

REPORT DATED 25 JANUARY 1949 FROM THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES ON THE
INDONESIAN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN MISSION
TO LAKE SUCCESS AND THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADERS

The Committee of Good Offices submits the following report:

(A) Republican Mission to Lake Success.

1. The Committee refers to its telegram of 21 January addressed to the President of the Security Council reporting that the Committee had received a request from Prime Minister Hatta to arrange facilities for a Republican Mission to Lake Success in accordance with the procedure outlined at the Security Council meeting of 17 January. The Committee presented the request to the Netherlands Delegation on 21 January so that the necessary clearances could be authorized. The Committee was at that time informed that the question of authorizing the Mission had been referred to the Netherlands Government at The Hague. The Committee has been informed that no decision has been reached by the Netherlands Government regarding clearances and facilities for Republican representatives to proceed to Lake Success. Therefore, the Committee is not in a position to make any arrangements for this Mission.

(B) Status of Republican Leaders.

2. On 24 January 1949 the following letter of the same date was received by the Committee from the Secretary-General of the Republican delegation:

"Batavia

24 January 1949

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report on the visit of Professor Supono, Doctor Darmasetiawan and myself to Republican leaders interned at Prapat, Sumatra and on the Island of Bangka. At Prapat on January 21 and 22 we visited the President, Doctor Sukarno and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hadji Agis Salim. At Bangka on January 22 and 23 we had discussions with the Vice-President, Doctor Hatta and the rest of the Republican leaders interned there.

2. The conditions of living of the President and Hadji Agus Salim are good. They are, however, confined under armed guard to a relatively small military area and do not have freedom of movement outside of that area at Prapat.
3. At Bangka the living conditions of Republican leaders have improved following the visit of Doctor Gieben and Colonel Thompson on January 17. They have freedom of movement on the Island and have a motor car at their disposal. They have been instructed, however, that they are not to engage in political activities with the exception of those in line with the policy of the Netherlands. I shall formally submit a full report from Doctor Roem on the present conditions of internment of the Republican leaders at Bangka.
4. During my visit to Bangka I was informed by the Vice-President that the following telegram had been sent by him to the Chairman of the Committee of Good Offices in Djakarta on January 21, 1949: "Owing to PCJ broadcast Netherlands Government will not oppose despatching Republican leaders to New Delhi Conference. In conformity our interrupted plan please your assistance for obtaining facilities for departure President Soekarno, Hadji Salim, Mohamad Natsir and Suryadarma. Please your assistance for meeting President Soekarno's party with me at Bangka before departure. Hatta."

As I understand the telegram has not been transmitted to the Committee I should be glad if you would now take the message into consideration.

5. During our visit to Prapat and Bangka we also learned that a telegraphic message from the President to the Vice-President suggesting that Mister Sjahrir and Doctor Roem might be sent to Lake Success had not been delivered. This telegram has since been superseded by the decision to send Mister Sjahrir and Doctor Leimena to Lake Success. The fact remains, however, that the President's telegram was not delivered.
 6. I therefore wish to emphasize in this report the serious disadvantage at which the Republic has been placed as a result of the obstacles in the way of communications between Republican leaders and as between Republican leaders on the one hand and the members of the Republican Delegation at Djakarta and the Committee of Good Offices on the other.
- I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) R. Soedjono, Secretary
General Republican Delegation

To: Chairman,
Committee of Good Offices,
Batavia."

3. At 2100 hours on 24 January, the Committee delivered this letter to the Netherlands Delegation. The Committee's covering letter stated that a copy of the Republican Delegation's letter of 24 January would be forwarded to the Security Council and requested that any comments that the Netherlands Delegation might care to make be given to the Committee before 1100 hours on 25 January.
4. At 1930 hours 24 January, the Committee received from the Netherlands Delegation letter number 450 dated 24 January, transmitting the telegram from Prime Minister Hatta quoted in paragraph 4 of the Republican Delegation letter of 24 January. The Netherlands Delegation letter continued: "In this connection I have been authorized to state that neither the Netherlands Government nor the Government of Indonesia has either officially or unofficially stated its position regarding a visit of Republican leaders to the New Delhi Conference." The Netherlands letter did not state the date on which the telegram thus transmitted from Prime Minister Hatta had been filed or explain the delay in delivery.
5. The Committee notes that "PCJ" in Prime Minister Hatta's telegram is the call sign of the Netherlands station at Hilversum. Presumably, the broadcast to which Prime Minister Hatta refers was related to a news item which appeared in the English edition of Aneta of 20 January as follows: "Replying to a question, the spokesman said the Netherlands Government will not place any obstacle in their way should one of the Republican leaders wish to travel to Lake Success or to New Delhi." The Committee has subsequently ascertained from the "spokesman" referred to that he was not at the time speaking officially under instructions from his Government.
6. On 25 January, the Committee received the following letter of the same date, number 463, from the Netherlands Delegation:

"Batavia
25 January 1949

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the Committee's letter of January 24, 1949, number 60159, received yesterday at 2100 hours.

With regard to paragraph 4 of the Republican Delegation's letter of January 24 last, I may refer to my letter of the same date, number 450, which you received on the same day at approximately 1930 hours.

During your conversation with Doctor Riphagen on that day, he explained that Mr. Sukarno's telegram to Doctor Hatta was not delivered for the following reason: to avoid confusion resulting from the fact that at that time there was a possibility that Mr. Sukarno would proceed

/to Bangka

to Bangka, Doctor Koets left the telegram at Mr. Sjahrir's house - as Mr. Sjahrir was not at home - together with a communication from Mr. Sukarno to Mr. Sjahrir, and offered to transmit the message contained in the telegram to Doctor Hatta, if Mr. Sjahrir deemed this necessary. Since no request to this effect was received, no further action was taken.

You will no doubt appreciate that, since you request a reply before 0110 hours today, my Delegation must reserve its right to comment on the matters raised in the Republican Delegation's letter and not already dealt with above, in a subsequent letter. I have the honour, etc.

For the Acting Chairman
(Signed) Doctor W. Riphagen

To: Chairman,
Committee of Good Offices,
Batavia"

7. At 1215 hours 25 January, the Chairman of the Committee informed the representative of the Acting Chairman of the Netherlands Delegation that, in light of the final paragraph of the latter's letter of 25 January, the Committee would be glad to receive any further comments that the Netherlands Delegation might have ready up to 1530 hours of the same day. No further comments have been received.

(C) Federalist Approach to Republican Leaders.

8. The Secretary-General of the Republican Delegation has forwarded to the Committee copies of correspondence between the Chairman of the Contact Committee of the Conference for Federal Consultation on the one hand and President Sukarno and Prime Minister Hatta on the other. In reply to an invitation from the Chairman of the Contact Committee to attend a meeting of the Federalists in Batavia in connection with the formation of a Federal Interim Government for Indonesia, the President and Vice-President of the Republic have indicated that such a meeting can only be considered after the Republican leaders have been released and there has been an opportunity for the Republican Government to consider the invitation.

