

*Hoge commissaris te Djakarta (Hirschfeld) aan minister van Uniezaken en Overzeese Rijksdelen (Van Maarseveen), 13 aug. 1950*

Tevens bestemd voor Stikker.

Ontving van Doolittle, Voorzitter UNCI, een brief d.d. 11 dezer met afschrift van de brief van Hatta aan UNCI d.d. 10 dezer.

[de aangehaalde tekst van doc. no 1384]

Waarop ik heden als volgt antwoordde:

'Sir,

Have honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter nr. 874 of 11 August 1950, forwarding the letter addressed by Prime Minister of the RUSI to the Chairman of the UNCI.

As you have invited my comments on the contents of last mentioned letter, I avail myself of this opportunity to bring the following considerations to notice of your Commission.

I would in the first place draw attention to the psychological factors which have, since transfer of sovereignty and as a result of the reorganisation of the KNIL - unavoidably - caused certain mental tensions. The delay in publication of conditions of transfer laid down by Government of RUSI and consequent anxiety of the members of KNIL concerning their future, have not failed to increase these mental tensions. Some irresponsible elements have found in the measures taken by the Government of the RUSI in view of political changes and formation of the unitary state a pretext for making use of the above mentioned tensions for their own ends, with result that incidents and disturbances, such as the Prime Minister mentions in his letter, have occurred.

During my frequent consultation with his Excellency the Prime Minister I have, in the past, repeatedly mentioned these trends and I have found that Indon. authorities realised dangers inherent in situation.

In those cases where disturbances have actually occurred, the Netherlands Government have done everything in its power to discharge its obligations and to overcome the mutual distrust between Neth. and Indon. military personnel which the said disturbances had inflamed. In this connection I would recall occurrences on the Island of Amboina where the Neth. army command was forced to expel from KNIL those troops who refused to obey order to embark for transfer to a different location.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the power of the Neth. commanders to enforce discipline amongst their troops was adversely affected by the dislocation and removal of various units by the implementation of RTC agreement. This removal left the commanders in charge of an army in process of being disbanded and without the means of wielding authority that only a well organised army can provide.

Furthermore conditions on Amboina were such as to render it impossible to redirect demobilised Amboinese with their families to their place of origin, in the manner foreseen in the reorganisation agreement which was worked out and carried into effect in close cooperation with RUSI.

When KNIL was dissolved on 26 July a solution for the problem of the return of this group had not yet been found and it was then agreed that Netherlands Government should grant KL-status to these former members of KNIL that being considered the best means by which Neth. Government might implement responsibility which it has assumed for these troops.

Nevertheless it has proved impossible to prevent a second outbreak of disturbances in Makassar where the feelings aroused by occurrences during the month of May have now flared

up anew. This outbreak is deeply regretted by Neth. Government which is not aware of having omitted anything within its power either to prevent its happening or to cooperate with the Indon. authorities to effect a cease fire at the earliest possible moment and to safeguard the interests of both soldiers and civilian population.

It would seem fair to state - whatever opinion may be held concerning the apportionment of guilt for events in Makassar and other parts of Indonesia referred to in the Prime Minister's letter - these events were in any case beyond the control of Neth. Government alone.

In the view of Neth. Government the only solution for these problems, guaranteeing prevention of the occurrence of incidents of the kind which have happened in the past, is to be found in constructive cooperation between the 2 Governments. Neth. Government is willing to lend its wholehearted support to such cooperation and agrees with Government RUSI in welcoming any suggestions that UNCI may wish to make to this end.'