WEST IRIAN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

ACT OF FREE CHOICE

JULY 14 — AUGUST 2, 1969

(SECOND EDITION)

Honourable Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Province of West Irian,  
Honourable Members of the Regional House of Representatives,  
Mr Governor/Head of the Provincial Government, and Members of the Provincial Government of West Irian,  

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express the deepest gratitude to God Almighty for His Blessing that has enabled us to accomplish a prominent national task, namely the implementation of the Act of Free Choice, with the result we may certainly be proud of.

Actually, with the struggle and sacrifices that have been rendered by the Indonesian nation, including the West Irianese, the positive result has never been doubted as the course of history was disposed to take that way. The integrity and unity of the Indonesian nation from Sabang to Merauke have always been the ideal and determination of the nation since the declaration of the Youth Pledge in 1928 up to the Proclamation and during the period in which we had to deal with the colonial agression through physical struggles. We also had to launch the Trikora campaign which was solely aimed at establishing and preserving the unity of our state and nation.

Therefore, from whichever point of view one looks at it, the implementation of the Act Free Choice cannot be seperated from the previous course of the struggles, particularly the Trikora (the Three-point struggle for the reinstatement of West Irian as part of the Republic of Indonesia) which had resulted in the signing of the New York Agreement.

In the early days after the actual restoration of West Irian into the Republic of Indonesia, a number of difficulties cropped up due to a certain degree of mismanagement.

In 1967, by virtue of the Presidential Decision No. 199 of 1967, West Irian became part of the 17 National Projects. In the beginning of 1969, a change was made in the composition of the projects in which, by Presidential Decision No. 18 of 1969, West Irian became one of the Special Sectors. *)

For the execution of the Special Sector Operation, in my capacity as Chairman of the West Irian Sector, I have issued a Directive containing a number of Decisions, Lines of Conduct, Basic Regulation and Instructions, including:

a. Decision of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 29 of 1969 on Rectification of the Organization, Task and Scope of Authority, and Working System of the West Irian Sector;  
b. Decision of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 31 to No. 38 of 1969 on the formation of regional consultative assemblies for the Act of Free Choice;

*) Sectors : Specially coordinated activities of the central government regarding certain important tasks.
c. Decision of the Minister of Home Affairs No. IB X/1/1/2, on Operational Directives, constituting the policy of the Minister in his capacity as Chairman of the West Irian Sector;

d. Instruction of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 1/X/1969 on stabilization efforts in May and June and the safeguarding of the implementation of the Act of Free Choice;

e. Directive No. 12 of 1969 on Working Regulations for the Committee for the Formation of Consultative Assemblies for the Act of Free Choice in the West Irian regencies. **)

All the decisions, directives and instructions were issued in line with the New York Agreement which points out that the Act of Free Choice is the full responsibility of the Indonesian Government. On this basis, I would like to stress that the Act of Free Choice was a process of mushawarah ***) between the Indonesian Government and its people which ended successfully on the 2nd of August, 1969.

The effect of this remarkable national achievement, which has become the pride of every Indonesian citizen, does not only emerge at home as a means of strengthening and maintaining the sense of integrity and unity of the Indonesian nation, but it also provides the international world with a more concrete and stronger conviction that the Indonesian people stretching from Sabang to Merauke is a complete national unity, and who are always determined to defend the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia, if necessary, by sacrificing their bodies and lives. This is then the background of our success in the Act of Free Choice.

Now to give you a more explicit picture I would like to provide details on the following points:

a. The implementation and result of the Act of Free Choice;

b. Follow up in the governmental sector;

c. Follow up in the field of Development;

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT OF FREE CHOICE.

Honourable Members,

1. Allow me to explain about the implementation of the Act of Free Choice. You may remember that on the 18th of April 1969 the Chairman of the Team for Consultations with the Regency Councils in the West Irian Province, DR. SUDJARWO TJONDRONEGORO, on behalf of the central government, told the councils that the Act of Free Choice in West Irian could be held in July and August 1969 in the framework of the implementation of the New York Agreement.

This was the result of consultations or mushawarah we had held with local councils of the eight regencies in the province of West Irian, where agreement and

***) Regencies: Administrative sub-divisions of a province. There are 8 regencies in the province of West Irian, namely: Merauke, Djamadi, Painai, Pak-Pak, Sorong, Manokwari, Teluk Tjendra, and Djaipura.

***) Mushawarah: Mutual consultation and deliberation towards a consensus or agreement.
a decision had been obtained as to the method and procedure for the Act of Free Choice and the time scheduled for the Act of Free Choice, taking into account the provisions laid down in the New York Agreement, the situation and condition and the desire of the West Irianese themselves.

2. The Decisions and Instructions of the Government as mentioned earlier were immediately issued and they were conveyed to the Provincial House of Representatives on April 18. Ad-hoc committees for the formation of the Consultative Assembly for the Act of Free Choice (CAA) or DMP, Dewan Mushawarrah Pepera, in the regencies were to be headed by their respective Regents/Heads of the Regency Councils. The Ad-hoc committees were immediately set up to start their duties. In early July 1969 all CAA’s were already constituted in the regencies in accordance with the stipulated regulations regarding the system of election of their members, namely the democratic consultative system, election by and from the people, with proper regard to their traditional customs and the CAA membership requirements were as stipulated in Sub d. of Article XVIII of the New York Agreement.

The course of elections in the respective regencies were also witnessed by the ORTIZ SANZ MISSION in accordance with the New York Agreement, although not all of them, because of problems of communication and transportation.

3. Various difficulties and obstacles had to be faced by the Ad-hoc Committees for the formation of the CAA’s in the execution of their tasks. These included the dissemination of information to the people in all areas of the regencies, the assembling and accommodation of the people/electors at the electoral sites, the transport to as well as accommodation of the CAA candidates at the regency capitals. The difficulties were due to geographical situations, the specific condition of nature, the scarcity of transportation and other communication means, and many other problems in the interior of the regions.

For the people too, especially the CAA members, the implementation of the Act of Free Choice created many problems as they had to leave their dwelling place and families for a couple of weeks, to cover great distances by foot to the CAA headquarters at the regency capitals, or to the gathering points where they had to be transported by plane or boat to the regency capital.

BY GOD’S HELP, coupled with strong determination and imbued with burning spirit, and also due to the excellent sphere of cooperation with the people who realized the importance of the Act of Free Choice, the Ad-hoc committees for the formation of the CAA’s had overcome all the difficulties and obstacles with success.

