue the development of the territory and is prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to this end, however unrewarding the pursuance of this task may be, until such time as the indigenous population will be ready to make an independent choice as to their political future, whatever that choice may be.

The realization of this goal, however, is primarily dependent on the inviolability of Netherlands New Guinea.

The recent threatening attitude adopted by the Indonesian authorities has forced the Netherlands Government to reinforce the defense of the territory to meet, and as is hoped, to prevent emergencies short of all-out aggression. But there is a limit to the resources

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of the Netherlands.

The actual effect of diplomatic activity of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, aimed at preventing Indonesia to use force, is problematic in the opinion of the Netherlands Government.

What the Netherlands need is an unambiguous, publicly announced promise of intervention and military aid in case of unprovoked Indonesian aggression.

The Netherlands Government believes that a statement to this effect by the Australian Government - and if possible endorsed by the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America - would act as a major deterrent to prevent military adventures undertaken against Netherlands New Guinea.

The Netherlands Government believes that Australia, being a member of ANZUS and SEATO, is in a favourable position to obtain a promise of adequate support and security from the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The Netherlands Government appreciates the difficulties which confront Australia in view of the desirability to maintain harmonious relations with Indonesia and other Asian countries. Nevertheless, in the opinion of the Netherlands Government the political and military inviolability of Netherlands New Guinea is of even greater importance to Australia than it is to the Netherlands.

If such a guarantee for the maintenance of peace and the averting of aggression cannot be obtained, the further pursuance of the purely ethical task the Netherlands have set themselves in New Guinea may well be jeopardized.