

Statements by Subandrio, van Roijen and Thant on New Guinea Agreement

Following are the texts of statements issued yesterday by Dr. Subandrio, Indonesian Foreign Minister; Dr. J. H. van Roijen, Netherlands Ambassador to the United States, and U Thant, Acting Secretary General of the United Nations, on the signing of an agreement on Netherlands New Guinea:

By Dr. Subandrio

For the Indonesian people this very moment is regarded as a very important national occasion, since with the signing of the agreement the Indonesian unity has been restored and therefore the basis for the struggle for independence completed is part and parcel of the Indonesian revolution.

It is therefore that we are most gratified, Mr. Secretary General, that you took the initiative as early as in December for both parties to come together in order to solve this problem in a peaceful way.

The positive response from the Indonesian and Netherlands side towards your urgent appeal results in the agreement we have just signed.

On behalf of the Indonesian Government and people I want also to thank sincerely, the tireless efforts and patience of Ambassador Bunker, who never spared himself physically and mentally in order to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles which sometimes seem to

flood the path towards this agreement.

To be frank, without the personal qualities inherent to Ambassador Bunker, it would be almost impossible to formulate an agreement within such a short period.

I also want to make use of this opportunity to congratulate Dr. van Roijen, Dr. Schurmann and all the members of his delegation for the success of this agreement, and on behalf of my colleagues and myself I want to express our deep appreciation for the consistent sincerity with which they have approached the problems we are dealing with.

And last but not least, Mr. Secretary General, our deepest appreciation to your devoted colleagues on the Secretariat for their unfailing assistance, without which this success could not have been achieved.

The success of this agreement, which is also a success of the United Nations, I hope will lead to further achievements in solving problems with which the United Nations has been engaged.

Now that this agreement has been signed, now that the Indonesian unity is reaching its completion, I sincerely hope that the traditional friendship between Indonesia and the Netherlands could be restored.

Thank you.

By Dr. van Roijen

We are experiencing one of those rare moments in recorded time when the course of two nations may be taking a decisive turn. Upon the sign-

ing of the agreement lying before us the dispute between the Netherlands and Indonesia concerning West New Guinea, a dispute which has already lasted far too long, will be settled.

During the long and sometimes difficult negotiations which have preceded the reaching of a meeting of minds between our two Governments, the Netherlands delegation has constantly been deeply conscious of the importance of the issues involved. Nothing, however, has weighed more heavily with us than the consideration that the outcome of our efforts would directly affect the fate of the 700,000 Papuans inhabiting West New Guinea.

The Netherlands Government has been, and is, most deeply concerned with the well-being of the Papuans. It is for that reason that the Netherlands has attached primary importance to the inclusion in the agreement of provisions safeguarding the further political, economic, cultural and educational development of the territory and its inhabitants, and guaranteeing for the Papuans, under active supervision of the United Nations, a genuine and valid exercise of freedom of choice with regard to their future.

We wish to thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for the initiative you have taken in bringing the parties together and for the invaluable part you have played in bringing about a solution of our problems. We hope that you will be good enough to transmit

our thanks also to the members of your staff for their indispensable help and advice.

To Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for his patient and tireless efforts. I feel we owe him a debt of gratitude for the impartial way in which he presided over our informal preliminary talks at the Huntland Estate in Middleburg.

It has proved difficult, and perhaps, Mr. Secretary General, I should even say at times more than difficult, to bring the Netherlands and Indonesian delegates together. But once we were gathered around the conference table we found that the Indonesian delegation and ourselves were equally committed in all sincerity to arrive at a peaceful solution of our dispute.

Mr. Secretary General, we have now worked out a detailed settlement on paper. The judgment of history on what we have accomplished will ultimately depend on the manner in which the provisions of our agreement are carried out in practice. The whole world has been closely watching us; it will continue to do so.

The foundations have now been laid, we hope, for a better understanding and ultimately a happier and fruitful relationship between our two countries and our two peoples. For the possibility of achieving the realization of this hope, the touchstone will be our mutual good faith and our consistent efforts in fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

By U Thant

On this eventful occasion, when the agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in regard to the future of West New Guinea (West Irian) is about to be signed, I would like first of all to congratulate the two Governments on their willingness to settle this question by peaceful negotiation, and also on their spirit of "give and take" which has made possible the conclusion of this agreement.

I am sure I am right in saying that, as a result, there will be not only an easing of tension in the area, but also an increased feeling of mutual trust and confidence between the two Governments. It is a good augury that, with the signing of this agreement, diplomatic relations will be marked by the friendliness, understanding and cordiality that have prevailed during these negotiations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to place on record, publicly, my gratitude to Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who has acted on my behalf during the preliminary negotiations between the two Governments and whose patience, integrity and diplomatic skill have contributed so greatly to the successful conclusion of this agreement.

There are several unique features about this agreement. One is that, if the General Assembly endorses it, the United Nations would have temporary executive authority (established by and under

the jurisdiction of the Secretary General) over a vast territory for the first time in its history. Another is that the entire expenses to be incurred under the terms of this agreement are to be shared by the two Governments and will not impose a burden on any of the other member Governments. Considerable executive responsibilities are placed on the Secretary General and Secretariat of the United Nations, some of which have necessarily to be undertaken, in the interests of peace and security, in anticipation of the approval of the General Assembly. It will be my endeavor and that of my colleagues to fulfill these tasks to the best of our capacity.

If these responsibilities are to be discharged to the satisfaction of all concerned, I shall need the willing cooperation of both Governments, especially during the period of transition. I hope that my task will be facilitated by the scrupulous adherence on the part of both Governments to the letter and spirit of this agreement. Without it my task would become immensely difficult, and I earnestly appeal to both Governments to make their cooperation available to me in the fullest measure.

Before closing, I would like to congratulate once again the representatives of the two Governments on the imminent signature of this historic agreement which, in line with the principles of the Charter, has settled peacefully a long-standing problem, with benefit to all concerned.