%This% letter% was% published% in% the% New% York% Times% on% November% 22,% 1961.

As% President% of% the% New% Guinea% Council% elected% by% free% suffrage,% I% take% issue% with% Indonesian% Foreign% Minister% Soehardio,% who% in% his% letter% to% the% editor% published% Nov.% 17% implies% that% we% are% not% free% to% talk% with% Papuan% members% of% the% Indonesian% delegation.%

This% assertion% is% belied% by% the% facts.%

We% stand% for% self-determination% of% the% Papuan% people% and% are% prepared% to% discuss% this% position% with% anyone% on% any% level. In% fact,% we% have% already% had% occasion% to% do% so% with% such% members% of% the% Indonesian% delegation% as% are% of% Papuan% origin.

New Guinea Council, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the U. N.