

PAPUANS AT U.N. SCORE INDONESIA

Lobbyists Asking Nations to Insure Fair Plebiscite

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. Oct. 19—Among the spokesmen here for peoples pressing for nationhood, the representatives of the one million Papuans of West Irian, or Indonesian West New Guinea, are among the least obtrusive, and perhaps the most passionate.

Their spokesman is Nicolaas Jouwe, chairman of the Freedom Committee of West Papua, as the Papuans refer to West New Guinea.

Mr. Jouwe's mission is to persuade the representatives of the 125 member nations of the United Nations that Indonesia is refusing to permit a fair plebiscite in West Irian on whether the inhabitants want to continue to be citizens of Indonesia.

The United Nations is to observe the plebiscite, which is to be conducted by Indonesian authorities next summer. Mr. Jouwe, in press releases, letters to newspapers, announcements and conversations in the corridors with all who will listen, charges that there can be no opportunity for free expression under the conditions imposed by Indonesia.

Suppression Charged

Mr. Jouwe says that more than 30,000 Indonesian troops and thousands of Indonesian civil servants "occupy" the area and that complete suppression of Papuans, a Negroid people, has been official Indonesian policy.

"We do not believe our people will enjoy the normal democratic procedure to express their will about the future," Mr. Jouwe said.

Indonesian authorities have said that they will adhere to the decision to hold a plebiscite, but, in the words of President Suharto, the matter of "free choice" in the area "does in no way mean that we shall sacrifice that population" or that "we shall abandon the fruits of our struggle for the liberation of West Irian."

Indonesian policy calls for the continuation of the area as an integral part of Indonesia.

U.N. Aide Toured Area

Dr. Fernando Ortiz Sanz, representing Secretary General Thant, last summer toured the area and reported that the people were suffering from a "complete lack of information" about the decision they are to make some time between April and July, 1969. He said there was an urgent need for a program to explain to the Papuans what the act of free choice meant.

Indonesia took over West New Guinea from the temporary care of the United Nations on May 1, 1963. Before the United Nations took over in October, 1962, the area had been Dutch. Under the United Nations plan, Indonesia was to arrange for the area to express its wishes on self-determination by 1969.

The eastern half of New Guinea consists of the Australian Territory of Papua and the United Nations Trust Territory of New Guinea, which are administered jointly by Australia.

The ultimate Papuan dream, Mr. Jouwe says, is a confederation of all Negroid civilizations in the Far Pacific. Before that dream can be realized, the Papuan spokesman declared, a fair deal for West New Guinea must be assured.

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