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Dual DistributionCOMMENTARY OF THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION AT BATAVIA ON THE INTRODUCTION TO
THE FOURTH INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES
ON THE INDONESIAN QUESTION (S/1085)

In the opinion of the Netherlands delegation, the introduction presents a substantially incomplete and therefore distorted view of the situation prevailing in Indonesia.

It is true that there has not been progress towards a political settlement since the Third Interim Report was presented to the Security Council. However, political negotiations took place until, on 23 July 1948, the Republican delegation informed the Steering Committee that for an unspecified period the Republican delegation would discuss only subjects concerning the implementation of the Truce Agreement. Until that date political discussions were held in various sub-committees of the Political Committee. Although, according to the rules of procedure, the Committee did not participate in the meetings of the sub-committees, the meetings were nevertheless held under the Committee's auspices since the sub-committees were set up by and would report to the Political Committee.

The consequences mentioned under (a), (b) and (d) are not - or at least not solely - caused by delay in reaching a political settlement.

Ad (a). As set forth in the Netherlands delegation's comments on the Committee's report concerning restrictions on the trade of Indonesia and reasons for the delay in the implementation of article 6 of the Truce Agreement, the deterioration in the economic situation within the Republic is to a large extent the result of the lack of a sound administration in Republican-controlled areas. Furthermore, the introduction itself notes the "the Republican authorities are reluctant to take any action regarding applications for such permits which they consider might imply the recognition of the Netherlands Indies regulations". This attitude is clearly not a "consequence of the delay in reaching a political settlement". In this connexion, the introduction fails to mention that the Netherlands proposals for the regulation of goods traffic as an implementation of the truce were rejected by the Republican delegation in its letter of 21 July 1948. As regards the shortages of foodstuffs, it is pointed out that the Government of Indonesia made offers of assistance on two occasions recently, viz. on 29 July

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and on 2 November, the latter case being brought to the attention of the Committee by the letter, No. 2501, of the Netherlands delegation dated 3 November 1948. In the first instance the Republican Government did not take advantage of this offer, whilst in the second case the Republican Government objected to the offer on the ground that it was proposed that Netherlands members form part of a joint supervisory committee for the distribution of supplies. The normal exploitation of estate produce in Republican-held territory was impeded to a great extent by the lack of authority of the Republican Government over the labour on estates as organized in the "Sobsi" (Republican Trade Union Organization) which in turn was instrumental in the failure of parties to reach an understanding on the status of estates. The economic situation in Republican-held territory cannot be said to have any appreciable detrimental effect on the economic rehabilitation of the Netherlands-controlled territory or on world economic recovery in general.

Ad (b). The introduction fails to show the connexion between "political difficulties within the Republic" - the nature and the extent of which are not reported - and the delay in reaching a political settlement. The concern of the Republican Government with regard to the consultations held between the Netherlands Government and representatives of non-Republican parts of Indonesia could hardly be construed as an internal political difficulty.

Ad (d). The number of infringements of the Truce Agreement is indeed rising. However this statement only applies to Republican infringements, notably to large-scale infiltrations of Republican-armed units in Netherlands-controlled territory contrary to provisions of the Truce Agreement. The fact that delay in reaching a political settlement has not resulted in infringements of the truce by Netherlands armed forces casts doubts on the validity of the "testimony to the relationship between the maintenance of the truce and successful progress in political negotiations".