

*Ambassadeur te Canberra (Teppema) aan minister van Buitenlandse Zaken (Stikker), 10 mei 1950*

Onderstaand telegram werd onder 5 tevens aan Dirvo gezonden.

Heden ontving ik een nota d.d. 10 Mei van Spender in antwoord op nota en aide-mémoire bedoeld in mijn 3. Hieronder volgt de vrijwel letterlijke tekst:

'I wish say first of all, how much Australian Government appreciates the clear and frank statement of policy and views of Netherlands Government. The information contained in your note will be of great value to Australian Government in determining its course in relation to NNG. We find ourselves in general agreement with the points set out in aide-mémoire, though there is one important aspect which is not dealt with except in the conclusion, and that is, what may be the course of events if matter is referred to Security Council. It seems to us that this is a likely development of events, regardless of whatever might be done in meantime to avoid it. As already indicated we believe that discussion in Security Council might not lead to favourable results and on the contrary might bring about in S.E. Asia open conflict between Asian countries on one hand and Western powers on other which from our point of view we think it highly desirable to avoid in relation to question of Indonesia. It was having such developments in mind that Australian Government decided upon informing Indonesian authorities of our view so that when ultimately each Government was required to make public its attitude, there would be no feeling that we had in any way misled Indonesian authorities. We considered that our strategic interests were so obvious to all that we were fully justified in putting forward view that if there were to be any change in sovereignty the Australians had a clear claim to participation in future administration of NNG. Question which remains is whether, assuming matter will ultimately be referred to UN, action along these lines by Australian Government will in any way prejudice objectives of the Netherlands in retaining sovereignty or of Australia in ensuring a position which will satisfy Australian security interests. Our judgement has been that rather than allow to develop before Security Council dispute between Indonesia on one hand and Netherlands on other and consequent alignment that it seems to us such a dispute would necessarily involve, it would be preferable for Australia to make public this interests and claims. Effect of this would be that issue before Security Council would not be confined to relative merits of claims between Indonesians and Dutch but would be broader question of what should be future administration of NG in event of a change in present status. It is our view that placed on this basis matter might be far more objectively handled and a probable alignment against colonial powers avoided. To be more specific if for example an Asian Government were faced in UN with sole choice between Dutch administration and Indonesian administration it might feel obliged, for political reasons, to lend its support to Republic. If on other hand question was whether Dutch administration should cease and which country should have administrative responsibility, such a Government might very likely take view that Republic had no reasonable place in NNG. This is question of judgement and that of Australian Government at moment is that wisest procedure would be for Australian Government to pursue its plan formally to present note to Indonesian authorities making quite clear:

1. that it does not regard Indonesia as having any claim to NG; and,
2. that if there is change of status contemplated Australian Government would press its own claims from a security point of view.

I wish repeat how helpful it has been to Australian Government to be able exchange views with Netherlands Government on this matter and how much full and frank statement of policy by Netherlands is appreciated. We would still welcome any comments on course we propose to pursue but in absence of further comments Australian Ambassador Djakarta will be asked to present early next week formal note along lines indicated.'