

# Robert Kennedy Urges Talks on New Guinea

## In The Hague, He Bids Dutch Confer With Indonesians

Special to The New York Times.

THE HAGUE, the Netherlands, Feb. 26—Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said today that the dispute over Netherlands New Guinea could be settled peacefully if the Dutch and Indonesians talked it over in a reasonable manner.

Speaking to 100 Dutch journalists, the President's brother hinted at his own preference for a solution by saying that the Papuans of the territory should be consulted about their future and noting that President Sukarno of Indonesia had said a plebiscite could be held.

He said that his impression was that Indonesia wanted very much to gain control of Netherlands New Guinea but that he did not believe an Indonesian attack on the territory was likely at this time.

He added that he thought Indonesia's leaders would like a peaceful settlement. However, he declined to give any details of the talks he held with President Sukarno during his current goodwill tour. The Attorney General and his wife, Ethel, arrived in the Netherlands yesterday from West Germany.

### Repeats Jakarta Statement

Mr. Kennedy said he could repeat what he had said in Jakarta -- that "We are close friends of the Dutch, we are friends of Indonesia and we are making efforts to get them to sit down together and settle the question peacefully."

Asked whether the United States would stand idly by if Indonesia attacked Dutch forces in New Guinea, he replied that he hoped and expected that no attack would take place. If one did occur, he added, the United States would have to decide what action to take.

He conceded that fighting over Netherlands New Guinea



Associated Press Radiophoto

## Robert F. Kennedy on his arrival at Paris airport.

could draw in other countries, possibly all over the world.

Mr. Kennedy said he favored negotiations under the auspices of U Thant, Acting Secretary General of the United Nations.

He expressed essentially the same views to 300 students representing fifty organizations before he left the Netherlands for a two-day visit to Paris.

During his twenty-five-hour visit to the Netherlands, which was in a sense a sequel to his five-day visit to Indonesia, Mr. Kennedy talked with high-ranking officials about Netherlands New Guinea, which Indonesia claims.

### No Proposals Offered

It was indicated in official circles that he had offered no proposals for a solution of the dispute over the territory.

Foreign Minister Joseph

M. A. H. Luns, with whom the Attorney General spent more time yesterday and today than with any other official, said after a private talk this morning:

"We had a frank exchange. Mr. Kennedy was here on a fact-finding mission. There were no decisions because that was not the idea of the visit."

The Attorney General scored

## Says Papuans of Territory Should Be Consulted

heavily in his role of ambassador of goodwill. Coming out of the Foreign Ministry, he had the tall Mr. Luns laughing when he said: "Either you'll have to walk on your knees in front of the cameras or I'll have to go on tiptoe."

M. Luns is regarded here as relatively intransigent on the New Guinea issue.

Asked about their meeting, Mr. Kennedy said: "I'll use the phrase I've learned since the start of this trip: We had a useful conversation."

Mr. Luns will visit Washington next week to talk with Secretary of State Dean Rusk about Netherlands New Guinea. According to informed sources, he may ask for United States military support in the event of an Indonesian attack on the territory.