

A F S C H R I F T .

AMBASSADE VAN HET KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN  
WASHINGTON 9, D.C.

No. 9687-707 GS/1919

26 Augustus 1955

GEHEIM.

[no 6737]

Bezoek Sir Percy Spender aan  
Latino-landen.

117821-4497 G.S.

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Met verwijzing naar mijn berichtgeving langs andere weg heb ik de eer Uwer Excellentie hiernevens aan te bieden een mij ter persoonlijke en vertrouwelijke kennisneming door de Australische Raad verstrekt résumé, opgesteld door de Australische Ambassadeur hier ter stede, naar aanleiding van de besprekingen door hem gevoerd over de kwestie van Nederlands Nieuw Guinea tijdens de reis, welke hij naar een aantal Latino-landen heeft ondernomen.

De wnd. Permanent Vertegenwoordiger van Nederland bij de Verenigde Naties heeft mij medegedeeld, dat Sir Percy Spender, die onmiddellijk na terugkeer hier ter stede naar New York is doorgereisd, hem mondeling omtrent deze reis heeft ingelicht, doch hiernevensgaande optekening geeft m.i. nog een nuttig ~~hou~~ vast.

Mijn Australische collega heeft er de nadruk op gelegd dat hiernevensgaande optekening uiteraard ter kennis van ~~de~~ de Nederlandse regering kan worden gebracht, doch heeft er bijzonder op aangedrongen dat niet naar buiten blijken zal, dat wij in het bezit van deze schriftelijke gegevens zijn.

De Tijdelijk Zaakgelastigde,  
w.g. S.G.M. Van Voorst Tot Voorst.

Zijner Excellentie  
de Heer Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken  
te 's-GRAVENHAGE.

cc. P.V. te New York.

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

Following is summary of discussions on Dutch New Guinea:•

(a) Columbia.

I thanked Foreign Minister Sourdis for role Columbia had played in debate last Assembly. Said matter would be raised by Indonesia this coming Assembly and would appreciate their continued support. He replied thanking me for my remarks upon Columbia's role. He fully understood issues. Their attitude had been and would continue "to be based on principle". He remarked he had been unable to understand U.S.A. abstention. I replied due in my judgment to over caution. He was very friendly.

(b) Ecuador.

In absence of Foreign Minister, Pene Herrera, I called on President. I took opportunity to go into New Guinea issue at some length. (I had heard that Trujillo had returned from Indonesia more their way than before). I said I was aware of support they had previously given Indonesia and asked that question should be re-examined. He directed a number of questions to me from which I gathered he had previously not had much to do with the matter. He was particularly interested when I spoke of danger to indigenous population of extremist penetration and infiltration. He promised to have whole matter reexamined in light of considerations I advanced.

(c) Peru.

In absence of Foreign Minister in Venezuela I saw Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Freudt Rosell. To him I explained our position. He said my arguments were cogent and appealed to him. Subsequently I had a long and friendly talk with Doctor Letts (Head of U.N. Division of Ministry of External Affairs). I gather he is the man who really calles the shots on U.N. matters. He gave me clearly to understand that Peru would continue to support Australian viewpoint.

(d) Panama.

I called on Foreign Minister Fabrega (whom I know) with Henderson, British Ambassador. Also present were Doctor Carlos Arosemena, Secretary General of Ministry, and Salcedo, Chief of Protocol. Unfortunately Fabrega, who is very friendly, is shortly

-to resign-

to resign and return to his private practice at law and Arosemena will resign with him.

I expressed appreciation of support we had received from them last Assembly on Dutch New Guinea issue. I said issue would rise again this forthcoming Assembly and would appreciate their continued support. Went into issue rather fully. Fabrega said he "would think" that Panama would again adopt same attitude as they did last year when it had voted against 8 power resolution "as a matter of principle". He did not however specifically commit himself. (I suggest we concentrate upon the U.N. representative Morales).

(e) Costa Rica.

Called in company with Hickson, British Chargé d'Affaires, on Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mario Esquivel, and Vice-Minister Roberto Canas (whom I knew and will, I understand, head delegation at U.N.).

