

Letters to The Times

Discussions With Papuans

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

As Vice President of the New Guinea Council, elected by free suffrage, I take issue with Indonesian Foreign Minister Soebandrio, 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.

NICOLAAS JOUWE,
Vice President, New Guinea Council,
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the U. N.

New York, Nov. 17, 1961.