

Dual DistributionCOMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES
ON THE
INDONESIAN QUESTIONCORRIGENDUM TO THE FOURTH INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

Following Appendix XVII B, which ends on page 116, the communique appearing below should be inserted as

Annex to Appendix XVII B

Communique reproduced from the English edition of Aneta News
Bulletin of 13 November 1948

"ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS VERSUS THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES

BATAVIA, November 12 - The Army Information Service announces:

With reference to several inquiries of the communique published by the Committee of Good Offices on the 4th and 6th instant, regarding the violations of the truce did not induce the Dutch High Command to any commentary, the Army Information Service announces the following:

During the last few months the Dutch High Command has protested numerous times with the Committee of Good Offices in writing as well as verbally against the ever-increasing number of violations of the truce, which were committed by Republican outfits though it had constantly and most emphatically been pointed out that an extremely precarious situation was gradually developing especially on account of the organized re-infiltration of Republican outfits into Dutch controlled territory. These protests never led to a satisfactory reaction.

Lastly on October 12 the Dutch Commander-in-Chief offered the Committee of Good Offices to personally give an exposition to the members of the Committee of Good Offices and its military observers of the state of affairs backed up by all proven evidence on hand with a view to convincing them of the serious situation; the Commission however thought proper to decline the offer. But what did happen was that the Committee of Good Offices conveyed to the Dutch delegation a letter received from the Republican delegation alleging the documentation which had been accumulated by the Dutch High Command bearing on the infiltrations and exclusively made up of documents originating from Republican authorities.

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It is a striking feature that in spite of the overwhelming evidence offered the Commission (the authenticity of which could be established by its own observers and which in sundry cases has in fact been confirmed by them), it deemed it necessary to approach both parties to point out how serious it considered the present situation to be, in the event urging both parties to prevent violations of the truce.

It is indeed possible to speak of a crossing of the Status Quo Line by Dutch forces when action is taken against gangs coming from Republican territory who make attacks inside the border area controlled by the Dutch troops. Practice has shown that these gangs attempt to withdraw behind the Status Quo Line in order to inflict losses on the Dutch from there, if from the Dutch side military action is taken against them.

As far back as August 5, 1948 the Chief of the General Staff in his capacity of military member of the Dutch delegation stated in a sitting of the Security Committee of Committee of Good Offices that in such circumstances the Dutch troops would chase the gangs over the Status Quo Line as long as there would be contact in order to neutralize them. This done the Dutch would go back again behind the Status Quo Line. This way of acting is vindicated by the 31st article of the truce itself, which states that military measures are justified in case of "acute danger to the safety of the troops or the civil population". Wherever this happened this has always been reported to the local military observers of the Committee of Good Offices, when present, and no one can expect a military commander to suffer his men to be shot at without taking effective measures against this. This rule of action shall not be deviated from in future a case occurs.

A second complaint that has cropped up bears on the reconnoitring of the Dutch Air Forces which now and then took place over Republican-controlled territory. These reconnoitring were directed either against air piracy perpetrated contrary to the international provisions and under the auspices of the Republic or in consequence of the serious fires on Republican territory (Tjepu).

Finally it is observed that it has drawn the attention that suddenly after the publication in these last few weeks of the objective survey of the Army Information Service on the general situation which are considered necessary for a correct judgment of the situation in the press, the own population, and by everyone who wishes to follow the Indonesian question, an appeal has been made to the Army High Command to put an end to this news on the grounds that it would confuse the issue.

It is pointed out that the anti-Dutch propaganda carried on by the Republic in the interior and abroad in spite of the Linggadjati and
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Renville agreements and of the continued protests with the Committee of Good Offices has never been stopped. On the Dutch side nothing more is done than to outline the true situation on the strength of reliable information available.

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