



UN Secretariat Item Scan - Barcode - Record Title

Page

3

Date

5/10/2006

Time

10:41:40 AM



S-0876-0001-04-00001

Expanded Number **S-0876-0001-04-00001**

Title **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - West Irian - Brigadier General
I.J. Rikhye - communications**

Date Created **8/25/1962**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Container **S-0876-0001: Peace-Keeping Operations Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant - West Irian
(United Nations Temporary Executive Authority in West New Guinea - UNTEA)**

Print Name of Person Submit Image



Signature of Person Submit



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Summary of discussions held at the Presidential Palace,
Bogor, on Saturday, 25 August, at 9.30 a.m.

President Soekarno, attended by Prime Minister Dr. Djuanda, Defence Minister and Army Chief of Staff, General Nasution, and Army Chief General Jani, received Brigadier General Rikhye, United Nations Supervisor of Agreement Concerning Cessation of Hostilities in West Irian, and Mr. Pavicic, Resident Representative of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in Indonesia, and discussions lasting one hour were held on all points concerning the agreement between the Netherlands and Indonesia on West Irian.

Brigadier Rikhye explained the present difficult situation regarding the paratroopers in West Irian and said that with food scarce and the climate harsh loss of life was high. The Brigadier pointed out that any future infiltrations would be completely illegal and would only aggravate the situation and prevent successful implementation of the agreement.

On 20 August, the Dutch Commander in Hollandia had called for Brigadier Rikhye and showed him on a radar screen Indonesian submarines which were near the Northern coast of West Irian. The Dutch Commander had asked what action should be taken and the Brigadier recommended that the four submarines should not be challenged. The Dutch Commander had then sent out Neptune aircraft which surprised a submarine on the surface and after dropping flares had managed to obtain a clear photograph of it. The photograph was handed to President Soekarno.

The President said that there would be no further infiltrations by Indonesian forces and that although the Dutch had tricked the Indonesians on many occasions he now felt they intended to implement the agreement to leave behind them a clear record.

Brigadier Rikhye told the President that he would arrange with the Indonesian authorities for the clearance of Indonesian aircraft engaged in dropping pamphlets and also the Indonesian military liaison mission which would accompany him to Kotabaru (Hollandia). He also said he would like to arrange a direct contact between Djakarta and Kotabaru. This was immediately agreed.

President Soekarno expressed a lively personal interest in the whole operation and showed a wish to comply with the terms of the agreement. He told Brigadier Rikhye that he would give his full support to the Brigadier's mission.

Following discussions with the President, Brigadier Rikhye and Mr. Pavicic, accompanied by General Jani, met the entire staff of the West Irian Operation for further discussion.

Brigadier Rikhye congratulated the Indonesians on the successful completion of the agreement but pointed out that only by the joint efforts of Indonesia, the Netherlands and the United Nations, and with strict adherence to the terms of the agreement, could it be successfully implemented. The Brigadier stated that the Dutch were very eager to implement the agreement.

General Jani, in his capacity of Chief of Army and Chief of Operations in West Irian, assured Brigadier Rikhye of Indonesia's full co-operation in this respect.

Brigadier Rikhye then gave the situation, according to Dutch information, of the Indonesian parachute forces in West Irian: near Fak-Fak there were about 50 guerillas; near Tavar 70; near Saloke 150; near Sansopar 20; near Manoram 40; and near Misul 140. The latest group had been dropped in the Merauke area, where 300 troops had been divided into two groups of 150 each. They were about 100 km from each other and about 80 to 100 metres from the sea. The Dutch had taken about 450 prisoners, who were well cared for and receiving fair treatment. The problem of repatriating these prisoners would also have to be discussed. Dutch intelligence did not know what had happened to the other 2,000 troops dropped, but it was presumed they had disappeared into the jungle. Their numbers must be decreasing rapidly through lack of food and medical treatment and the difficulties of the field. Losses were known to be heavy but precise data were not available. It was essential that the dropping of pamphlets and food should be organized as soon as possible and troops instructed to contact UN liaison officers immediately.

General Jani stated that 1,047 regular troops from Djakarta had been dropped by air, 497 landed by sea, plus a further 12 by submarine, i.e. a total of 1,656. There was contact only with the group in Merauke as other groups had lost their radio equipment during the air drop. According to information from Merauke, out of 345 men there have been only 9 casualties, and those dropped in Merauke have been divided into three groups but that they had no contact amongst themselves.

