

REPORT DATED 29 DECEMBER 1948 FROM THE COMMITTEE OF GOOD OFFICES ON THE  
INDONESIAN QUESTION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE  
COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION OF 24 DECEMBER 1948 (S/1150)

1. Pursuant to the resolution of the Security Council adopted at its 392nd meeting on 24 December, the Committee of Good Offices reports on the extent of compliance by the parties with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of the resolution and supplements briefly its report to the Security Council dated 26 December on events transpiring in Indonesia (S/1156).
2. At a meeting held on 28 December, the Committee of Good Offices decided to send to the parties enquiries on compliance with the resolution of the Security Council dated 24 December. The texts are reproduced hereafter:  
(a) Text of letter to the Netherlands Delegation

Batavia, 28 December 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to our letter of 25 December 1948 which confirmed the transmittal to you at 0956 on 25 December of the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 24 December 1948.

We requested your Government "to keep the Committee immediately, fully and currently informed of the steps taken... in compliance with the resolution." We requested also that the Committee be furnished with copies of the relevant orders issued to the appropriate authorities.

In your answer dated 25 December 1948, you replied that the contents of our letter had been cabled to your Government at The Hague and that the Committee would be informed as soon as instructions from Her Majesty's Government had been received. It now becomes necessary for the Committee of Good Offices to report to the Security Council on the compliance with that part of the resolution which calls upon the parties,

- (a) to cease hostilities forthwith,
- (b) immediately to release the President and other political prisoners arrested since 18 December. As the Committee has not yet received any information, we should appreciate your immediate answer to the following questions with reference to the situation as of 1700 today, 28 December:

- (1) Has your Government issued any orders to cease hostilities?
- (2) If so, at what time or times were such orders issued?
- (3) Are there any orders to cease hostilities, now prepared or in  
/preparation.

preparation, scheduled for issuance during the next twenty-four hours?

(4) Have any orders been issued by your Government to release the President and other political prisoners arrested since 18 December?

(5) If so, which members of the Cabinet and of the Republican delegation are covered by such orders, and to what extent have the orders been carried into effect?

(6) If members of the groups covered in question (4) have not been released, what is the place or places of detention of the President, the Vice-President, members of the Cabinet and of the Republican delegation?

(7) To what extent do those who have been released have freedom of movement of activity?

The Committee, since its return to Batavia, has been able to have contact only with two Republican advisers and the Secretary General of the Republican delegation, all resident in Batavia. Therefore the Committee would appreciate knowing whether your Government has any objection to personal contacts between the Committee's representatives and Republican officials, under detention or otherwise. These contacts would of course be limited to the performance of functions entrusted to the Committee by the Security Council.

As the report of the Committee of Good Offices must be transmitted to the Security Council at or about midnight today it is requested that you furnish us with this data this evening before that hour. It is requested that this request must be made with such urgency but the nature of the resolution adopted by the Security Council, more than three days ago, permits of no delay.

I have the honour etc.

(Signed) H. MERLE COCHRAN  
Chairman

(b) Text of letter to the Republican delegation

Batavia, 28 December 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to our letter of 25 December 1948 which confirmed the transmittal to you at 0957 on 25 December of the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 24 December 1948.

We requested your Government "to keep the Committee immediately, fully and currently informed on the steps taken ... in compliance with the resolution". We requested also that the Committee be furnished with copies of the relevant orders issued to the appropriate authorities.

In your answer dated 25 December 1948, you replied that the President of the Republic and his Government, as well as the Chairman and other members of  
/the Republican

the Republican delegation were detained by the Netherlands authorities and that consequently you were unable at that stage to take any action. It now becomes necessary for the Committee of Good Offices to report to the Security Council on the compliance with that part of the resolution which calls upon the parties

- (a) to cease hostilities forthwith;
- (b) immediately to release the President and other political prisoners arrested since 18 December.