4. As you are aware, the implementation of the Act of Free Choice was accomplished within the period between July 14 and August 2, 1969, starting from the CAA session in Merauke on July 14, in Wamena on July 16, in Nabire on July 19, in Fak-Fak on July 23, in Sorong on July 26, in Manokwari on July 29, in Biak (including Teluk Tjenderawasih Regency and Japen/Waropen regions) on July 31, and finally in Djuajapura on August 2, 1969.

The CAA sessions were conducted in the presence of the Government Team under my supervision in my capacity as Minister of Home Affairs concurrently Chairman of the West Irian Sector of the Central Government in line with the pro-
visions of the New York Agreement, which points out that the sole responsibility for the implementation of the Act of Free Choice lies with the Indonesian Government.

The Government Team was constituted on the basis of the Decision of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 90 dated July 11, 1969. For practical considerations the Team included members of the West Irian Provincial Government and even the Chairman of the Provincial House of Representatives of West Irian. Thus the Team consisted of:

1. The Minister of Home Affairs, and concurrently Chairman of the West Irian Sector, as Chairman/Member of the Team;
2. Mr. Sudjarwo Tjondronegoro, Chairman of the New York Agreement Executive Group in the West Irian Sector, as Deputy Chairman/Member;
3. Mr. Ali Murtopo, Groups Chairman for Logistics, Social & Political Affairs, as Member;
4. Mr. Frans Kasiepo, Governor/Head of the West Irian Provincial Government, as Member;
5. Brigadier General Sarwo Edhie, Chairman of „Muspida“ — Regional Leadership Consultative Body — as Member;
6. Mr. D. Ajamiseba, Chairman of the West Irian Provincial House of Representatives, as Member;
7. Mr. S. Ohey, Chief of the Information Service, West Irian, as Member.

The inclusion of „Muspida” and members of the Provincial Government of West Irian was deemed necessary as they were to assist in the implementation of the Act of Free Choice.

In case a member being prevented to carry out duties, the Home Affairs Minister would have to appoint a substitute; this happened in the case of Mr. Ali Murtopo who was substituted by Mr. Marwoto (Secretary for the West Irian Sector), and Mr. D. Ajamiseba by Mr. H. Ibrahim Bauw (Deputy Chairman, Provincial House of Representatives) on several occasions.

5. The CAA sessions in the framework of the Act of Free Choice in the regencies went smoothly and peacefully under great attention on the part of the people.

The sessions were witnessed by the United Nations Mission under Ambassador ORTIZ SANZ, who on behalf of Secretary General U THANT, delivered a brief message in accordance with the New York Agreement. At several places like in Merauke, Wamena, Biak, and Djajapura, the CAA sessions had even the honour to be attended by Foreign Minister Adam Malik, Information Minister Budiardjo and several Ambassadors of friendly countries, namely the Dutch Ambassador, and the Ambassadors of Australia and Thailand (in Merauke, Wamena and Nabire) while the Biak and Djajapura sessions were also witnessed by the Australian, New Zealand, Burmese and West German Ambassadors.

Representatives of the Supreme Advisory Council and Parliament too were on hand to have close observation of the CAA sessions. They were Mr. Sukarno, Mr. Hardi, and Mr. Subagjo in Merauke, Wamena and Nabire, and Colonel Mantik and Mr. Buchori cs in Fak-Fak, Sorong, Manokwari, Biak and Djajapura.
I regarded their presence as most important.

All CAA sessions were also witnessed by the domestic and foreign press.

All sessions were publicly held in conformity with the democratic system. People attending the sessions from CAA premises were also able to follow the proceedings through loudspeakers. In addition, all radio stations in West Irian were broadcasting the discussions during the CAA sessions so that everybody throughout the province could listen to and follow the deliberations and decisions of the CAA, as democratic and responsible representative assemblies for the whole people of West Irian.

6. It might not be necessary to provide all the details of the respective course of sessions in the 8 regencies. At first the Chairman opened the session with an opening speech and report. Then followed some advices given by West Irian Governor, Frans Kasiepe, a people's father, and a message by Mr. Ortiz Sanz as Secretary General U Thant's Special Envoy. After this, the question as stipulated in the New York Agreement was then put forward to the session in the sense of:

"Do the people of West Irian want to remain within the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia or— not", with the necessary explanation by the Team's Deputy Chairman, Mr. Sudjarwo Tjondronegoro. As Minister of Home Affairs and Chairman of the Government Team, I spoke also to ask the attention of the CAA members to some important points.

Afterwards, without restrictions and in an atmosphere of brotherly deliberations, the members discussed the question forwarded in order to arrive at the final conclusion of the New York Agreement.

All opinions, discussions and decisions during the CAA sessions were duly recorded by the respective CAA secretariats, and I believe that records have also been submitted to the Provincial House of Representatives for its information. But I would like to take note of some important points.

7. With full responsibility, the CAA members, who have been elected by the people or by their respective tribal groups, have exercises their rights, tasks and obligations as requested by the people and government. There were in total 1,026 members (including 131, and not 130 members of the Teluk Tjenderawasih CAA). 4 Members: 1 from Merauke, 1 from Biak, 1 from Nabire and 1 from Djaja-pura, were indisposed to attending the sessions because of illness or other plausible reasons. Thus in reality, 1,022 members were participating in the Act of Free Choice, consisting of 982 male and 43 female members representing 809,327 people of West Irian.

More specified, the CAA members can be divided into:

a. Traditional representatives (Chieftains): 400 persons;
b. Regional representatives: 360 persons;
c. Representatives of political and mass organizations and other groupings: 266 persons.

The number of speakers who took part in the discussions during the Act of Free Choice was not small. In Merauke, 20 out of the 174 members took the floor; in Wamena, 18 out of the 175 members; in Nabire, 28 out of the 174 members; in
Fak-Fak, 17 out of the 75 members; in Sorong, 16 out of the 110 members; in Manokwari, 26 out of the 75 members; in Biak, 24 out of the 130 members, and in Djajapura, 26 out of the 109 members express their respective viewpoints.

The speakers had organised themselves in such a fashion that they spoke on behalf of all existing layers and shades of opinions of the population in the entire territory they represented.

8. The CAA sessions which were primarily held only to give an answer to the question of the New York Agreement proceeded in Merauke for 5½ hours, in Wamena for 4.05 hours, in Nabire for 4½ hours, in Fak-Fak for 3.05 hours, in Sorong for 3.17 hours, in Manokwari for 5.10 hours, in Biak for 3.55 hours, and in Djajapura for 4 hours.

