

# Small files: Tibet 1959-1961, West Irian (Dutch New Guinea) 1958-1961, Yeme...

*HS L 179:194*



Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

West Irian (Dutch New Guinea)

23 Dec. 60

Sukardjo Wirjopranoto (Perm. Representative  
of Indonesia to the U.N.)

- A letter to D.H. (and transmitted to the  
Perm. Missions of the States Members of the  
U.N.)

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

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FILE NO.:

PO 240 INDO(1)

The enclosed communication addressed to the Secretary-General of the  
..... United Nations dated 23 December 1960 is transmitted to the Permanent  
Missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of  
the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations.

29 December 1960

BRK

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REPUBLIK INDONESIA  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

OFFICE OF  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
FIVE EAST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

TRAFALGAR 9-0600  
CABLE ADDRESS: INDONESIA NEWYORK

894/0217

December 23, 1960

Excellency:

Under instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention the deteriorating situation in West Irian as a result of the increasingly ruthless policy of the Netherlands Government. This policy, pursued in a part of Indonesia, must inevitably lead to clashes between Indonesian and Dutch forces. It constitutes, therefore, an imminent threat to peace and security.

For a decade, since the formal transfer of sovereignty to the Republic of Indonesia, the Netherlands Government has forcibly separated the province of West Irian from the rest of Indonesia. By this arbitrary and unilateral action, it has deprived the people of West Irian of their liberty -- a liberty bestowed upon the Indonesian people as a whole on the achievement of independence.

As the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has consistently pointed out, the forcible separation of West Irian, the suppression of liberty and the continued illegal occupation of

West Irian by Dutch military forces all represent actions by the Netherlands Government in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations

The recent dispatch of Dutch air, naval and land forces to reinforce their military defenses in West Irian proves abundantly that the Netherlands Government is determined to perpetuate its colonial rule in West Irian. This policy is in complete disregard and defiance of the opinions expressed inside and outside the United Nations. It is a repetition of the pattern of Dutch colonial practices in Indonesia prior to independence.

However, notwithstanding these large-scale military reinforcements, the people of West Irian have shown stronger and stronger resistance to the Dutch policy of persecution. In recent months, this resistance has developed into popular uprisings, strikes and boycotts.

The typical Dutch colonial attitude towards these national manifestations is reflected in a statement made by the Dutch minister of Defense in May 1960. As reported by U.P.I. in The Hague, the Dutch Minister of Defense declared before Parliament, in justification of the dispatch of Dutch military reinforcements to West Irian, that these troops were needed to extinguish the growing unrest in that territory.

Indeed, the Dutch have cruelly used armed force to suppress

strikes and boycotts in such industrial and oil centers as Serui, Sorong, Biak and Merauke. This has resulted in tremendous casualties and loss of life.

Moreover, mass outbreaks in West Irian prison camps have been dealt with by the Dutch in the same ruthless fashion. It is interesting to note what sort of people are incarcerated in these camps. According to an official Dutch spokesman, quoted in September 1960 by U.P.I. in The Hague, Dutch administrative officials in West Irian have been under strict orders to imprison and punish every person in possession of the Indonesian flag or who, in other ways, shows sympathy with the Republic of Indonesia.

While the Netherlands Government alleges humanitarian intentions in West Irian, the Dutch colonial administration has mercilessly persecuted and even massacred the population which demands an end of colonial rule.

One of the most serious incidents has only recently come to light, despite the strenuous efforts of the Netherlands Government to withhold the facts from world public opinion. This is the Baliem Valley massacre.

In early November 1960, the Netherlands Parliament finally considered the atrocities committed by a Dutch civil service officer, Dr. Gonsalves, in the Baliem Valley area of West Irian, in November 1959. Recent pre-trial investigation disclosed that Dr. Gonsalves was guilty of manslaughter, arson and murder.

According to a report in the Dutch-owned and Dutch-published newspaper, "New Guinea Courier", Dr. Gonsalves personally conducted the execution of several tribal chiefs and the burning down of homes and villages. Furthermore, in his capacity as Colonial Administrator, he gave personal orders to deny all medical aid to the wounded. For all this, Dr. Gonsalves is reported to have been decorated with the Order of Orange Nassau. This distinguished medal was conferred on Dr. Gonsalves for massacring the people of the Baliem Valley in a so-called campaign of pacification.

That the Netherlands Government appears to be determined to pursue this colonial policy is confirmed by the fact that, in December 1960, it allocated 28,000,000 Florins for the strengthening of the Dutch occupation forces in West Irian. For Indonesia this Dutch decision involves not only a strengthening of the Dutch occupation forces, but also a preparation for an all-out aggression against Indonesia. Again, I call to Your Excellency's attention that this Dutch policy must inevitably lead to clashes, involving a threat to peace and security.

The detestable methods used by the Netherlands Government to suppress nationalist ferment in West Irian are contrary to all the rules of humanity and justice. They constitute a complete negation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

For these reasons, no one can hold the Government of the

Republic of Indonesia responsible if it is obliged to adopt stronger measures in the face of the continuing Dutch policy of force. I may recall what I stated in the supplementary statement to my letter, dated June 6, 1960, addressed to Your Excellency:

"In dealing with the situation with which it is being confronted, the Indonesian Government reserves its right to resort to appropriate means at the proper time and place."

I may also take this opportunity to recall the brief and vivid description given by President Sukarno of the explosive situation existing in one-fifth of our national territory, West Irian. Addressing the Fifteenth General Assembly of the United Nations, on September 30, 1960, President Sukarno explained with respect to West Irian:

"There we have imperialism and the armed forces of imperialism. Bordering that territory, our own troops stand guard by land and sea. Those two bodies of troops face each other, and I tell you that is an explosive situation ...

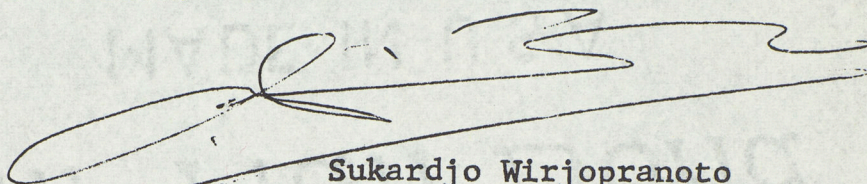
I tell you in all seriousness, the situation in West Irian is a dangerous situation, an explosive situation; it is a cause of tension and it is a threat to peace."

Three months ago President Sukarno spoke these sobering words. Conscious of the peace that is at stake, he issued this warning. Yet, the situation continues to deteriorate and fester dangerously.

The Indonesian Government would appreciate, therefore, Your Excellency's kind intermediary in circulating this letter as an official United Nations document to all Member States so that

they may draw the necessary conclusions regarding the explosive situation in West Irian.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the typed name.

Sukardjo Wirjopranoto  
Permanent Representative of Indonesia  
to the United Nations

His Excellency  
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
United Nations, New York

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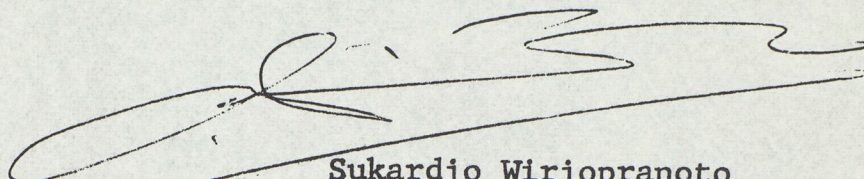
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