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SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY AFGHANISTAN, BURMA, CAMBODIA, CEYLON, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBYA, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA AND YEMEN

THE QUESTION OF WEST IRIAN (WEST NEW GUINEA)

Letter dated 8 October 1956 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen to the United Nations

New York, 8 October 1956

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to request that the following item be included in the agenda of the eleventh regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations:

"The question of West Irian (West New Guinea)".

An explanatory memorandum is enclosed in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed)

Permanent Representatives of:

Afghanistan

A. Hamid AZIZ

Burma

Maung WIN

Cambodia

L. CHINLY

Ceylon

R.S.S. GUNewardENE

Egypt

Omar LOUFI

56-26560

India	Arthur LALL
Indonesia	SUDJARWO TJONDRONEGORO
Iraq	A.K. GAILANI
Jordan	A.M. RIFA'I
Lebanon	A. GEBARA
Libya	A. Ben SAOUD
Pakistan	M. Mir KHAN
Saudi Arabia	Jamil M. BAROODY
Syria	Rafik ASHA
Yemen	A. ZABARAH

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The question of West Irian (West New Guinea) has been placed on the agenda of the General Assembly of the United Nations for the last two years and was discussed with evident concern.

It might be appropriate to recall the actions taken by the General Assembly at its ninth and tenth sessions with regard to this question in order to find a peaceful solution of a dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands concerning the most eastern part of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, called West Irian.

The ninth General Assembly placed the item, "The question of West Irian (West New Guinea)", on its agenda upon the request of the Indonesian Government. That session of the General Assembly, however, failed to pass the resolution which was recommended to it by a more than two-thirds majority of the Members of the United Nations in the First Committee.

On 10 August 1955, fifteen Asian-African Governments, guided by the principles laid down by the Asian-African Conference which took place in Bandung in April 1955, requested that the question of West Irian (West New Guinea) be included in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly.<sup>1/</sup>

The General Assembly placed the item on its agenda again, and this time recommended unanimously a resolution (resolution 915 (X)) expressing the hope that the negotiations, which meanwhile had been started by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, would be fruitful.

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<sup>1/</sup> The background of this dispute is to be found in the explanatory memoranda accompanying those requests (Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 61, document A/2694; Ibid., Tenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 65, document A/2932).

Strengthened and heartened by the support of all the Members of the United Nations, the Indonesian Government conducted the negotiations with the Netherlands Government on many outstanding matters, as stated in the Indonesian-Netherlands joint statement of 7 December 1955, with high hopes for their settlement, including the question of West Irian.

The Indonesian Government, fully realizing the difficulties in convening the Conference, made strenuous efforts towards the success of the Conference, in the spirit of the General Assembly resolution.<sup>2/</sup>

However, more than two months of lengthy negotiations failed to produce the results envisaged.

This failure resulted in a deterioration of the relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. Meanwhile, the question of West Irian, which remains unsolved, continues to be a cancer in the relationship between Indonesia and the Netherlands. In its wider context, as an unresolved remnant of a colonial problem it affects adversely the whole complex of international relations with regard to that part of the world. It remains our view that the United Nations has the responsibility and duty to further efforts in finding a peaceful solution to this long outstanding political dispute between two Member States. Such a peaceful solution would certainly contribute not only to the improvement of relations between the two countries, but also to the peace and security of the areas involved.

Guided by this view, the aforementioned Asian-African Governments deem it therefore necessary to bring the question of West Irian again to the attention of the General Assembly for discussion and appropriate recommendation(s).

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<sup>2/</sup> For more detailed information, see letter of the Acting Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, dated 28 February 1956 and circulated to all Members of the United Nations by the Secretary-General by his letter of 5 March 1956.