All decisions could, as it turned out, be taken by a unanimous vote which was indeed very impressive. NOT A SINGLE MEMBER OF THE CAA'S HAS VOICED OR EXPRESSED AN ATTITUDE OTHER THAN REMAINING WITHIN THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA. THEY WERE DETERMINED NOT TO SEPERATE THEMSELVES FROM THE UNITY OF THE STATE AND NATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA FROM SABANG TO MERAUKE.

The decisions of the CAA’s in the 8 regencies (text enclosed) were concluded in a brotherly mubaharah, understanding and with conscious regarding the position and interest of the West Irianese as members of the Indonesian state and nation, today and tomorrow.

It is understandable that the first CAA session, namely in Merauke on July 14, was a very important and breathtaking event. Whole the nation’s eye and heart, in particular those of the West Irianese themselves, were focussed on the event with thrills mixed with good hopes.

Their solemn prayers to God Almighty as had been conducted by the religious people in West Irian through special services in churches and mosques on the eve of the Act of Free Choice in Merauke, were a touching endeavour itself. They prayed for God’s Blessing and the success of the Act of Free Choice in safeguarding the unity and safety of the State and Nation of Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke.

As a matter of fact, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Act of Free Choice was a unique and peculiar matter that emerged as a result of a dispute regarding West Irian created by external politics twenty years ago. An Indonesian territory for centuries was disputed.

Outside powers were attempting to divide and disintegrate the nation. The New York Agreement concluded between Indonesia and the Netherlands in 1962 which in essence transferred the administration of West Irian to the Indonesian Government and recognizes the integrity of West Irian as an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia, however, still contains a provision for the holding of the Act of Free Choice in this region.

It appeared as if the Dutch Government at that time was not convinced or not willing to convince itself that, from the national struggle as well as from the historic points of view, the West Irian people are part of the Indonesian nation, that
they have participated hand in hand with the other fellow Indonesians in the fight for the independence of Indonesia — the archipelago formerly known as "Indonesia Belanda" or the Netherlands East Indies, stretching from Sabang to Merauke — up to the proclamation of independence by the Indonesian people creating the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke. That's why the Act of Free Choice in the New York Agreement constituted a challenge, a challenge to the Indonesian people and the people of West Irian in particular to demonstrate unequivocally and clearly to the Dutch Government and to the whole world that the people of West Irian are positively part of the Indonesian people who does not want to be separated by a colonial policy of "divide et impera" from whatever power.

10. No wonder, that the people as was apparent in the consultation sessions of the government with the local regency councils in March and April last on the method of the Act of Free Choice, as well as in the CAA sessions recently, were of the opinion that the question of the Act of Free Choice was in fact strange and peculiar. To a people who due to their history and struggle had become one and united who already possess a free and sovereign unitary state, a question was put regarding part of this people in part of its territory, whether the people in this part of the territory would want to dissociate itself and would want to disintegrate its state and nation. It is not surprising, therefore, if some CAA members regarded the provisions for the Act of Free Choice in the New York Agreement as a kind of grave insult to the people of West Irian.

In fact, however, the article in question originated from the Dutch colonial government at the time, not from the people of West Irian who were not consulted during the negotiations for the New York Agreement by the Dutch government which at that time governed the people of West Irian. Neither did the question originate from the Indonesian government. The Indonesian government accepted the inclusion of the provision for the Act of Free Choice only as temporary policy. The Indonesian Government in that 1962 agreement was also convinced that the people of West Irian in due course (in 1969) would be able to show that they do not want to be insulted, and would react to that peculiar question in an unequivocal and explicit way; that they even at the same time would show the inappropriateness of the question in the Act of Free Choice eliminating, once and for all, the oddities of foreign political intrigues directed to the people in West Irian in particular, and to the people of Indonesia in general.

In the New York Agreement the Indonesian Government was successful in establishing that the question in the Act of Free Choice would be executed by the Indonesian Government itself, also the implementation of the provisions for the Act of Free Choice would be the responsibility of the Indonesian Government. The Special Mission of the United Nations Secretary General would only "assist and render advice to the Indonesian government, and would participate in the arrangements for the Act of Free Choice".

However the question remained important in as far as that we had to eradicate, once and for all, foreign attempts to subvert and undermine the unity of our State and Nation, to conclude our struggle in strengthening the territorial integrity and unity of our state and nation for which we have already sacrificed so much blood.
and tears, besides material losses, from Sabang to Merauke. Yes, from Sabang to Merauke, to the very soil of West Irian itself.

11. It was really explicit and indeed moving to hear the answer of our people in Merauke on July 14 last: "We are Indonesians. Indonesia is our beloved country. Why are we demanded to answer this kind of question?" It was a manifestation of the people's inner feelings which moved all members of the session.

One speaker being more spirited than the others received a unanimous response of all members. The session as one big voice gave a strong and decisive answer: "We remain people of the Republic of Indonesia, we are determined to defend the unity of our people and state, which we love, from Sabang to Merauke".

12. The success in Merauke regency was celebrated by the people and local government in a grand and joyous way, with people's parades and festivities, and a fair was even organized where the people could enjoy the happy occasion together with the members of the CAA after they had carried out their task properly and with full responsibility.

Indeed the Government had not been wrong in its conviction that ultimately the people who kept on struggling with full consciousness would be victorious, and that "From Merauke begins the Victory".

But there seems to be some foreign circles who were not happy to see the Act of Free Choice (AFC) changed into an "All-out Festive Celebration for Indonesian people's unity" (AFC). And no wonder that soon after the success of the people at Merauke, a slanderous report was launched by a Dutch journalist who had witnessed the whole CAA proceedings at Merauke, as if six members were murdered by their own people after the session because they had stated their wish to remain free within Indonesia, and were unwilling to dissociate themselves from their own state, the independent and sovereign Republic of Indonesia. That report was obviously false and a mere fabrication, a wishful thinking. So wicked is the intrigue of these kind of foreigners! But in this way they only in fact expose their own evil minds. Indeed, during the CAA session frequent attacks were launched against the former colonial policy of the Dutch Government toward the people of West Irian, and arguments put forward why the people now prefer to remain within the Republic of Indonesia.

What's wrong with this choice? It was the Dutch themselves who asked for this choice of the people of West Irian under the New York Agreement. They should not be disappointed or angry if the people voiced their pointed reason for the choice they have been asked to make.

