

REPORT DATED 23 DECEMBER 1948 FROM THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES ON THE  
INDONESIAN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Batavia, 23 December 1948

Sir,

1. The Committee desires to inform the Security Council that most of the Committees military observers in Netherlands controlled territory are in the course of complying with orders received from the Netherlands military commanders in their areas to proceed to Batavia.
2. On 19 December, the Netherlands Commander-in-Chief agreed with the Chairman of the Committee's military Executive Board that the military observers should remain at their regularly assigned stations in Netherlands controlled territory.
3. On 22 December the Chairman of the Committee's military Executive Board was officially informed by a representative of the Netherlands Commander-in-Chief that the High Representative of the Crown had issued instructions that all of the Committee's military observers were to be concentrated in Batavia. The Chairman of the military Executive Board learned the same day that orders to this effect had been issued to the Netherlands commanders in the field as early as 21 December.
4. On 22 December the United States representative made enquiries of the acting Chairman of the Netherlands delegation regarding these instructions. On 23 December 1948, the Chairman of the Committee received the following letter, No. 3990, from the Acting Chairman of the Netherlands delegation:

"Since the Government of the Netherlands has, in accordance with article 10 of the truce agreement, notified the Committee of Good Offices and the Republican delegation that the truce agreement is to be considered as no longer binding, the task of the military assistants of the Committee as set forth in articles 4, 5, and 5b of said agreement, has now come to an end.

Instructions were therefore issued to all territorial commanders that they suggest all military observers to report to the Board of Senior Military Observers at Batavia as their activities have terminated.

In this connexion, it is noted that the Chairman of the Board of Senior Military Observers was verbally informed of this step beforehand.

With regard

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With regard to suggestions that military observers should remain with the Headquarters to which they were attached, I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that the demarcation lines and demilitarized zones no longer exist and the Headquarters to which the various teams of military observers were attached have become mobile. Under the present circumstances it will be clear that the Netherlands military authorities are unable to accept any responsibility for military observers who move with these Headquarters or by themselves in operational areas.

In view of the above it would be sincerely appreciated if the Committee of Good Offices would request the Board of Senior Military Observers to issue orders similar to the suggestion made by the territorial commanders, to the effect that all military observers return to Batavia in order to report to the Board."

5. After reading the foregoing letter, the Chairman of the Committee's Military Executive Board reaffirmed the facts stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.
6. The truce agreement of 17 January 1948 confers certain express functions on the military observers. In addition, the resolution of the Security Council of 1 November 1947 requests that the services of military observers, mentioned first in the resolution of 25 August 1947, be made available to the Committee of Good Offices. Therefore, the Committee feels an obligation to report immediately to the Council that this action, taken by the Netherlands Military Command without the Committee is not complying with the request contained in the final paragraph of the letter quoted above but is awaiting advice from the Security Council as to the future functions of the Committee's Military Assistants.

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

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