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EXCHANGE OF CABLES BETWEEN ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT  
AND PRESIDENT SUKARNO OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Text of cable dated 27 June from President Sukarno:

"I thank you very much for your message of 26 June. I am very gratified for your reply in the affirmative to my inquiry as contained in my message of 20 June. The understanding between us has been established about the phased operation as contained in the Bunker proposals, the transfer of administration to Indonesia, followed after so many years by the arrangement made by Indonesia, with the assistance and participation of the Secretary-General and the United Nations to give the people of the territory of West Irian the opportunity to exercise freedom of choice.

"In fact, upon this understanding I do not see any reason for further delay in the resumption of negotiation. On the other hand, to be frank, even up till now it is not yet clear to me about the public attitude of the Netherlands Government.

"Whereas you mentioned in your message, the Netherlands Government having signified their acceptance of the Bunker proposal without any qualification or reservation, in your judgment, implying the acceptance of the phased operation envisaged in the Bunker proposal, there has been no official public confirmation yet from the Netherlands Government regarding this interpretation. On the contrary the spokesman of the Ministry of Interior in The Hague said on the 25th of June that "Secretary Both\* had stated only that the Netherlands Government are prepared to talk on the Bunker plan without any reserves."

"Thus, the statement made earlier by Secretary Both whilst in Washington to the effect that the Netherlands Government has accepted the Bunker proposal without any reservation or qualification, has been refuted by the Netherlands Government in The Hague.

"I sincerely hope that the Netherlands Government will give its public affirmation to the content of your message you sent to me on the 21st of June, so that the negotiation can be resumed soon.

(more)

\* T.H. Bot, Secretary of State for New Guinea Affairs in the Netherlands Ministry of the Interior.

Text of cabled reply dated 28 June from the Acting Secretary-General:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your message of 27 June, the contents of which I conveyed to the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands that very same day.

"Today I received from Ambassador Schurmann a reply confirming my interpretation as follows: 'The Netherlands Government confirms once more that, as was already apparent from its previous statements, it accepts the sequence of events as laid down in the Bunker proposals on condition that it will receive, equally in accordance with the Bunker proposals, adequate conditions and guarantees for the rights and interests of the Papuans.'

"Regarding the statement by a spokesman of the Netherlands Ministry of the Interior, mentioned in your telegram, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands was authorized to inform me that no such statement exists and that neither the aforementioned Ministry nor any other government authority had made such a statement.

"In view of the above, I feel it appropriate to reiterate my request, made to Your Excellency earlier this month, to expedite the designation of your plenipotentiary for the discussions envisaged."

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