

copy

July 31, 1962.

SECRET

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am sending you this personal and private message to tell you how pleased I am that the prospects for a mutually acceptable agreement with Indonesia on West New Guinea are now so promising. I feel that this is due, in very great measure, to your own statesmanship and to the skill and patience of Ambassador van Roijen who has acted most effectively on your behalf. I know also that the conversations between Foreign Minister Luns and Secretary Rusk have clarified the key issues as you have seen them and have facilitated agreement.

I understand that all major points have been satisfactorily concluded in the final text completed today by Ambassador van Roijen and Mr. Subandrio. We feel, as you do, that the exercise of self-determination by the Papuans, as stipulated in the agreement, must be genuine in order that the rights of the local population be fully respected. I am confident that the great majority of the other members of the United Nations will make clear that they expect this to be the case.

In conclusion, I should like to express the hope that these arrangements will open the way for a full and fruitful relationship between the Netherlands and Indonesia. I am convinced that a resumption and development of these ties can mean a great deal both to your own country and to all of us who count you as friends and allies.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

(s) John F. Kennedy

His Excellency
Prof. Dr. J. E. de Quay,
Prime Minister of The Netherlands,
The Hague!

SECRET

Nummer - 6172

Bijlage

SECRET

The Hague, September 1962.

Dear Mr. President,

Since the agreement between The Netherlands and Indonesia on West New Guinea has been duly ratified and the General Assembly of the United Nations has endorsed its contents I wish to acknowledge your personal and private message of July 31st on this subject.

I learnt with satisfaction from your letter that you feel, as we do, that the exercise of self-determination by the Papuans must be genuine in order that the rights of the local population be fully respected. However, in the light of the provisions of the agreement, the Papuan population feel grave doubts about their future and the Netherlands Government entirely understands their apprehension. I sincerely hope, that the future will show that we were too pessimistic in this respect and that the United Nations will see to the full implementation of the agreement. If that were to be the case, we still might subscribe to your qualifying the solution satisfactory.

With personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,