

West Irianese Predict Long Struggle

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VANIMO, New Guinea, May 15—Refugees from West Irian, the Indonesian-administered part of New Guinea, predict a long guerrilla struggle if Indonesia takes formal control of the former Dutch colony in August, as scheduled without a vote of the 800,000 inhabitants.

Indonesian spokesmen have announced that paratroops and other forces put down an uprising earlier this month in which the rebels put five airfields out of commission, forcing the Indonesians to drop troops by parachute. [Informed sources in Jakarta maintained that the violence amounted to isolated outbreaks rather than full-scale rebellion.]

Leaders of the dissident Irianese who have fled here to Australian New Guinea declare that the rebellion will go on.

"The real trouble will start when the Government in Jakarta announces that we are all Indonesians," said a middle-aged refugee who identified himself as an officer of a militant rebel group known as the Komando Pembebasan Papua Bharat, or Free Papua Liberation Command, one of 13 known anti-Indonesian organizations in West Irian.

Ethnic Link Stressed

The refugees persist in calling their homeland West Papua, stressing the ethnic link with indigenous inhabitants of the Australian territory of Papua.

Australia governs Papua and the United Nations trust territory of New Guinea as an administrative unit, and the supposition is that the territories will eventually become one independent state.

West Irian, called western New Guinea by the former Dutch rulers, was handed over to Indonesian administration in 1963, after an interim period under the United Nations, with the proviso that the inhabitants should freely determine their own political future by 1969.

Indonesia has announced that the "act of free choice" shall be "musjawarah," or consul-



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Vanimo, to which refugees from West Irian are fleeing.

tation with 1,000 representatives of various tribal councils. How these representatives will be chosen has not been stated. Jakarta has rejected a proposal by Fernando Ortiz Sanz of Bolivia, the United Nations representative for West Irian affairs, that at least a partial plebiscite be held, with a one-man, one-vote procedure in the more advanced coastal areas and with musjawarah in the more primitive interior.

"The Indonesians had three-quarters of the population with them in the beginning," said Adrian Visser a 25-year-old Netherlands national who left a profitable lumber enterprise in Jayapura, the capital of West Irian, to move to this town near the border.

The misgivings began, Mr. Visser said, when the Irianese observed their new rulers industriously collecting "junk to send back to the skimpy bazaars of an impoverished Indonesia. The disillusion became complete, he continued, when the acquisitive Indonesian troops began systematically stealing pigs and chickens for food.

According to Australian records, approximately 600 West Irianese have fled across the border in recent months. About 400 of them have been resettled on Manus Island in the Admiralty group, part of the New Guinea trust territory. Some

returned, "not in peace, but to fight," said Jacob H. Pray, a bearded 25-year-old militant.

Among the 108 refugees now living in a tent settlement provided by the Australian administration at the village of Yako, 11 miles this side of the West Irianese border, many are educated and skilled. Mr. Pray was one of several who spoke English.

The ability of the West Irian rebels to resist the overwhelming force on Indonesia is doubted even by their sympathizers here. A similar movement has gone on for years in Indonesia's South Molucca Islands without having achieved much apparent effect beyond keeping dissidence alive through external propaganda.

Under the gentle authority of Len Mitchell, a young administrative officer of the Tasmanian Government, the refugees are biding their time in an idyllic setting by a white beach and blue-green lagoon.

Most refugees arrive in Australian territory through the Australian police border post at Wutung, a few hundred yards from the jungled frontier. New barracks for police reinforcements were being built yesterday.

Landing Beneath Cliff

Visitors by air to Wutung, a World War II United States Army camp 20 miles west of Vanimo, the district administrative center, get there in a six-seat Cessna that strides sideways, like a crab, to come down on a tiny grass strip beneath a chalk cliff. Going out, the pilot, Alan Cheers, lifted sharply and dodged a wooded headland by yards.

Tony Try, the bearded young Australian commander of the post, is a hero in Australia for having single-handedly confronted an Indonesian police contingent that crossed the border in pursuit of 79 refugees on April 26, firing their rifles as they came "The Indonesians were probably just trying to force them back into Irian or farther this way, and simply followed them into Australian territory," he said