

*Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken (Stikker) aan plv. ambassadeur te Canberra (Hasselman), 17 feb. 1950*

Referte Uw telegrammen 75 en 76.

Verzoeke aan Australische Regering volgende nota overhandigen als eerste reactie op Australische nota:

'I beg leave to refer to Your note of ... nr. ... concerning New Guinea which is now subject to a detailed study by the Netherlands Government.

Pending the results of this examination I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

1. I am authorized to state that the Australian Government's offer of support with regard to the New Guinea issue has been highly appreciated.
2. Preliminary discussions with the RUSI concerning the problems arising from the issue are to be expected at the first Unionconference of ministers. In view of this, great importance is attached to the avoidance of anything which might influence the harmonious atmosphere between the partners of the Netherlands Indonesian Union.
3. Any immediate step in connection with the New Guinea problem undertaken by a third power will, it is believed, necessarily touch the Indonesian sentiments, and may thus risk the frustration of an objective approach to the problem at stake.

This would not be in the interests of either the Netherlands or Australia.

4. I wish to state that the Netherlands Government has not the intention of taking decisive steps with regard to New Guinea in the near future.

5. The Netherlands Government will not fail to revert to the contents of the Australian Government's note in due course.'

Mogelijk kunt U ondershands nog voorzichtig wijzen op grote belang van geheimhouding der notawisseling.