

SECURITY
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REPORT DATED 11 JANUARY 1949 FROM THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES ON THE
INDONESIAN QUESTION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TRANSMITTING COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE
NETHERLANDS DELEGATION

1. The Committee of Good Offices forwards for the information of the Security Council copies of correspondence between the Committee and the Netherlands Delegation regarding a visit by the Committee to the President and other Republican leaders, in accordance with the Security Council's resolution of 24 December.

(a) Text of letter from the Committee of Good Offices:

Batavia,

10 January 1949

Sir,

I have the honour to refer you to our letter of 28 December 1948, especially that part beginning with question number four which requests certain information with reference to the status of the political prisoners referred to by the resolution of the Security Council of 24 December. Your letters of 28 December and 4 January informed us, in effect, that you were not able as yet to supply the information and that the subjects covered were still under consultation.

It is now known from the statement by Doctor Van Royen before the Security Council on 7 January that President Sukarno, Vice-President Hatta and Foreign Minister Salim are on the Island of Bangka. Therefore, in accordance with the resolution of 24 December, the Committee desires to observe in person the status of these Republican leaders. The Committee is willing to visit Bangka for this purpose and requests that you provide the necessary facilities and clearances. If you prefer, the Committee will use the United States plane assigned to it.

The Committee wishes to see and to speak to the President and his colleagues. If these Republican officials desire the Committee to transmit on their behalf a message to the Security Council, I am sure that your Government would interpose no objection.

/I should

I should appreciate it if arrangements could be made, if possible, for an early morning departure tomorrow, and a return flight the same day.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(signed) Herremans, Chairman.

Mr. T. Elink Schuurman,
Acting Chairman,
Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,
Batavia.

(b) Text of letter from the Netherlands Delegation:

Batavia,
January 11, 1949

Sir,

With reference to your Committee's letter of yesterday's date, Number G054, I have the honour to inform you that the Netherlands Delegation, in deference to the wish expressed to visit the Island of Bangka, is at the Committee's disposal to provide the necessary facilities and clearances for this journey.

The Delegation has the honour to add that it was indeed the intention to transfer Messrs. Sukarno, Salim and Sjahrir to Bangka. However, the persons in question, on being informed to this effect, manifested their preference for remaining in their present residence, although they had no objection to moving to Bangka, if matters could not be otherwise arranged.

The competent authorities are now investigating the possibility of acceding to this request, having to take into account the difficulties with regard to accommodation for a longer stay in the present residence, especially in connection with the desirability of a speedy reunion of the persons concerned with their families, arrangements for which had already been completed with regard to Bangka.

The Netherlands Delegation would therefore appreciate the forbearance of the Committee for a few days when it will be in a better position to arrange and discuss the details of the journey the Committee has in view.

I will be happy to remain at your and your colleagues' disposal for the above purpose.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) T. Elink Schuurman,
Acting Chairman.

To the Chairman, Security Council Committee
of Good Offices on the Indonesian Question, Batavia.

2. It will be noted that final arrangements have not been completed.