A pamphlet had already been prepared and signed by President Soekarno and had been printed in large quantities. However as Brigadier Rikhye suggested a few changes in it it was agreed that a further pamphlet should be issued incorporating these amendments. The second pamphlet would be signed by Major General Suharto, General Officer Commanding the Area and the text of the proposed pamphlet was agreed on the spot.

All technical arrangements for dropping the pamphlets had been made and the necessary cables despatched. The pamphlets would be dropped by Indonesian aircraft and each plane would carry one United Nations military observer - these would be Major Lange and Major Kurubu. The following was the order for dropping:

On the question of which country would supply the United Nations Security Force, Brigadier Rikhye said that as yet he had no information from Headquarters.

The local army in West-Irian consisted of a well-organized corps of about 450 men. New officers, preferably from West Irian, would have to be appointed to command them. General Jani said that in the Indonesian Army there were a few officers who had been born in West Irian and spoke the local dialect and that there would therefore be no difficulty in that respect.

Brigadier Rikhye said that the Indonesian guerillas now in West Irian should be re-organized as a regular army and put under United Nations command. General Jani agreed to this.

Brigadier Rikhye then expressed his fear that the departure from West Irian of all Dutch citizens would completely paralyze the country. General Jani assured him that Indonesia had enough technicians, doctors, teachers, police, etc., ready to leave at a moment's notice and that life could continue as before. This was the responsibility of General Basuki Rachmad, who was also present at the meeting.

Brigadier Rikhye also suggested that Indonesia should send a military liaison officer to New York to be attached to the Indonesian Permanent Mission. From his own experience he felt that this would be most useful and that contact between Djakarta and New York would then be much closer.

The meeting, which had been conducted in a spirit of full co-operation and goodwill, was concluded at 13.00 hours.

Following the meeting the President invited all participants to a lunch, which was held in private and in a completely informal atmosphere.

27 August 1962
Djakarta, Indonesia

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INFORMATION CENTRE

Press Release No.

Djakarta, ²⁷ August 1962

STATEMENT BY BRIGADIER GENERAL I.J. RIEMTE

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has instructed me to supervise the implementation of the Indonesian-Netherlands agreement concerning the cessation of hostilities. He has also instructed me to establish a military observer group provided under this agreement, and to make advance arrangements for the employment of a United Nations security force in West Irian territory.

I reached West Irian on Monday, 20 August, and spent four days in consultations with the Netherlands Military Command and the Administration of the territory. These talks were most useful and all the arrangements which the Netherlands is required to make under the agreement were successfully completed. As the agreement involves two parties, I found it necessary to meet with the Indonesian authorities at once. The Foreign Minister, Dr. Subandrio, had already suggested in New York that I do just this soon after my arrival in West Irian. I called on President Sukarno on Saturday, 25 August, and had the opportunity to discuss key points involved in the agreement. The same morning I had a detailed discussion with the Indonesian Military High Command, including General Jani, Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian Army and Major General Suharto, Theatre Commander, West Irian Operations (named Mandala). Agreement was reached

on all points and since then we have finalised practical measures for implementation of the agreement.

Since a large part of the Indonesian forces in West Irian is in the interior, the agreement provides for an air-drop of Indonesian pamphlets informing Indonesian troops of cessation of hostilities. These pamphlets will be dropped by Indonesian aircraft, each carrying a United Nations military observer.

I had brought with me to Djakarta Major Lange of Sweden and Major Kurubu of Nigeria. These two officers have this morning been transported by special Indonesian military aircraft to Ambon. It is proposed to drop the pamphlets tomorrow and the day after, provided Netherlands' air clearance is received in time - by late this evening.

The agreement provides that the United Nations will arrange the re-supply of Indonesian forces in West Irian territory.

I have concluded arrangements for the air-drop of food supplies, medicines and welfare stores, and have informed United Nations headquarters in New York of our requirement for suitable military aircraft with air-drop equipment to be made available at Djakarta during next week.

Sufficient food will be dropped for one month.

There are some Indonesian prisoners held by the Netherlands authorities in West Irian. Before coming to Djakarta, I was able to visit one of the two camps. I found the prisoners well cared for and in good health. I informed them that I was on my way to Djakarta to make arrangements for their repatriation, which we hope to arrange for next week.

The agreement also provides that Indonesia will provide three officers to form a United Nations military liaison team in West Irian together with three

officers each from the Netherlands and the United Nations. The Indonesian officers are leaving with me tonight for West Irian.

Meanwhile, sixteen United Nations military observers have arrived in West Irian from six countries. These officers have been drawn from UNEF, Gaza, and ONUC, Congo. They are under the overall charge of Commander Olaf Melin of Sweden, who has established his headquarters in Kotabaru.

