

**REPORT**  
**OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**NEW GUINEA (IRIAN)**

**1950**

**PART I**

**PREFACE**

**PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
NETHERLANDS-INDONESIAN UNION**

## PREFACE





## *Introduction*

At the Round Table Conference which took place from 24th August till 2nd November 1949 agreement was reached between parties in so far that in the transfer of sovereignty by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia on 27th December 1949 the territory of the Residency New Guinea would not be included. In this respect the following provision was made:

1. In clause 2 of the Charter of Transfer of Sovereignty it was agreed that the status quo of the Residency New Guinea was to be maintained with the stipulation, "that within a year from the date of transfer of sovereignty to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia the question of the political status of New Guinea be determined through negotiations between the Republic of the United States of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands"
2. In the agreement concerning the assignment of Citizens it was stipulated in the note attached to it that in respect of the nationality of the inhabitants of New Guinea, in case the sovereignty over this territory is not transferred to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia, nothing is decided in said agreement of assignment.

During the First Conference of Ministers in the frame of the Netherlands-Indonesian Union, which Conference was held from 25th March till 1st April, the discussions on the question New Guinea resulted to have the negotiations which were to lead to the determination of the political status of New Guinea/Irian, meant in the Charter, prepared by a Committee to be set up to this end.

The Conference of Ministers of the partners in the Netherlands-Indonesian Union therefore passed a resolution of 1st April 1950 No. MC I/C II/1/G.T. to set up Committee to that end.

### *1. Instruction of the Committee*

The instruction of the Committee is embodied in the previously mentioned Resolution (of the First Conference of Ministers), reading as follows:

The Conference of Ministers of the partners in the Netherlands-Indonesian Union, convened in a meeting at Jakarta on 1st April 1950, taking into consideration that clause 2 of the Charter of Transfer of Sovereignty reads:

„With regard to the Residency of New Guinea it is decided:

- a. in view of the fact that it has not yet been possible to reconcile the views of the parties on New Guinea, which remains, therefore, in dispute,
- b. in view of the desirability of the Round Table Conference concluding successfully on 2 November 1949,
- c. in view of the important factors which should be taken into account in settling the question of New Guinea,
- d. in view of the limited research that has been undertaken and completed with respect to the problems involved in the question of New Guinea,
- e. in view of the heavy tasks with which the Union partners will initially be confronted, and
- f. in view of the dedication of the parties to the principle of resolving by peaceful and reasonable means any differences that may hereafter exist or arise between them,

that the status quo of the residency of New Guinea shall be maintained with the stipulation that within a year from the date of transfer of sovereignty to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia the question of the political status of New Guinea be determined through negotiations between the Republic of the United States of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Considering that it is desirable to have the negotiations which are to lead to the previously mentioned determination of the political status of New Guinea/Irian prepared by a Committee to be set up to this end.

Decides:

1. To set up a Committee to that end;
2. To decide that the Governments of the two partners shall each appoint three members of this Committee before 15th April 1950;
3. To decide that the Committee can convene in the Netherlands, Indonesia and New Guinea (Irian);
4. To authorize the Committee to call in the assistance of experts;
5. To request the Committee to present its report to the Governments of the two partners not later than 1st July 1950;
6. To decide that the report of the Committee shall immediately be brought to the notice also of the UNCI and that also clause 6 of the Covering Resolution shall be taken into account;
7. To entrust the Secretariat of the said Committee to the Union Secretariat;

8. To charge the costs of this Committee to the Union;
9. To have the definitive negotiations referred to in clause 2 of the Charter of Transfer of Sovereignty take place at the second Union Conference of Ministers or at a conference of the Governments of the two partners to be specially convened to this end in the course of this year;
10. To decide that the Governments of the two partners shall conjointly give, as far as necessary, further instructions to this Committee.

## 2. *Composition of the Committee*

In accordance with the provision sub 2 Establishment-Resolution the Committee was to be composed *on a Par*.

For this purpose the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands appointed (members of the Committee) Prof. Dr. G. H. van der Kolff, at the time professor of Political Economy at the Law University at Batavia, Prof. Dr. J. M. Pieters, Extraordinary Professor of Overseas Economy, Politics and Law at the Roman Catholic Economical Highschool at Tilburg and Prof. Dr. R. van Dijk, Professor of Sociology at the Free University at Amsterdam.