I went into Dutch New Guinea issue at some length. Asked him if it were possible for Costa Rican delegation at forthcoming Assembly to change its vote and support Australian viewpoint and if they were not able to go that far at least to abstain on the voting. He asked many questions which either I or Canas answered. Finally (for what it is worth) he said he would give consideration to my request "with full sympathy". During course of discussion during which I stressed that it was the interests of indigenous population that were paramount irrespective of any agreement between Dutch and Indonesians Canas observed that perhaps First Committee could say matter was not one for it to deal with and refer it to the Committee dealing with Trusteeship and Dependent Territories who might decide to appoint a Commission to enquire into ethnic factors, etc. I incline to think Canas will have deciding voice on this whole matter.

(f) Nicaragua.

I called on Doctor Rene Schick, (Counsellor to President) acting in place of Minister who was attending meeting of Organization of Central American States in Guatemala.

Schick thought there would be no difficulty in supporting Australian viewpoint.

(h) Honduras.

In the absence of Foreign Minister (who had gone to Guatemala for meeting of CCAS) I called on Doctor Arriaga (second in Charge of Foreign Affairs Ministry). I was accompanied by Coghill, British Minister.

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I went over the usual arguments and asked whether it would be possible to change their vote or abstain should matter come up again at forthcoming Assembly. He said that Doctor Carlos Izaquirre their U.N. representative would be in Tegucigalpa within a few days and when the Foreign Minister had returned they would be conferring on questions likely to arise in U.N.. He said they would carefully consider arguments I had raised and see whether "they could do anything to help". He went on to say that in absence of Foreign Minister he could not make any commitment but he thought they would wish in interest of goodwill to do all they could to meet Australia's viewpoint. He suggested that I might raise matter with Chief of State, Doctor Julio Lozano, when I saw him, which I did. After I had developed arguments quickly and briefly Doctor Lozano said he would discuss matter with Minister for Foreign Affairs on his return and would see what they could do.

This lead in will need to be followed up at appropriate time through good offices of British Minister.

(h) El Salvador.

With Holt, British Minister, and Chippendale from British Legation, who acted as interpreter, called upon President, Colonel Oscar Osorio. Since Foreign Minister in Guatemala raised issue of New Guinea with him. I was with him about an hour. He understands English fairly well though he does not speak it. After referring to fact that last year El Salvador had sponsored 8 power resolution I asked whether it would be possible for El Salvador to review its attitude to this question. He was cordial and friendly and finally asked me to leave him an Aide Memoire when he would personally give matter his consideration.

Holt is to deliver to President Aide Memoire which I prepared together with a personal covering letter from myself.

I gathered from Holt that Doctor Urquia, their U.N. representative, has very considerable authority and latitude in U.N. matters. Holt thinks that despite President's friendly reception of me we should not expect too much, indeed anything, particularly since President has to meet an election next year and will be anxious to avoid difficulties.

We should however seek good offices of Holt to follow matter up.

(i) Guatemala.

Foreign Minister absent from Guatemala City at Antigua for meeting of O.C.A.S.

With Allen, British Minister, called upon President, Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas. During interview opportunity came to

raise question of New Guinea (Allen acting as interpreter) and he was made acquainted with Australian viewpoint. I thanked him for assistance we had received from his delegation last Assembly when they had abstained and expressed hope that at forthcoming Assembly they might see fit to vote with Australia. President said he admired Australia and would do what he could to "cooperate".

After discussion with Allen I decided to ask him to procure from Holt at El Salvador copy of my Aide Memoire which he would use with consequential alteration as an aide memoire to leave with the President when he sees him, as he proposes to do, to follow up the matter.

(j) Mexico.

I had a long talk alone with Foreign Minister Nervo. He fully understood Australia's special interests in New Guinea question. Mexico however had to be careful how they expressed themselves. They would follow same line as at last Assembly. Gave me sympathetic hearing.

(k) Cuba.

Immediately on arrival I called upon President Batista who asked me many questions about Australia and gave me opportunity to speak about Dutch New Guinea, on which he was quite uninformed. He showed considerable interest, particularly when I spoke of interests of native people.

(l) Venezuela.

I raised question of Dutch New Guinea with Foreign Minister (Doctor Otanez). He stressed the difficulties that Venezuela has in dealing with "colonial issues". I went into arguments to establish that this was not one. Only when I spoke of the possibility of Communist infiltration into Dutch New Guinea and then possibly further was he really much interested. He did, however, promise - for what it is worth - to look into matter again for forthcoming Assembly. (Dutch Ambassador has previously told me of his efforts to persuade Venezuela to adopt a favourable or not unfavourable attitude).