

More Aid for Sukarno?

When President Sukarno of Indonesia met with President Eisenhower yesterday he had reason to believe that the United States would increase its military aid to his country. The Defense Department denials do not quite clear up this situation. The purpose of such aid, when given, is doubtless to prevent Indonesia from being too dependent on Russia. It cannot express entire approval of President Sukarno's system of government, or of his international policies.

Mr. Sukarno is a dictator. Last March he dissolved the Indonesian Parliament, which had been elected in 1955. Subsequently, he set up a new Parliament, which he himself selected from names submitted to him. One-fifth of the members of this new Parliament are said to be Communists or Communist sympathizers—a proportion which may or may not reflect the full extent of President Sukarno's sympathy with Peiping and Moscow. In his reference to "anti-colonialism" and "anti-imperialism" he echoes the patter of Moscow and the satellites.

Finally, Mr. Sukarno still insists that that portion of the Netherlands New Guinea now held by the Dutch should be turned over to him. Since the people of New Guinea have almost as much racial affinity with the Dutch as they do with the Indonesians, this claim has at least a slight imperialistic tinge.

President Sukarno's interview with President Eisenhower was, of course, pleasant. Such interviews are seldom arranged unless it is fairly sure that they will be pleasant. It may also be prudent for the United States to help the Indonesian "neutralist" and thus offset the credits of \$118 million that Moscow has already extended to Jakarta and the \$200 million that was promised when that famous traveler, Mr. Khrushchev, visited Indonesia last February. Let us not have any illusions, however, as to what we are doing. Mr. Sukarno's "principle of unanimity" does not bear the least resemblance to what we of the Western countries regard as democracy.