

# Indonesia Seen Facing Vast Job In Build-Up for New Guinea War.

## Troops Are Being Gathered at Celebes Training Site, but Indications Are That Planning Is Still in Early Stage

By ROBERT TRUMBULL

Special to The New York Times.

MACASSAR, Indonesia, Jan. 25—Indonesia's war machine for possible invasion of Netherlands New Guinea began to take shape this week at this staging base on the southernmost tentacle of the starfish-shaped Celebes Island.

Troops are to be assembled and trained in jungle assault tactics at several army schools here and in the near-by mountains.

At one such school visited yesterday soldiers were studying clay terrain models of strategic areas of Netherlands New Guinea. At another, infantrymen were practicing infiltration tactics in a realistic forest setting with live machine gun bullets flying over their heads.

Long truck convoys and marching ranks of fully equipped fighting men are a common sight along the pleasant esplanade where this ancient trading port fronts the Java Sea.

### Troops Are Rotated

At this point the troops gathered here number only a few more than the normal garrison of less than 10,000. Units from Java and other islands have been rotated regularly since this area became a focal point of the rebellion that ended last fall.

Maj. Gen. Achmad Jani, the commander of military operations for West Irian, as the Indonesians call Netherlands New Guinea, formally handed over direct command in this theatre to Maj. Gen. Suharto in a ceremony held Tuesday in a drenching rain. General Suharto, who like many Indonesians has no first name, is a handsome, slightly chubby man of about 40 years old. Associates say he was known to the Dutch as "the ghostly terror" when he commanded the West Java revolutionary forces that helped win Indonesia's freedom from Netherlands rule.

The youthful-looking general's next job may be to try to seize the last bit of Dutch-held territory that Indonesians contend should have been handed over to them along with more than 3,000 islands of the former Netherlands East Indies.

This seaport's geographic situation underscores the enormous logistic problems facing the Indonesians in any major military operation against New Guinea. There is no perceptible

sign here that this vast job has progressed beyond the early planning stage.

Macassar, nearly 900 miles air miles from the nearest shore of Netherlands New Guinea. It is much farther by sea.

An invasion fleet to be assembled here would presumably be brought from Surabaya, Indonesia's principal naval base on Java, 500 miles southwest.

From Macassar ships would have to move to a forward base still under construction at Amboina, which is 600 air miles farther east of here and a considerably longer voyage by sea.

From Amboina, Netherlands New Guinea is 600 or more miles away by sea and Indonesian ships would be under Dutch air and radar observation. On making a landing, the Indonesians immediately would face a formidable jungle and mountain barrier and possibly hostile natives.

For all these reasons the current operations in Macassar must be classified as only a beginning in a long preparation needed for any full-scale amphibious exercise.

### Confiscations Threatened

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Jan. 25 (AP)—The Indonesian Government is planning to confiscate all Dutch and Dutch-British concerns that escaped previous nationalization if the Netherlands refuses to hand over Netherlands New Guinea, a high source reported today.

Most Dutch property was nationalized during a campaign several years ago to get Netherlands New Guinea, but the Government held out some hope of compensation for the former owners.

### Dutch Strength Cited

Dispatch of The Times, London.

CANBERRA, Australia, Jan. 25—Present Dutch forces in Netherlands New Guinea could almost certainly prevent Indonesia from taking all but isolated and small parts of the territory this year, according to reliable sources here.

To dominate the whole territory of 161,000 square miles, the sources said, the Indonesians would have to take Biak, which is believed to be defended by an 850-man battalion of marines and a 500-man anti-aircraft force.