As I have already said, two of these officers are now in Ambon to supervise the pamphlet drops. The remainder have been deployed in areas where Indonesian and Netherlands forces are located. United Nations military observers will establish contact with Indonesian forces in West Irian territory to render them assistance for re-supply and to get in touch with their High Command. We expect another nine military observers to join us and, in fact, I believe they should be already in West Irian.

I already have had an opportunity to discuss with Indonesian and Netherlands authorities the future deployment of the United Nations security force; plans are well in hand and advance preparation is making suitable progress. We intend that the United Nations security force will relieve all Netherlands garrisons in West Irian territory by 1 October.

It should be sufficiently apparent that we have to a large measure succeeded in ^{completing arrangements for the} implementing the Indonesian-Netherlands agreement concerning cessation of hostilities. There is complete agreement by both sides and therefore it is easy for the United Nations to continue with the implementation of various practical steps. This would not have been possible but for the goodwill and cooperation which the United Nations has received from both parties. I am fully confident that, with the continued good spirit shown by Indonesia and the Netherlands, it is only a matter of time for the United Nations to carry out various measures required under the agreement.

Press Conference given by Brigadier General Riddye
at UNTAB, Djakarta on 27 August, at 5 p.m.

Question There was a report last week from Hollandia that one or two Indonesian submarines had been sighted near the coast of West Irian and that they had apparently landed someone. One report said that a team of Indonesians had been landed. If it is correct it happened after the cease fire was signed.

Answer: It was in West Irian when the Netherlands reported that there were two submarines off the coast near T....., which is very close to Hollandia. Two days later they reported that a rubber dinghy had been found. Since then I have heard that a report has been sent by the senior military observer to headquarters that five Indonesian nationals had been apprehended by the Netherlands authorities, who claim that these five came by submarine. We have no means to check the report, for they could have come anywhere and by any means. As you know, there are a large number of Indonesian personnel all over the territory and so far as we are concerned, we have to take these reports as they have been given to us by the Netherlands in this instance. Headquarters in New York approached the Indonesian authorities and asked them about this and they were informed that there were some submarines at sea at the time of declaration of cessation of hostilities and they were observing radio silence and not in touch with their Headquarters. The Indonesian authorities said that probably it was these submarines which were carrying out a mission which they had been ordered to do prior to cessation. However they would now take immediate steps to recall these submarines to Indonesian waters. This has been done. The five men apprehended by the Netherlands authorities are now with the Netherlands command in West Irian and are awaiting my return so that I may complete my personal investigation. Till then I am not in a position to say anything more.

Question: Would there be any restriction on flights by Indonesian aircraft manned by UN observers?

Answer: Flights of Indonesian aircraft will follow normal international rules and customs, which require all aircraft flying over territory to give their routes, their call signs, the names of the crew and the number of the aircraft. In this instance we have also provided the Netherlands authorities with the targets where pamphlet droppings would take place. I see no difficulty in obtaining this clearance because this flight is provided for in the agreement, but it is only a question of time. We do not have direct communication with West Irian here and I have had to go through New York. If the permission does not come through today we shall do it the day after. We are not unduly concerned about this because it seems word has reached the men, possibly through small transmitters they were carrying. Most seem to know hostilities have ended. This morning I received cables from West Irian telling me that some Indonesian paratroopers have been getting in touch with the Netherlands military garrisons. There has been no incident of shooting however since the agreement has been signed, which in itself is an excellent indication of the goodwill on both sides to bring an end to all hostilities.

Question: It has been said that a number of paratroopers have been detained East New Guinea in West Irian. Is this true?

Answer: I have not received this report from either of the two parties concerned and do not know whether there are Indonesian personnel in the Australian part of New Guinea.

Question: How many Indonesian paratroops have been dropped, how many left behind, and what is the present position?

Answer: Exact information has been received from the Indonesian authorities and there were about a total of 2,000 men who were sent into the territory mainly by parachute, and the remainder by other small vessels. Some of the radio equipment was damaged during the air drop and therefore the exact location of these men is not known. The Netherlands armed forces have been able to locate most of them but there is still a fairly large number whose present location is not known. It was with this in view that in New York, as part of the military protocol connected with this agreement, it was decided that an attempt would be made to reach them by dropping pamphlets, in the hope that these would be picked up not only by the Indonesian soldiers but also by the local population. We hope that by one or other means word will get to them that hostilities have ended and they should get in touch with either Netherlands troops or with the UN.