13. The success in Merauke of the AFC for the people of West Irian/Indonesia and the Republic has been received with great joy in the other regencies of West Irian, nay, even, by the entire people of Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke. Consequently, after the victory in Merauke, the session of the CAA of Djajawidjaja regency at Wamena two days later on July 16 was not less enthusiastic.

The members of the CAA of Djajawidjaja Regency who had come from remote villages in the region representing all ethnic groups and layers of society in the extensive mountainous area, numbering about 165,000, voiced the innermost feelings of their people, most often in spirited terms in their respective dia-
lects. One prominent member representing the county (KPS) of Tiom, named Djugumarek, touchingly stated: "I have come a long, long way, after a three-day walk from Tiom to represent my people and state their opinion and wishes, that they wish to always live under the Red-and-White flag".

Also the CAA session of Djajawindja in Wamena concluded unanimously, in a sphere of brotherhood and unity they never had known and experienced before, that they, the people of Djajawindja regency, desired to remain within the Republic of Indonesia and did not want to be separated from the family of the Indonesian nation.

The CAA session at Wamena made use of four dialects of the respective groups, and the speeches were translated into Indonesian by friends who master the Indonesian language. Also in Wamena after the success of the AFC, festivities and thanksgiving meals were organized in a joyful and gay atmosphere.

14. The same atmosphere and spirit prevailed during the session of the Panjai CAA at Nabire on July 19. The disturbances in the Enarotai/Wagete area in April last which were grossly exaggerated by the foreign press turned out to be of no influence at all and did not disturb the good atmosphere of the session which also unanimously declared to remain with the Republic of Indonesia and refused to be separated from the unitary Republic of Indonesia.

One member, a prominent figure of the region and veteran of the independence struggle of the Republic of Indonesia in this region, named Sembor, reminded also the share of the people of West Irian in the struggle of the Indonesian people to gain independence. A representative from Enarotai emphasized that the disturbances in that region some months ago, had been created only by some individuals, who instigated the people. Also in Nabire, many members of the CAA made use of the dialects of their own tribe, two were used besides the Indonesian language. Translations were made by their own interpreters.

15. The session of the CAA at Fak-Fak on July 23 showed an atmosphere of high spirit. Fak-Fak Regency was since long been a region of struggle for the Indonesian independence. Ties of history and existence with the other regions of Indonesia have existed for centuries.

It was therefore not surprising, that in the CAA in Fak-Fak the Indonesian spirit of struggle was clearly prevailing. Their spirit and their history of life had been obviously suppressed by foreign colonialism in the past, that a tribal chief representing the region of Mimika was prompted to state in his own tribal dialect: "During the Dutch period, we were educated to become stupid."

The CAA took an unequivocal and unanimous decision: Remain with the Republic of Indonesia, reject to be separated from the unitary Republic of Indonesia.

The victory of the CAA was celebrated with popular festivities, dances, and so on. It clearly again showed the centuries old relationship between the Fak-Fak region and other regions of Indonesia, the Moluccas and Ternate in particular.

In Fak-Fak a cable from President Suharto was received sent on July 21 from Jakarta, after having received a report from the Government Team about
the decisive result of the AFC in Nabire (the victory in the three regencies of Merauke, Djajawidjaja and Panlai, already yielded a majority of votes of West Irian), which cable, inter alia, read as follows:

"congratulations for the proceedings of the CAA sessions towards a success for the whole of West Irian and highest appreciation for the people of West Irian and all officials in charge in West Irian suggest continued strengthening of unity for the welfare and progress of the people."

16. The CAA session at Sorong on July 26 and the community of Sorong showed the same atmosphere and spirit as Fak-Fak. The Indonesian history of struggle was clearly demonstrated. In Sorong, as well as in Fak-Fak — like also in Merauke — the AFC was considered a queer and odd question.

The CAA session took a clear and unanimous decision to remain with the Republic of Indonesia; there was no other choice. The former Dutch colonial power also received the necessary criticism. This victory was also celebrated with popular festivities.

17. The session of the CAA at Manokwari on July 29 — with 26 speakers among its 75 members — held in a beautiful building on the seaside did not show any different spirit of struggle.

Criticism against the Dutch colonial policy of the past and disagreement about the question of the AFC were voiced. One representative, a popular figure, was even of the opinion, that the AFC, prescribed in the New York Agreement, had been the work of "devils" in the Netherlands, while another representative suggested to burn the New York Agreement document.

The "Free Papua Movement" was openly rejected. Lodewijk Mandatjan — a well-known leader of the big Arfak tribe in Manokwari region — member of the CAA also took the floor (the only one to use his native dialect in order to be understood by his tribesmen) saying that the people in the interior (25,000) he was representing were resolved to defend the unity and integrity of the Indonesian people.

The decision of the session which was taken full of spirit, in memory of the struggle for Indonesia's independence was determinant: "Forever with the Republic of Indonesia, reject every effort which might try to undermine the unity and independence of the Indonesian people from Sabang to Merauke.

Although some youth tried — unsuccessfully — to disturb the masses outside the building during the session, the great joy of the CAA prevailed and popular festivities celebrating the victory of Manokwari went on till the night.

18. At Biak, the CAA session on July 31 proceeded smoothly and again with full spirit. The CAA members who are prominent figures of the people from Serui and Biak, places of origin of many pioneers and supporters of the struggle for Indonesia's independence among the West Irianese in the past, where in Biak itself even a revolt broke out against Dutch colonial power on March 14, 1948. This old spirit of struggle came to life again during the meeting of the CAA. Stephanus Rumbewas from Serui as the first speaker and Lukas Rumkorem from Biak, waved the Red-and-White flag and sanctified it before the meeting while exclaiming
"Hallelujah in Heaven", and that this Red-and-White flag may fly till the end of times, from Sabang to Merauke. Said Rumbewas: "The people of Serui have carried out several Acts of Free Choice since 1945 at their own conviction and this AFC now is not necessary".

Joined and supported by many other speakers, the session afterwards clearly and firmly — on the basis of the history of struggle of the people itself — voiced their wish to remain within the Republic of Indonesia, and reject any other choice. Also in Biak, the success of the AFC was celebrated with popular festivities.

19. Ultimately, the Djajapura CAA as the last to carry out the AFC, held its session on August 2, 1969 in the "Government" building, after 90 per cent of the people of West Irian in seven regencies had previously decided with firm determination: "To remain with the Republic of Indonesia, rejecting any seperation." What else could the CAA of Djajapura do ? ?

