

United Nations

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UNRESTRICTED

SECURITY  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
DE SECURITE

3/11/48  
23 December 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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REPORT DATED 22 DECEMBER 1948 FROM THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES ON THE  
INDONESIAN QUESTION

1. At approximately 06:40 Batavia time on Sunday 19 December, the members of the Committee of Good Offices were awakened by the sound of explosions from the direction of Maguwo airport, Jogjakarta. Present at Kaliuran, the headquarters of the Committee at the time, were the Australian representative, the Belgian representative and the deputy of the United States representative. After the Committee had made a survey of the situation, it held a special meeting at 08:45 Batavia time and directed that the following telegram be transmitted to the United States representative, who had gone to Batavia the day before with the deputy of the Australian representative:

"Most immediate. Cochran, Hotel des Indes, Batavia and care United States Consul General Batavia. Committee requests the following message be transmitted to the Security Council earliest. '6 a.m. today-Dutch began large scale bombing of Maguwo airport Jogjakarta Republican capital. Hatta reports bombing of parts of Jogjakarta itself and the dropping of paratroopers. Committee calls for immediate meeting of Security Council for appropriate action'. Committee authorises Cochran and Cutts to supplement this message as they see fit and take other appropriate urgent action in Batavia on behalf of the Committee if communications with Committee impracticable. Have authorized special release to press of Committee's Supplementary Report of 18 December. Urge maintenance of communications between Batavia and Jogjakarta. Confirm receipt."

2. Every effort was made to have this telegram transmitted to Batavia. When the Batavia radio failed to answer, a general call was sent out to all stations, including ships at sea; a further attempt to have the message broadcasted by the Jogjakarta radio failed. Later efforts were made to transmit the message during that day, and on 20 and 21 December after the arrival of Netherlands forces. These efforts failed.

3. Late in the afternoon of 19 December, the delegations and the secretariat, at the direction of Republican military officials, rearranged and consolidated their residence, in order to be in a concentrated area which could more readily be protected.

4. During the night 20-21 December, the Republican garrison withdrew. The members of the Republican delegation remained.
5. At 15:10 Batavia time, Monday, 20 December, the Netherlands forces arrived in Kaliurang. With the exception of the servants and hotel employees most of whom had remained to serve the delegations, the area appeared deserted. There were a number of shots fired by the advancing Netherlands forces and gunfire was heard intermittently during the days that followed. There were reports of fatal shootings of civilians. The shooting of an unarmed boy by an Ambonese soldier of the Netherlands forces was personally witnessed by a member of the secretariat staff and his young daughter.
6. Effective communications between Kaliurang and Jogjakarta were not re-established through Monday and Tuesday, 20 and 21 December.
7. About 09:00 hours on Wednesday, 21 December, the three delegations and the secretariat staff were removed in convoy to Jogjakarta and late in the afternoon began, in three divisions, to fly to Batavia. The Republican delegation, at last reports, remained in Kaliurang confined to restricted limits. Netherlands officers stated, however that the Republican delegation would be shortly removed to Jogjakarta.
8. Throughout 19-20-21 December numerous explosions were heard and large columns of smoke were witnessed at many points in the valley below Kaliurang. Some twelve houses in Kaliurang were burned down before the arrival of the Netherlands forces. During the ride down from Kaliurang, it was observed that most of the houses were closed and that there were few or no workers to be seen in the fields or along the road. A number of the bridges had been demolished.
9. On its return to Batavia, the Committee took note of the reports which had been sent to the Security Council by the United States representative and the deputy of the Australian representative on 19-21 December, in the four day period during which communications between the Committee at Kaliurang on the one hand, and Batavia and the outside world on the other, were entirely broken. It was noted that the reports made, and other actions taken by the United States representative and the deputy of the Australian representative were fully authorized not only by the emergency situation that existed but by the express authority conferred on them to act for the Committee by the decision taken by the Committee at Kaliurang at its meeting of 19 December, 1948.

(Signed) R. HERREMANS (Belgium)  
Chairman  
T.K. CRITCHLEY (Australia)  
H. MERLE COCHRAN (United States)