The Government of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia appointed Messr Dr. J. Latuharhary and Dr. Muh. Yamin, both members of the People's Representation of the Republic Indonesia Serikat and Dr. L. H. P. S. Makaliwy, Superior Official of the State Railways of the Republic Indonesia Serikat, members of the Committee.

Owing to Mr. Muh. Yamins absence during the first week of the work of the Committee Dr. Teng Tjin Leng, also a member of the People's Representation of the Republic Indonesia Serikat, took the former's place.

The Union Secretariat, entrusted with the Secretariat of the Mixed Committee appointed Messr. Moh. Jahja and Dr. W. Schols secretaries. Mr. A. S. Pello, later replaced by Dr. Teng Tjin Leng, was appointed secretary of the Indonesian Group, Dr. J. van Baal secretary of the Netherlands Group. The Indonesian members assumed as their advisers Messr. S. Papare and A. J. Latumahina. Messr. J. A. van Beuge and N. Jouwe were the advisers to the Netherlands Group of members.

## 3. *Work of the Committee*

In the series of meetings and gatherings three periods are to be distinguished:

1. The introductory discussions at Jacarta from 5th till 17th May 1950,

2. The orientation visit to New Guinea from 17th May till 5th June 1950, and
3. The final discussions from 5th till 9th June 1950 at Jacarta and from 21st June till August 1950 at the Hague.

In the first period Standing Orders were drawn up. It was agreed that the Chairmanship of the Committee should be entrusted in weekly rotation to Messr. Dr. J. Latuharhary and Prof. Dr. G. H. van der Kolff. Further agreement was reached about the desirability that the members of the Committee could orientate themselves personally in New Guinea/Irian.

This visit of orientation lasted from 17th May till 5th June, during which period were visited Biak, Hollandia, Merauke, Wisselmeren (Paniai), Serui, Manokwari and Sorong and their vicinities.

Prominent persons were contacted locally, i.a. heads of people, civil servants, leaders of parties and associations, representatives of the Missions, the Islam, and private enterprises.

Upon their return from this visit of orientation the now following discussions were held between the members in respect of an exchange of ideas about the plan and the contents of the report.

These discussions could however not lead to an agreement in respect of making a joint report. The standpoints of the two groups proved to be fundamentally so far apart that no solution could be found which was acceptable to both groups. It was therefore eventually agreed that the two groups were to present their own report independent from each other, definitively worded and to be called „Main Constituent”, which 2 main constituents with this Preface and the appendixes attached to the documents (the formalized minutes and reports of former meetings and informal gatherings, and also the documents exchanged between the groups) were to be the report of the Committee, now being presented to the Governments concerned.

In deviation of the provision of the Standing Orders it was agreed that the two Main Constituents are to be worded by each of the groups in its own language; translations will be made by the Union Secretariat.

The committee does not want to consider its task as finished before it has expressed its thanks to the many persons, instances and institutions which have assisted the Committee in the carrying out of its work.

In particular it presents its thanks to the two Governments, H.E. the Governor of New Guinea, and also the many persons who have during the visit of orientation to New Guinea/Irian declared themselves willing to give the necessary information. It is much indebted to the Garuda Indonesian Airways and the Royal Dutch Airlines

(K.L.M.) and also to the Naval Airservice and its personnel who looked after the aerial transport in New Guinea. Finally a word of thanks is due to the Koninklijke Bibliotheek at the Hague, the Library of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Petroleum Maatschappij N.V. at the Hague, the Library of the Leyden University, the Library of the Peace Palace and other institutions which gave us literature.

*The Netherlands members:*

PROF. DR. G. H. VAN DER KOLFF.

PROF. DR. J. M. PIETERS.

PROF. DR. R. VAN DIJK.

*Secretary:*

DR. J. VAN BAAL.

*The Indonesian members:*

DR. J. LATUHHARY.

DR. MUHAMMAD YAMIN.

DR. L. H. P. S. MAKALIWY.

*Secretary:*

DR. TENG TJIN LENG.



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