But 26 speakers from various groups of the people, representing all the assembly members and the people of Djajapura regency still found in necessary to make known their standpoint and answer the question put forward, although quite briefly. For as it was clear, the purpose seemed just to strengthen and complete the decision of 90 per cent of the people of West Irian already stated, to make it 100 per cent. Once Free, forever Free, for the whole people of West Irian, within the fold of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke. Thus was the unanimous decision of the CAA of Djajapura. Festivities were held too.

20. And these were the positive results and the success of all the sessions of the CAA in the eight regencies in the province of West Irian, which on this day we were able to submit officially and with happy feelings to the Special Session of the Provincial House of Representatives of West Irian, and to the Provincial Government here in Djajapura, while thanking God Almighty, for His Blessing to the struggle of the people of West Irian, together with the people of Indonesia, for defending and securing the unity and integrity of the territory of the state of the Republic of Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke.

The decisions of the CAA's which are the voice of the whole of the people of West Irian numbering 327,809 have been made in conformity with the New York Agreement. The proceedings were witnessed and joined by the Mission of the United Nations Secretary General's Representative, therefore legal and final. They cannot be contested by anyone else. In accordance with article 21, sub. 2 of the New York Agreement, both parties in that agreement, namely the Government of Indonesia and the Government of the Netherlands should recognize and abide by the decision of the people through the CAA's. This we announced in the Government Statement, soon after the conclusion of the AFC, namely the session of the Djajapura CAA on Saturday afternoon, August 2, 1969 (a copy of the statement is hereby attached).

What remains, is, according to article 21, sub. 1 of the New York Agreement, that the Government of Indonesia shall report the results of the AFC to the Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, and the UN Secretary General in turn shall report these results as the final solution or as the conclusion of the New York Agreement to the next General Assembly of the United Nations.
For the time being, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Adam Malik, immediately sent a short report to the Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, on the results of the whole implementation of the AFC in West Irian, after the session in Djajapura on August 2, 1969.

According to the nature of the New York Agreement, the report of the UN Secretary General will be just an announcement. The UN General Assembly is not called upon to approve or disapprove the results of the AFC. The New York Agreement is a bilateral agreement between Indonesia and the Netherlands, and both parties bound by article 21 of that agreement, should recognize and abide by the results of the AFC as valid and final. In this way, the New York Agreement, with the conclusion of the AFC, has been accomplished properly and closed.

21. Once again, we, on behalf of the Government, extend our gratitude and highest appreciation to all parties, especially to the people of West Irian who have carried out their task and duty in the implementation of the AFC in all sincerity, understanding, and responsibility to make the AFC successful. To all officials in charge and government officials, civil as well as military, who have carried out their task and duty as best as possible so that the implementation of the AFC could be concluded safely and orderly, the Government extends its gratitude and highest appreciation.

Let all of us now — the Government together with the people — carry out our further task and duty, which is still heavy but noble. The success and victory of the AFC should become a stimulus for all of us to continue our struggle with even more determination, for we will more concentrate our thought and energy — the Government and People — on the work of development in the region, undisturbed by the question of the AFC, that has now been concluded with success.

Therefore, let us preserve unity and harmony among the people, which have got impetus by the results of the AFC worthy of pride. There are no reasons and it is of no use anymore, as has previously occurred to some people in facing the AFC, to quarrel and create controversies among each other, or even inciting one against another (because of foreign propaganda), which can only lead to difficulties and disaster for the people.

To some among the sons of West Irian who are abroad, I would like to suggest to them to show understanding and honour the decision and firm resolve of the people, which have been manifested in the results of the AFC.

This understanding is necessary for their own sake, their future, if they are still desirous of calling themselves sons and daughters of this region. The desire of the people is unity, peace, reconstruction, and progress, not discord, division, and weakness which are the results of foreign domination in the past. These are the "Message of the People", voiced and emphasized again in the AFC. Opposing this Message of the People will only be disastrous for themselves.

22. The implementation and the results of the AFC have undoubtedly provided invaluable experiences and lessons to all of us, both for the Government and the people in general. For the government and the officers in the regions, the preparatory work, and organizing the elections for the CAA's, reaching the remote areas
in the interior have brought the government and its officers closer to the people living in those areas of the interior enabling them to better know and understand the way of life, the customs, the sufferings, the needs and the wishes of the people living for from the centres of government.

These experiences — apart from the problems of the AFC itself — are very precious and we should be able to utilize them for our further work and task in government. Errors or mistakes of the past — in evaluating of the needs and the desire for progress of the simple people in the interior — should be avoided.

These experiences and lessons certainly have come to us from the All-Loving and All-Knowing God.

For the people themselves, the execution of the AFC — apart from the AFC itself — has also provided experiences and lessons invaluable for the increase of their government-mindedness, for the broadening of their minds and insight, for breaking through limitations and barriers which frequently have curbed their progress toward understanding the sense of a bigger society needed for a better knowledge of their rights and obligations as free citizens.

The tribal chiefs in the vast interior, who live scattered and separately from each other — some have even a history of animosity against each other — have been brought together as equal citizens by the implementation of the AFC into an atmosphere of one big and peaceful family, able to break through the narrow and egoistic tribal family relationship, have been now guided toward understanding broad national family relationship, toward having a government, having high ideals for peace, unity, brotherhood and common progress, inspired by the tenets of the Pantja Sila philosophy. The implementation of the AFC itself — through election by the people from the people, in a democratic way adapted to the system of mushawarah and the experience in implementing the rights and duties provided in the sphere of the state, have evidently become an "exercise in democracy", which is very useful for their progress toward citizenship of a free state. Those people from the interior were not considered able nor capable to choose their own representatives during the colonial time — neither at the time of the "election" held in 1961 by the Dutch administration to establish the "Papua Council"; they were not considered capable to carry out anything in connection with democracy in administration or with the concept of a big society.

Wasn't it true that in that time — and not quite so long ago — the Dutch colonial administration in the interior represented merely by a Dutchman of their — the Dutch government's — own choice? Even the people in the town, said to be progressive, and given the right of direct election — such as the towns of Hollandia and Manokwari — appeared to be only able to elect a foreigner, a Dutchman, as their representative!