We have addressed the following questions to the Netherlands delegation with reference to the situation as of 1700 hours today, 28 December:

- "(1) Has your Government issued any orders to cease hostilities?
- (2) If so, at what time or times were such orders issued?
- (3) Are there any orders to cease hostilities, now prepared or in preparation, scheduled for issuance during the next twenty-four hours?
- (4) Have any orders been issued by your Government to release the President and other political prisoners arrested since 18 December?
- (5) If so, which members of the Cabinet and of the Republican delegation are covered by such orders, and to what extent have the orders been carried into effect?
- (6) If members of the groups covered in question (4) have not been released, what is the place or places of detention of the President, the Vice-President, members of the Cabinet and of the Republican delegation?
- (7) To what extent do those who have been released have freedom of movement and of activity?

The Committee, since its return to Batavia, has been able to have contact only with two Republican advisors and the Secretary-General of the Republican delegation all, resident in Batavia. Therefore, the Committee would appreciate knowing whether your Government has any objection to personal contacts between the Committee's representatives and Republican officials, under detention or otherwise. These contacts would of course be limited to the performance of functions entrusted to the Committee by the Security Council."

Has the situation reported in your letter of 25 December changed to the extent that you are now in a position to furnish any information in answer to these questions?

As the report of the Committee of Good Offices must be transmitted to the Security Council at or about midnight today, it is requested that you furnish us with any data that you may have this evening before that hour. It is regretted that this request must be made with such urgency, but the nature of the resolution adopted by the Security Council, more than three days ago, permits of no delay.

(Signed) H. MERELE COCHRAN

3. The following replies were received respectively at 2030 and 2220 of the same day:

(a) Text of the Republican delegation reply:

Djakarta, 28 December 1948

Sir,

With reference to your letter of today on the subject of the recent resolution of the Security Council, I regret that the position is still as outlined in my letter of 25 December 1948, and that I am unable to contact either the Republican Government or the Republican delegation.

As stated in my letter, members of the Hatta Government and of the delegation have been interned, but I have been given no information whatever about them.

I have the honour to be, etc.

\*(Signed) R. SUDJONO,  
Secretary-General,  
Delegation of the Republic  
of Indonesia.

(b) Text of the Netherlands delegation's reply:

Batavia, 28 December 1948

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 28 December received at 1800 hours today, I have the honour to inform you that the contents of that letter have immediately been cabled to the Hague.

Since there is no time to consult the Netherlands Government and to receive a reply before midnight today, I regret not to be able to give a final answer to the questions contained in your letter.

However, I am in a position to inform you as regards questions 4, 5 and 7, that so far the house arrest imposed upon fifteen Republicans has been lifted as from noon December 24, 1948. These persons enjoy the same freedom of movement as any other inhabitant.

With regard to Question 6, according to an official communique issued yesterday, the Indonesian Government, in view of its duty to restore as soon as possible law and order in Indonesia, has decided provisionally to assign residence to a number of Republican officials in mountain resorts outside Java.

With reference to the penultimate paragraph of your letter, the Netherlands Government is being consulted.

Finally, I must draw your attention to the fact that your official communication regarding the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 24 December 1948, was only transmitted to me in writing on 25 December 1948,

/at approximately

at approximately 1300 hours. You will no doubt agree that I cannot consider the communication transmitted to me by telephone on 25 December 1948 at 0956 hours as bearing official character.

I have the honour to be etc.

(Signed) T. ELINK SCHUURMAN  
Acting Chairman.

4. No official communications had been received from either the Netherlands or the Republican delegations between the preparation of the report dated 26 December 1948 and the exchange of letters reproduced above.
5. Official Republican sources stated that 13 of 17 Republican leaders and personalities in Batavia were released from house arrest at 1200 hours Batavia time, 24 December, before the adoption of the Security Council's resolution of that date in Paris. Among those released were the Secretary General of the Republican delegation and a personal advisor to the Republican President. According to the Secretary General a number of other Republicans, accused of subversive activities, are held incommunicado in Batavia.
6. The Committee remains, as at the time of the last report dated 26 December, in contact with the Government of only one of the parties, the Netherlands.
7. Notwithstanding the request made to the Netherlands Government in its letter of 25 December (report of 26 December) the Committee's Military Observers have been concentrated in Batavia. With no authorization from the Netherlands authorities for the Observers to return to the field, and with no permission given to operate the aircraft at its disposal, the Committee has no facilities to obtain firsthand information through its own representatives as to the military situation and operations.

(Signed) COCHRAN (United States)  
Chairman  
CRITCHLEY (Australia)  
HERMANS (Belgium)

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