

SALE OF U. S. ARMS TO INDONESIA SET

Eisenhower Approves Deal for Light Weapons and Other Equipment

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Special to The New York Times.

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb. 8 —President Eisenhower has approved Jakarta's request that the United States make available light military matériel to help equip twenty Indonesian Army battalions, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said tonight.

Informed sources added that it was virtually certain some equipment and training would also be made available for the Indonesian Navy and Air Force. Jakarta's bid for military gear is said to have been made about two and a half months ago, and the Indonesian Army has since been eagerly awaiting final word from Washington.

Ganis Harsono, the ministry spokesman, said the White House decision was relayed tonight to Foreign Minister Subandrio by Ambassador Howard P. Jones. A meeting between the United States envoy and Premier Djuanda, who also serves as Defense Minister, was believed set for tomorrow.

Subandrio Visit Near

The report on the arms deal came on the eve of Mr. Subandrio's departure for Australia on a visit. He was expected to seek a gradual change in Canberra's firm support for the Netherlands in the bitter controversy between Jakarta and The Hague over West New Guinea areas held by the Dutch but militantly claimed by Indonesia.

It was believed certain that the Foreign Minister, in his talks with Australian officials, would point to improving relations between his neutralist nation and the United States as a sign of Washington's increasing confidence in the Indonesian Government and that he would ex-

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press the hope Australia would react the same way.

The Territory of New Guinea in the northeast and the Territory of Papua, which includes the southeast, are governed by Australia.

It was understood here the terms and conditions covering Indonesia's request for light equipment for twenty battalions—there are about 800 men in an Indonesian battalion—had not yet been negotiated. Last week a senior army officer estimated the cost of small arms and some other equipment being sought at \$10,000,000. He added that Indonesia was hoping to arrange for long-term credit.

According to the officer, the new equipment would be used in Jakarta's campaign to wipe out die-hard rebels, who last February began an insurrection against the Central Government from areas in both Sumatra and Celebes. Rebel strength is officially estimated at 4,000.

Observers said any decision by the United States to expand its military shipments here would among other things represent an act of faith in Lieut. Gen. Abdul Haris Nasution. In the past year the army Chief

of Staff has handed down a variety of decrees that have curtailed the open militancy of Indonesia's well organized Communist party.