The people in the interior who in the past were considered incapable to do anything whatsoever towards the country's progress, have now been encouraged by the government of the Republic of Indonesia to participate and are given the responsibilities of citizens of an independent and sovereign state. Although by surmounting all kinds of difficulties and shortcomings this capability has now been given to them as their (first) experience towards progress.
Without AFC they would not have or would not have so quickly such valuable encouragement and experiences. Was this exercise in democracy as manifested in the holding of AFC not a most valuable experience and lesson? We should indeed give our thanks to God the Most Just for this blessing of His. For notwithstanding the many difficulties that had to be overcome, the challenges that had to be surmounted, the oddness of this AFC might after all be called God's Blessing in disguise.

Such then are the so valuable lessons we have to draw from the holding of the AFC. We need not measure it by the standards of Western democracy which is based on an individualistic, egocentric society which is not ours and which we do not desire either. This "exercise in democracy" creates a feeling of responsibility amongst the people towards their Government, Nation and Country, in order that the people can participate actively and assume responsibility in government and social institutions in the interest of the common people, the entire people working as a unity of a big family for common progress and welfare, with the blessings of the One Supreme God.

This then is the principal content and and objectives of our Pantjasila democracy. Do not worry about what outsiders, foreigners want; just pay attention to and carry out the wishes of our own people. Not the outsiders, nor the foreigners, but we ourselves know what is best for us.

23. Let us now therefore based on such awareness and additional experience, carry out and continue development in all fields desired by the people whose message was once more confirmed also in the recent sessions of CCA's. AFC itself is not important; the main point is development. Thus was the People's Message.

The Government was indeed paying full attention to this Message; most important indeed is what to do after AFC is over.

The government's plan for development has been very well received not only by the entire people of West Irian but also by the entire Indonesian people. The struggle we were carrying out to achieve success in AFC was a continuation of the struggle of the Indonesian Nation to safeguard the container of Indonesia's Independence, namely the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia with a territory stretching from Sabang to Merauke. Now we have finally and absolutely succeeded in securing this container.

The task and obligation now awaiting us are the endeavours to give content to that container in the form of stepping up development activities in the various fields. And in the special case for the West Irian region the government is at the same time also paying attention to development in the administrative field which in this matter centres around the plan to change the present status of the West Irian Province into an Autonomous Province.

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Council Members,

The Government has planned indeed, to change West Irian into an Autonomous Province. As we know, up till the present, the form, composition and execution of the regional administration of the West Irian Province has not been based on Law No. 18/1965 on "The Principles of Regional Administration in Indonesia" as is
the case with the other Regional Administrations in the Indonesian territory but have based on Presidential Directives No. 1/1962, and No. 1/1963 further complemented with Presidential Decision No. 57/1963 and Presidential Instruction No. 02 Secret, implying special treatment in the execution of Regional Administration in this region.

Later, with the issuance of MPRS Decree No. XXI/MPRS/1966, the Government — based on Art. 6 of mentioned Decree — was entrusted with placing the West Irian region in the position of an autonomous region and adjust it further with the position of the other regions in Indonesia, while the Government itself also deems it necessary to carry out those adjustments to enable also the implementation of economic duties and administrative ordering so that units of the regional administration can execute their autonomous duties to a maximum. It is in this connection that as soon as the "AFC" is over we will immediately start the realisation of the autonomous province of West Irian.

Nevertheless, based on past experiences including also the short one in this region, the lack or insufficiency of understanding about the meaning of an autonomous region is obviously still felt here, so that for the umpteeenth time I feel it necessary to explain this matter, particularly to you who represent the people in this region and who moreover as one of the components of the Regional Administration have to be fully aware of this.

The foundation used by the Government in implementing regional autonomy in Indonesia is the Pancasila philosophy and the 1945 Constitution while holding onto the decisions of the MPRS, particularly MPRS Decree No. XXI/MPRS/1966 which on the matter of implementing autonomy, clarifies that:

"The Government carries out a policy of decentralisation in accordance with the 1945 Constitution in all its purity, aiming at the achievement of territorial decentralization, i.e. putting the responsibility of the fullest real autonomy into the hands of the Regional Administration, apart from implementing a policy of deconcentration as a vital complement".

From the above formulation we should draw the understanding that what is meant by fullest autonomy is the widest possible real autonomy; real in the sense that it should be adjusted to regional abilities/possibilities, by paying attention to geographical factors, possibilities in the fields of finance and technical personnel, etc. to be further developed until responsibility of the widest possible real autonomy lies with the Regional Administration. This then is the actual Government policy towards the position of autonomous regions in Indonesia. And in connection also with this matter, Article 6 of MPRS Decree No. XXI/MPRS/1966 stipulates that:

"The West Irian region shall be brought into accord with and be further adjusted to the position of the other autonomous regions".

That is why the principal emphasis of the meaning of that autonomous region should be laid on "real" rather than on "the widest possible". The special attention paid by the Government should be understood as being one of urgency, particularly in the field of development and administration.
It is most important to understand that autonomy of a region implies several prerequisites, including the existence of harmony and balance between abilities and rights and responsibilities. Autonomy that does not heed the law of harmony and that of "the law of equilibrium" will later certainly cause discord in the unity of the Nation and the unity of the State.

Moreover, autonomy is not only limited by the existence of harmony and balance between abilities and rights and responsibilities, but as a matter of fact, it is also the implementation of administrative and political democracy. Just as is the case with democracy, autonomy also absolutely needs the following prerequisites:

1. being always State-centric; and
2. Nation-centric;
3. possessing political and moral integrity; and
4. sufficient creative power.

Without those prerequisites, autonomy would just be an empty and impotent symbol, that will certainly become a source of corruption, and what is even more dangerous, it may threaten the entity of national unity. It is also in this connection that we should not give the wrong interpretation to the meaning of autonomy which is not in accordance with the actual intent of it, such as was once wrongly explained by certain circles, namely that the autonomy to be given to the West Irian Region was that of a "special region" that was to have "self-government". Such an understanding is wrong.

It is furthermore necessary to realise that particularly with regard to the aspect of technical personnel, both in the long and short term, it will be necessary to pay attention to "how to obtain an apparatus that is able and capable to implement the Government policy". For this purpose, training of personnel will be needed to occupy the many positions demanding expertainty in various fields. I'd like in this connection to encourage the sons from the West Irian Region to truly utilise the educational facilities and institutes to be found in Indonesia, to prepare themselves mainly as citizens who together with the sons from the other Regions carry the responsibility of the implementation of administration in the regions, including that of West Irian. By upgrading education, knowledge, abilities and skill, more and more sons of West Irian will participate in the administration of the West Irian Province, capable of bearing the responsibility of advancing and developing this region.

