

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

*HS L 179:194*



Dag Hammarströms saml.

West Irian (Dutch New Guinea)

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4 Jan. - 14 March 61

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Schürmann, C.W.A (Perun. Representative of  
the Netherlands to the U.N.)

- 2 letters to D.H.
- 1 letter from D.H.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE NETHERLANDS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
711 THIRD AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE: OXFORD 7-5547

New York, 4 January 1961

No. 29

Sir,

In a letter dated December 23, 1960, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations has addressed himself to you on the situation in Netherlands New Guinea. In the letter it is stated inter alia that the Netherlands policy in the territory "must inevitably lead to clashes between Indonesian and Dutch forces" and that "it constitutes, therefore, an imminent threat to peace and security".

In addition, the Indonesian Permanent Representative gives a completely untrue picture of the status of Netherlands New Guinea and of the conditions prevailing in the territory. Furthermore it is absurd even to suppose that the Netherlands Government would have any aggressive intentions whatsoever against Indonesia.

The Netherlands Government is astonished and alarmed at the accusations and menacing language contained in the Indonesian letter and is greatly disturbed by what appears to be an open threat to use force in the area.

The Netherlands Government has nothing to conceal and reiterates its earlier statement to the effect that it is prepared to subject its policy and its actions, aimed at the speediest possible attainment of self-determination by the Papuan people, to the continuous scrutiny and judgement of the United Nations.

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The Secretary-General  
of the United Nations

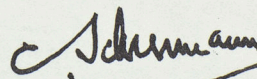
New York  
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You will recall that in June, 1960 the Acting Permanent Representative of the Netherlands intimated to you that the Netherlands Government would have no objection if you would wish to send a representative to the area in order to acquaint yourself with the conditions prevailing in the territory. In view of the new situation created by the recent Indonesian letter the Netherlands Government is today even more convinced of the necessity that a first-hand and impartial account of the actual situation in and around New Guinea should become available.

I am therefore instructed to repeat to you with emphasis the offer made in June 1960 and to state that my Government would whole heartedly welcome your sending a personal representative for the purpose of reporting to you and through you to the members of the United Nations on the conditions in the territory.

The Netherlands Government would be much obliged if you would kindly circulate this letter as an official United Nations document to all Member-States.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,



C.W.A. Schurmann  
Permanent Representative of the  
Netherlands to the United Nations

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FILE NO.:

PO 240 INDO(1)

The enclosed communication dated 4 January 1961 addressed to the  
..... Secretary-General of the United Nations is transmitted to the Permanent  
Missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of  
the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations.

5 January 1961

*BK*

14 March 1961

Many thanks for your letter of 13 March with enclosure. The Indonesians have not raised the matter, which, I guess, may mean that they have gone by the basic text instead of reacting to the agency version.

I would have been happy to see you and am sorry to hear that you are down with lumbago.

Hoping that you will be up and about soon,

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Mr. C.W.A. Schürmann,  
Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands  
to the United Nations,  
711 Third Avenue, 18th floor,  
New York, N.Y.



New York, 13 March 1961

*Dear Dag.*

When you had shown me the translation of the Dutch newspaper report on Joseph's speech in Parliament I immediately enquired whether he had really said the words quoted in that report. I am happy to be able to inform you now that the report was completely erroneous. His reference to having acted on your advice did not relate to the request for sending an observer to New Guinea but to the fact that the Netherlands Government had not proposed a trusteeship for that territory.

I enclose herewith a full translation of all the relevant passages in his speech.

I had hoped to tell you this in person but as I am tied to my bed by a fierce attack of lumbago I have to have recourse to pen and paper.

With best regards,

*Yours*

*Carl*

C.W.A. Schurmann

Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
New York  
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