

IRIAN FLARE-UPS WORRY AUSTRALIA

Clashes on Frontier Follow
Unrest Over Jakarta Rule

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SYDNEY, Australia, May 1 —Native discontent with Indonesian plans for determining the future political status of West Irian, the former Dutch colony in New Guinea, is blamed here for a series of disturbances along the border between Indonesian and Australian jurisdictions on the huge island.

More is involved than the sanctity of a wild jungle frontier. Many Australians are deeply agitated over whether the national moral principle of one man, one vote is more im-



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Indonesians hunted refugees in border village (cross).

portant to them in the case of West Irian than the need to maintain good relations with 100 million Indonesian neighbors.

The latest flare-up involved the violation of the boundary by Indonesian police who fired at an Australian official and two New Guinea policemen and an interpreter on the scene. They also fired at a group of about 80 West Irianese men, women and children fleeing into Australian territory. No one was hurt in the firing, which occurred last Saturday.

A House-to-House Search

Charles E. Barnes, the Australian Minister for External Territories, reported to Parliament in Canberra Wednesday that the Indonesians then conducted a house-to-house search for the fleeing West Irianese in the border village of Wutong, which is on the northern coast of Australian New Guinea within 100 yards of the frontier.

"After a prolonged discussion with the officer in charge, during which a man who had been held by the party was released, the Indonesian party returned to West Irian," Mr. Barnes said, adding that "strong representation" had been made to Jakarta on the case.

Australia has flown 12 policemen to the area to reinforce the normal border patrol, he said.

The West Irian refugees are being held at the village of Vanimo, administrative center of the West Sepik district of Australian New Guinea. The village is about 20 miles east of the border and 30 miles from Jayapura, the capital of West Irian.

More than 500 other West Irianese crossed into Australian territory in previous months, reportedly because of dissatisfaction with Indonesian rule. The new border incident followed reports of sizable demonstrations against Indonesia last week in Jayapura, formerly called Hollandia and Sukarnapura.

Indonesia has periodically announced the quelling of native uprisings since she gained control of the territory after the Dutch withdrawal in 1962.

Under an agreement with the United Nations, Indonesia took over the administration of West Irian on the condition that the people of the territory would be permitted to decide their own political future in 1969.

Jakarta has scheduled this "act of free choice," as the Indonesians call the determination, for next August.

Rejecting native demands that the issue be decided by a referendum in which the rule would be one man, one vote, Jakarta has decreed that the question shall be settled through the Indonesian method of "Mushawarah" (consultation).

Statement by Suharto

The United Nations has accepted the Indonesian plan, under which about 1,000 local leaders will make the decision on behalf of about 800,000 people.

The chief United Nations representative in West Irian, Dr. Fernando Ortiz Sans of Bolivia, has urged that the participants in the consultation should be "clearly appointed by the people."

Indonesia agreed to this, but so far the method of selection to be followed has not been disclosed.

President Suharto in January declared that the political decision to be made in West Irian must not "betray or harm the Indonesian people and the Government."

This statement was interpreted in Australia as a warning that the West Irianese "have the choice to say yes," as The Australian, a respected national newspaper, put it in an editorial chiding Jakarta.

"However," the newspaper declared, "in the long run Australia's major interests lie not in insisting upon a fair and just settlement for the West Irianese [but] in continued good relations with Indonesia."