Honourable members,

I feel it necessary to explain that establishment of an Autonomous Region in accordance with Art. 3 of Law No. 18 of 1965 on the principles of Regional Administration, is regulated by Law. However, it would take quite a long time if the establishment of the West Irian Autonomous Province were to be executed by Law and it will therefore be done by Government Regulation in Lieu of Law. This has been drafted and scheduled to be promulgated after the Government Statement to the Gotong-Royong House about the results of "Pepera" in the Presidential Address of State on August 16th next.
This Government Regulation in Lieu of Law will among other things regulate:

a. **The Formation of the territory of the West Irian Province.**
   Until a new development arises, the present formation of 9 "Kabupaten" (including the Kabupaten of Japen Waropen) will be maintained.

b. **The formation of the Complementary apparatus for the Regions such as the Regional Head, the Regional House of Representatives, the Members of the Executive Body (BPH) and the Regional Secretariat.**

c. **Internal affairs of the Region as the basic authority.**
   Five offices are for the time being decided upon, namely, (1) Social Guidance and Welfare, (2) Agricultural Affairs, (3) Educational & Cultural Affairs, (4) Health, (5) Personnel Affairs.

d. **Establishment and formation of regional offices/agencies.**

e. **Formation and utilization of administration on personnel, treasury and property.**

f. **Regulations for allocating/appointing available personnel.**
   Matters pertaining to the status of civil servants in the regions, and the Central government, and civil servants assigned to other services, shall be regulated by the Minister for Home Affairs.

g. **Drafting of the Regional Budget for 1970/1971 by separating the budget for items concerning the Central Government from those for the Regional administration.**

Those then are the main points regulated by the above mentioned Government Regulation in Lieu of Law. Furthermore, for the change in status it is necessary to have the required preparations in advance, including drawing up the inventory, to be followed by deciding upon several decisions. Especially for implementing aforementioned inventory I have brought along a team which has by now been working about a month here. Its task is almost completed, with inventory drawn up in the following fields:

1. Administrative techniques
2. Organizational structure
3. Legislative products
4. Condition and ability of personnel
5. Condition of material
6. Development projects

All this is scheduled to be completed by the end of September, to be followed then by the following activities:

a. Preparing decrees on Regional Heads appointments;

b. **Official establishment of the Autonomous Region and appointment of the Regional Heads.**
c. Complementing legislative regulations to be used within the Autonomous Region.

d. Coaching of higher officials of the civil service.

e. Adjustment of the structure of the organization of the Regional Secretariat.

f. Establishment of Regional Offices/Agencies.

g. Establishment of the apparatus for deconcentration.


i. Allocation and appointment of personnel.

j. Survey in preparation of Village Administration.

Above activities are scheduled to be concluded by the month of March 1970 so that the complementary apparatus for the region will gradually be completed while actual implementation of autonomy is planned to be carried out by the beginning of 1971.

As for the drafting of the regional budget, this is the principal prerequisite from which to start working for an Autonomous Region that bases its operations on the financial resources of the Region itself, although the Government will not close her eyes to rendering aid in the form of subsidies, gifts and contributions. On the basis of research done by the Inventory Team which has been at work for more than a month now, a rough estimate has been calculated for Regional expenditure for the period 1969/1970 to the amount of more than 821 million West Irian Rupiahs. While the State Revenues collected in that region will only amount to something more than 76 million W.I. Rupiahs. Thus the Central Government will have to come to the aid for about (more than) 744 million W.I. Rupiahs. From this picture one can draw the conclusion that the West Irian Region, so far, has no sources of income of its own, in the sense of Regional Revenues/contributions collected by the complementary apparatus in the Region as a complement to its very autonomy, as is the case with the other regions.

In the other regions of Indonesia the main revenues come from various regional taxes and contributions, such as IPEDA, ADO and CESS, as sources of income of the Region itself. Regional Revenues in general include:

**Level I Regions.**

Tax on fishing permits in public waters, school taxes used to finance regional development, supertaxes on property tax, supertaxes on duty on petrol, land tax, household tax, taxes on motor vehicles.

Contribution on permits to keep coastal fishponds, on permits to extract sand and gravel, permits to extract and burn limestone, permits to extract corals from the sea.

**Level II Regions.**

Containing 38 types of taxes and several supertaxes and about 22 types of regional contributions. Revenues in Level II Regions generally include taxes on shows and other public entertainment; taxes on advertisement, dog, fireworks, the selling of drinks, on unmotorised vehicles, gambling, luxury goods, and so on.
Level I and II Regions.

Duties on transfer of ownership of motor vehicles (Level I Regions); radio taxes (Level II Regions); tax to be paid by foreigners (Level II Regions).

Subsidies received from the Central Government.

The West Irian Region, the Province as well as the Kabupaten (Regencies), do not yet know of these regional taxes and contributions. That is why in heading towards an autonomous status this matter should receive your serious attention as you are the legislative element of the Regional Administration who are responsible for finding, creating and realising regional financial sources while this should later be followed up by the right of drafting and of demanding from the executive organs elucidation about their utilization.

There is furthermore a sufficiently clear picture also of the personnel, especially as to the attention paid to those who have been in service for a longer period and who as a matter of course are entitled to priority in obtaining facilities as civil servants. However, to guarantee continuity and efficiency in the job, we will have to do all this in accordance with the principles of such continuity and in addition to that, it is but logical that priority shall be given first of all to:

— officials whose territory is vast and difficult, as regard to security, socioeconomic conditions, transportation network, etc.;
— the extent of responsibility and the official's place of assignment;
— the duration of service, the assignment and period on active service and their record.

Honourable session,

Now I will speak about the development of this region. Basically, the development of West Irian is a national task for all of us, the same as it was with our national struggle in building up the nation's integrity and the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia, in accordance with the soul and spirit of our proclamation of independence. With the completion of the Act of Free Choice we will be able to concentrate on development works in all fields. West Irian has already its own Five Year Development Plan, and funds to cover the expenses for the first year has been set aside, i.e. from the 1969/1970 State Budget, amounting to Rp. 3.1 milliard, in addition to the US $ 30 million provided by the FUNDWI (United Nations Fund for the Development of West Irian). These two financial sources are being integrated into the Five Year Development Plan for West Irian. Funds from the State Budget will be used for projects to be carried out according to the respective sectors, including the financing of task forces and as a counter-contribution for the FUNDWI, the specifications of which are as follows:

a) for development projects ........................................... Rp. 2.6 milliard;
b) for the financing of task forces ................................. Rp. 0.5 milliard.

