

Indonesians Promise to Support Interests of New Guinea People

Subandrio Says Inhabitants Can Break Ties Later If They Choose

By ROBERT TRUMBULL

Special to The New York Times.

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Jan. 31—Foreign Minister Subandrio has pledged that Indonesia will undertake to carry out all Dutch aims concerning the interests of the population in Netherlands New Guinea if the administration of the area is turned over to his country.

The guarantees offered by Indonesia include assurance that the region and its 700,000 Melanesians can quit the Indonesian Republic after "ten or fifteen years" of Indonesian rule if they so desire, Dr. Subandrio said in an interview at his home last night.

These warranties represent an important concession to the Netherlands' views, Dr. Subandrio said. He stressed that the differences between Indonesia and the Netherlands over the Dutch colony had now narrowed to a single issue: Jakarta's demand that negotiations be based upon transfer of the area to Indonesian administration sooner or later.

High officials here intimated earlier that the transfer process might be spread over a period of two or three years, during which Dutch administrators might work side by side with the Indonesians.

U. N. Assistance Welcomed

Dr. Subandrio said that Indonesia would welcome technical assistance by the United Nations during and after the transition. He ruled out any form of international control pending full transfer of authority.

The Foreign Minister said the current Dutch proposal for a temporary United Nations trusteeship or other interim international administration would have been acceptable to Jakarta two or three years ago. Since then, he said, the Indonesian position has hardened.

"The Dutch have always been one step behind Indonesia's minimum terms," he added. "The Dutch make concessions only after Indonesia's demands have been forced to a higher point."

"We simply want the Dutch to redeem their pledges made before 1950," the Foreign Minister declared. This was an illusion to Indonesia's interpretation of agreements reached with the Dutch on the New Guinea question before The Hague ac-



Foreign Minister Subandrio

cepted the republic's sovereignty over the former Netherlands East Indies in December, 1949.

At that time it had been decided that the status of Dutch New Guinea would be settled by negotiations during the succeeding twelve months. Indonesia contends that these negotiations were to have determined time and manner of including the territory in the republic. The Dutch maintain that the question of the colony's political future was left open.

Dr. Subandrio said Indonesia would stand by President Sukarno's declaration that Netherlands New Guinea must be acquired by the republic this year, either through peaceful means or by force. He added that Indonesia was still willing to wait a few months before resorting to arms.

"Indonesia has no desire to expand military resources and manpower to gain West Irian if the problem can be settled peacefully," he declared. West Irian is the Indonesian name for Netherlands New Guinea.

He said tensions aroused over Netherlands New Guinea had impeded the achievement of Indonesia's desire for closer ties with the Western powers. At the same time, he declared, the conflict has interfered with internal progress.

He indicated that no hope for improvement in the situation could be seen here so long as the Netherlands Government resisted Jakarta's demand that negotiations be preceded by a "clear understanding" that they are to lead to installation of an Indonesian administration in the disputed territory.