

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



CENTRAL

S/1842
11 October 1950

ORIGINAL: ICELISH

REPORT DATED 11 OCTOBER 1950 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR INDONESIA
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN
THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE AS ESTABLISHED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE RESOLUTION OF 28 JANUARY 1949, AND IN PURSUANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS CONFERRED ON IT BY THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE, THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR INDONESIA HAS THE HONOUR TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

1. ON 25 APRIL 1950, A PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED IN THE CITY OF AMBON BY A GROUP OF PERSONS WHO HAD SEIZED AUTHORITY THERE, ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF A "SOUTH MOLUCCAS REPUBLIC" (COMPRISING AMBOINA, BURU, CERAM AND OTHER ADJOINING ISLANDS), AND THE SEPARATION OF ALL ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSHIP, BOTH WITH THE FEDERAL STATE OF EAST INDONESIA (NEGARA INDONESIA TIMUR) AND WITH THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF INDONESIA.
2. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, FROM THE OUTSET, CONSIDERED THAT THIS CONSTITUTED AN ACT OF REBELLION AGAINST THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES, AND CLAIMED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE HAD NO POPULAR BACKING, BUT WERE SUPPORTED BY ELEMENTS OF THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS INDONESIAN ARMY (RUIL) STATIONED ON THE ISLAND OF AMBOINA.
3. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF INDONESIA ATTEMPTED TO APPROACH THE LEADERS IN AMBON, WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND A MISSION WAS APPOINTED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A MEMBER OF THE CABINET, WHICH ARRIVED OFF THE COAST OF AMBON ON BOARD THE RUSI CORVETTE HANG TUAM ON ONE MAY. THIS MISSION, HOWEVER, FAILED IN ITS EFFORTS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PERSONS IN CONTROL OF THE ISLAND.
4. ON 8 MAY, THE COMMANDER OF THE NETHERLANDS FORCES IN EAST INDONESIA PROCEEDED TO AMBOINA IN AN ATTEMPT TO REESTABLISH AUTHORITY OVER THE DEFLIANT SOLDIERS. THIS EFFORT FAILED AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO CONSIDER THE TROOPS CONCERNED ANY LONGER AS MEMBERS OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES.

/S. ON 13 JULY,
S/1842

5. ON 13 JULY, THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF INDONESIA LANDED ON THE ISLAND OF BURU, AND SINCE THEN, THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER INDONESIAN DETACHMENT LANDED ON THE ISLAND OF CEBAM.

6. AT THE SAME TIME, A GROUP OF AMBONESE RESIDING IN JAVA APPOINTED A MISSION TO PROCEED TO AMBOINA WITH THE OBJECT OF CONVINCING THE "GOVERNMENT OF THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS" TO ABANDON ITS STAND. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THIS INFORMAL MISSION MIGHT SUCCEED WHERE OFFICIAL ACTION HAD FAILED. HOWEVER, THIS MISSION WAS UNABLE TO REACH AMBON.

7. THE COMMISSION FOLLOWED THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS VERY CLOSELY, AND, ON 4 AUGUST, EXPRESSED TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT ITS READINESS TO LEND ANY ASSISTANCE WITHIN ITS POWER AND, IF REQUIRED, TO RENDER ITS GOOD OFFICES IN ANY WAY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF INDONESIA MIGHT CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

NO REPLY WAS RECEIVED UNTIL 23 SEPTEMBER, WHEN THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED THE WILLINGNESS OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE USE OF THE COMMISSION'S SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE, SO FAR AS THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE GOVERNMENT'S STATUS. THEREUPON, ON 25 SEPTEMBER, THE COMMISSION REPEATED ITS OFFER AND PROPOSED TO PROCEED TO AMBOINA. THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED ON 30 SEPTEMBER THAT, IN THE OPINION OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, THE INTERVENTION OF THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE BUT WOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, CONSTITUTE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE REBELS IN AMBOINA.

8. ON 28 SEPTEMBER, FORCES OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT LANDED AT SEVERAL POINTS ON THE ISLAND OF AMBOINA. OPERATIONS ALSO TOOK PLACE ON THE ISLAND OF CERAM. CONFIRMATION OF THESE LANDINGS WAS FORMALLY RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION ON 3 OCTOBER. THESE OPERATIONS MET WITH RESISTANCE AND ARE STILL IN PROGRESS.

9. ON 5 OCTOBER, THE COMMISSION RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS IN INDONESIA, FORMALLY REQUESTING THAT THE COMMISSION USE ALL THE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A CESSATION OF THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS.

10. ON 6 OCTOBER, THE COMMISSION APPEALED TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO HALT THE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS AND FURTHER TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BY ACCEPTING THE COMMISSION'S OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES.

/11. IN REPLY

11. IN REPLY TO THE COMMISSION'S APPEAL, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, IN A LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER, RECEIVED 10 OCTOBER, REITERATED ITS POINT OF VIEW THAT THE COMMISSION'S INTERVENTION, INSTEAD OF ACHIEVING ANY FAVOURABLE RESULTS, WOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, ENCOURAGE THE REBELS BY PUTTING THE CASE ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL: IT WOULD ALSO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE ITS DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AMBOINA WOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THESE OPERATIONS, IT INTENDED TO GRANT TO THE PROVINCE OF THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS AN "APPROPRIATE MEASURE OF AUTONOMY".

12. THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS EXHAUSTED ALL THE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MATTER, AND THEREFORE REFERS IT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE COMMISSION SUGGESTS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT REINFORCE THE COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY BY CALLING UPON THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO UTILISE THE EXISTING MACHINERY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM, WHICH IS PROVIDED BY THE PRESENCE IN INDONESIA OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION.

(SIGNED) DOOLITTLE, USA CHAIRMAN
CUTTS, AUSTRALIA,
BIHIN, BELGIUM.