For the first quarter Rp. 770,311,000,— has been made available, to be used for:
counter-contribution of the FUNDWI Rp. 546,524,000,— for transportation projects (sea, air, land), telecommunication, sea-fisheries, drinking water distribution network, power generation, education and the University of Tjendrawasih, Public Health and man-power.

non-FUNDWI expenditures Rp. 223,787,000,— for projects in the sectors of public health, information/Radio Republic of Indonesia, religion, public administration and fuel installations.

In view of further development activities, and to improve efficiency and effectiveness, inventory should be revised, in the fields of organization, working procedures and personnel, at the central as well as at the regional levels.

That is in short my clarification on the matter of development. At this opportunity, I think, it would be proper if I put forth before this honourable session, that I have already decided to transfer all the inventory used for the Act of Free Choice to the Regional Administration.

Therefore, long before I have already asked that till the equipment should be taken care of, well maintained and utilized effectively.

Honourable session,

These are some explanations that I can submit to this honourable session. From what I have just explained, the following conclusion may be drawn: particularly as regard to the successful completion of the Act of Free Choice, it was due to the deep-rooted national consciousness, the unity and integrity of all the People of West Irian together with their leaders, as well as to the disciplinary adherence of the officials in charge to the existing regulations and directives, whilst carrying it out with full dedication, thus enabling us to work hard and in earnestness, to make success through the integration of the diverse potentials within the society.

Next to that, something that we should be aware of and know, is that the positive effect of the holding of the Act of Free Choice in West Irian remains within the fold of the nation and the unitary Republic of Indonesia. It is more than that. Apart from giving a very important share for the preservation of the unity of the territory and giving content to the independence proclamation at the same time, it also opens the eyes of the people and educates those living in the deep jungles in the practice of democratic procedures. In the meantime, they were also able to meet each other, and their leaders form the central and the local government. Consciously or unconsciously, a process of crossing the tribal barriers, took place, not only among themselves, but, in a wider scope, fostering a sense of unity and nationalism among our people and nation.

I am convinced, the positive psychological effect of it will foster the spirit of cooperation in the development process to come including the development in the spiritual field. As stated by the President, after the Act of Free Choice we have two main tasks to face, namely, the fostering and stepping up of the sense of unity and integrity, and, secondly, in the physical field, the implementation of development in all fields.
To face the follow-up of so heavy a task, the transformation of the territory of West Irian into an autonomous province will indeed be proper, particularly for the creation of a harmonious balance between the sense of unity and national integrity and the rights, duties and responsibility in the development of the territory of West Irian. Regional Autonomy may be materialized by 1971 for the Province of West Irian and its regencies, through the step by step materialization of autonomous duties within the scope of the local administration.

I have come to an end of my clarification, and may I add that this official statement, beside being addressed to the honourable session, is also meant for the Provincial Government of West Irian, thus for the entire People of West Irian as well.

Finally, let us pray to God Almighty, may He always bless every endeavour of ours.

Amen.

Assalamu'alaikum warachmatullahi wabarakatuh!

Djajapura, August 5, 1969

The Minister for Home Affairs/
Chairman of the West Irian Sector/
Chairman of the Central Government Team

signed

(AMIR MACHMUD)
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

1. On the basis of the 1962 New York Agreement between Indonesia and the Netherlands, the Indonesian Government had arranged the holding of the Act of Free Choice in West Irian between July 14 till August 2, 1969, which was carried out in all Kabupaten (regencies). Today, August 2, 1969 it was completed in good order, and the result, unanimously adopted as the wishes of the entire people of West Irian, is as follows:

To remain united with the Republic of Indonesia and reject separation from the territory of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia.

The decision is official and legal, and according to Article 21 paragraph 2 of the New York Agreement both the Dutch and the Indonesian Governments will recognize and abide by the result of the Act of Free Choice. The result of the Act of Free Choice will immediately be made known to U.N. Secretary General, U Thant, which will be done by cable by our Foreign Minister, while a complete report on the holding of the Act of Free Choice and the result thereof will be submitted afterwards in accordance with Article 21 paragraph 1 of the New York Agreement. As stipulated in the Regulations issued by the Minister of Home Affairs on the implementation of the Act of Free Choice, the result will be conveyed to the Provincial House of Representatives for West Irian and to the Provincial Administration of West Irian. For that purpose a special session of the Provincial House of Representatives for West Irian will be convened on August 5, 1969.

2. On behalf of the Government may I express my thanks and greatest appreciation to all the people of West Irian, who has acquitted of their tasks and duties in carrying out the Act of Free Choice by way of musiwara democracy and with full responsibility, in a high spirit for the unity of nation and country on the basis of the interests and future of the people of West Irian.

3. We would like also to express our thanks and gratitude to all the people and Government civil officials and the Armed Forces who have rendered their assistance to bring the Act of Free Choice to a successful end.

4. Particularly to Mr. Ortiz Sanz' mission, who was a special representative of the U.N. Secretary General, we would like to convey the Indonesian Government's sincere gratitude and great appreciation for their well-done task concerning the holding of the Act of Free Choice as laid down in the New York Agreement.

Although natural and technical conditions in West Irian frequently did not make their work easier, they have accomplished their tasks with all sincerity and patience till the Act of Free Choice was completed this very day.

5. As for the people of West Irian themselves, the important thing now is to concentrate their attention on development, in the framework of the Government's Five Year Development Programme, including the fostering of the region's
status towards an autonomous province as planned by the Government. On this matter, further instructions, regulations and discussions will be arranged.

Harmony and unity among the people shall also be fostered and reinforced.

May God be always with us.

Djajapura, August 2, 1969.


Minister for Home Affairs/Chairman of the Government's Team for the Holding of the Act of Free Choice,

signed

(AMIR MACHMUD)
I. The Province of West Irian is subdivided into Regencies: (1) Merauke (2) Dja'awidjaja (3) Paniai (4) Pak-fak (5) Sorong (6) Manokwari (7) Tehen Tjinderawan (8) Japen Waropen (9) Djiadjapura.


NOTE: CAA = Consultative Assembly for the Act of Free Choice, or DSM = Dewan Mandarana Pusara, AFC = Act of Free Choice.