

JAKARTA UNEASY ABOUT U. S. POLICY

Indonesians and Westerners in Their Capital Fear It Is Aiding the Reds

By **BERNARD KALB**

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JAKARTA, Indonesia, Jan. 25—In the opinion of informed persons who are friends of the United States, Washington's policy toward Indonesia is driving a wedge in the relations between the two countries. The situation is serious, possibly even critical, and the Communist world is doing its best to exploit it.

Among those who hold this opinion are several Indonesian leaders, Asian and Western diplomats and members of the American colony in this capital.

They are deeply distressed by what some of them call the "absent" policy of the United States, which was a popular nation here during Indonesia's revolution to win independence from the Netherlands a decade ago.

Today, these sources say, the United States seems almost to have turned its back on Indonesia in the carrying out of Washington's policy of retaining close Western defense ties with the Netherlands, its ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Indonesia's opponent in the dispute over West New Guinea.

Frigidity Evident

There is no question among observers in Jakarta but that United States prestige here is falling. Against that background, the Soviet Union is busily denouncing Dutch "colonialism" in New Guinea and propagandizing for "peace."

The situation stemming from Washington's policy has reached a point where Djuanda Kartawidjaja, the Premier of this largest uncommitted nation of Southeast Asia, is reported to have said recently to a Western diplomat that he had almost got around to thinking it was virtually useless to talk with the United States about Indonesia's problems.

The latest piece of evidence, so far as many Indonesians are concerned, that the United States seems to place a higher value on its relations with The Hague than with Jakarta, is the imminent departure of John M. Allison, United States Ambassador to Indonesia for less than a year. Mr. Allison is regarded by many responsible Indonesian leaders—and several local newspapers have said the same thing this week—as a diplomat who favors bolstering relations between the two countries in a do-something way.

To these Indonesians, the fact that Mr. Allison is soon leaving for a new post—he will be succeeded here by Howard P. Jones—is taken as proof that a pro-Dutch faction in the State Department has triumphed over advocates of a policy of looking at Indonesia otherwise than through a Dutch prism.

Jakarta newspaper comment has turned Mr. Allison's resignation into a kind of diplomatic cause célèbre. The anti-Communist and independent press has strongly applauded Mr. Allison and sharply criticized Secretary of State Dulles.

The Suluh Indonesia, representing the viewpoint of the Nationalists, the biggest political group in the country, has described Mr. Allison as a "victim of the ignorance of Washington toward existing realities in Indonesia in particular and in all the newborn nations of Asia and Africa in general."

The Times of Indonesia declared today that the State Department's "removal" of Mr. Allison as United States Ambassador here "heralds the nadir of relations between Indonesia and the United States."

Jakarta's Proposals

Indonesians here virtually plead in their conversations with Americans that the United States should do the following:

¶It should turn an understanding ear to the problems and issues involving this struggling nation, only twelve years old.

¶It should not think, if it is so thinking, of "writing off" Java because of the impressive vote-getting strength registered by the Communist party in last summer's provincial elections in this overpopulated, economically depressed island.

¶It should not look at the world as bound only to communism or anti-communism and it should recognize nationalism as a force for good and not confuse nationalism with communism.

¶It should keep in mind that all Indonesian political leaders favor winning West New Guinea and that it is not, as some Western newspapers have charged, only a project of President Sukarno's, designed to divert attention from Indonesia's crises.

¶It should answer with a yes Indonesia's long-standing request to purchase arms. Indonesian arms-shopping missions are now traveling in the Communist world because, Indonesians say, of Washington's failure to help this country obtain the means for internal security.

Indonesians are fully aware that for the United States, both because of its commitments to the Netherlands and because of the "cold war," Indonesian policy is not simple. They candidly admit that developments have taken place here in the last year that lack the approval of the West, such as Dr. Sukarno's championing of "guided democracy," the freedom of action given the Communist party and the current sweeping anti-Dutch drive.

Actually, most people here are just plain confused as to exactly what the United States' policy is. But, as one American put it, it is "alienating the Indonesian people."

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