Question: Will the Indonesian troops once they have come to the reception centres being set up, will they become part of the UN Security force in West Irian; will they join the Pakistani contingent in keeping peace and order?

Answer: There are no reception centres being arranged because these Indonesian forces are regular military troops and the difficulty is only that of locating them and establishing communication with them. They will remain in their own units as part of the structure of the Indonesian armed forces and under this agreement they have been placed at the disposal of the UN administrator, who may employ them to assist West Irian police and volunteers in the maintenance of law and order. While they will not be part of the UN Security Force, they would be additional troops available to the UN Administrator.

Question: We have heard it reported that Holland intends to leave behind it "burnt land" in West Irian. That businessmen returning to the Netherlands will take with them all goods and that food and clothes will be very short in the future. Will UN take care of the population or will ^{it} ~~they~~ be left to Indonesia to supply food and clothing to the population?

Answer: The UN Administrator would be responsible to see that there is food and other necessities of life made available to the people. In order to prevent a breakdown of normal trade and commerce and administration the agreement provides for an advance element of the UN administration to arrive in the territory ahead of 1 October. Already the military group has reached the country and is receiving reports which might be of interest to the UN administrator, like the one you have mentioned, and they are being forwarded to New York. This is helping New York in planning the take-over of responsibility from the Netherlands authorities.

Question: In the event of clashes breaking out between the West Irian people and the Indonesian troops what will be the role of the UN?

Answer: According to the spirit of the agreement I do not envisage such a situation. The system that we propose to follow is that the Indonesian forces in the territory would, in the course of the next few days, to use the military terms we use, "re-organize", which means reform themselves in their normal military organized groups. I have already started preliminary discussions with the Indonesian military High Command as to what would be the nature of command and control of Indonesian forces which will be made available to the UN administrator. Now these measures are normal military steps to have a suitable armed force with a system for command and control. The UN under this agreement is to use the existing civil police organization and a corps of volunteers, which are all to be drawn from the native population, for the maintenance of law and order. UN military force is being brought to the territory to provide aid to the civil power,

that is the UN administration, and the UN military force would therefore be used to provide such assistance which the civil police and volunteer corps may need if such a situation arises. However the UN administrator has the Indonesian forces at his disposal and may use them. That generally would be the pattern.

Question: What are the names of the three officers going to West Irian?

Answer: The Indonesian authorities will announce them shortly.

Question: Who will be responsible for the entrance of foreigners into West Irian?

Answer: The United Nations. Suitable arrangements are being made for the issue of permits and visas, whatever the final technical form may be. But I am aware that before I left Headquarters suitable consultations were taking place between the United Nations and the Netherlands.

Question: That means that after 1 October journalists may go to West Irian?

Answer: Provided they get whatever visa is introduced by the United Nations.

Question: And before 1 October?

Answer: The Netherlands.

Question: You were saying that you were flying to West Irian tonight? Does that mean you are going direct?

Answer: There is no direct commercial flight available and the United Nations aircraft have not yet reached West Irian territory, so I am taking JAL via Singapore to Bangkok and then hope to get on to a special KLM charter, which is being used for repatriation, for Bisk and then on to Hollandia.

Question: That is where your Headquarters will be?

Answer: Yes, Hollandia.

Question: In the text of the agreement which we were able to get it did not specify any date for the planting of the Indonesian flag - on January 1st or December 31st - as was explained later by Indonesian leaders. What is your view on this? Do you think the planting of the Indonesian flag will take place on January 1st, December 31st, May 1st - what is the date according to the Agreement?

Answer: This was being decided and I am afraid I do not know what the final decision is. It had not been finalized when I left New York. But one thing I am clear on is that the UN flag will fly between 1 October and 1 May. Now it is the Netherlands only.

Question: Who will be chosen for sole administrator for the United Nations?

Answer: I do not know. You will have to get that from Headquarters.

2379/62

28 August 1962

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Rolz-Bennett,

I have pleasure in sending you herewith, for information, ... three copies of the minutes of the meeting arranged for Brigadier Rikhye at the Presidential Palace at Bogor on ... Saturday, 25 August, and also a copy of the rough transcript of a verbatim report of the Press Conference which he held prior to his departure yesterday evening. Should you require further copies of either of these papers I shall be glad to send them.

Yours sincerely,

Vojko P. Pavicic
Resident RepresentativeMr. J. Rolz-Bennett,
Deputy Chef de Cabinet,
Executive Office of the Secretary-General,
United Nations,
NEW YORK.

P.S. Enclosed are three copies of the Statement by Brigadier Rikhye at the Press Conference.