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Authority 111P 949527By MR NARA Date 1/2/88~~FE:SPA:FTUnderhill:lm~~

(Drafting Office and Officer)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## Memorandum of Conversation

643.56/10-2058

XA 756c.00

DATE: October 20, 1958

SUBJECT: Alleged Netherlands-Australian Military Agreement  
on West New GuineaPARTICIPANTS: Mr. David Ketel, Counselor, Netherlands Embassy  
Mr. Kennedy Cromwell, WE  
Mr. John Gordon Mein, SPA  
Mr. Francis T. Underhill, SPACOPIES TO: FE - (2 cc)  
SPA - (2 cc)  
INR - (1 cc)  
WE - (1 cc)6  
American Embassy, Canberra  
American Embassy, The Hague  
American Embassy, Djakarta

Following a general exchange of views on the current situation in Indonesia, Mr. Mein told Mr. Ketel that our Embassy in Djakarta had received from the Indonesian Government the text of a purported agreement between the Netherlands and Australia on the military defense of West New Guinea. He handed Mr. Ketel a copy of the text and after reading it, Mr. Ketel said that as the U.S. Govt. knew there had been no military agreement concluded with Australia on West New Guinea. His government, he continued, would be happy to have such an agreement not only with Australia, but with the U.S. It was known, he went on, that the Indonesians suspected that such an agreement with Australia had in fact been concluded at the time of the Luns-Casey conversations in The Hague. For its part, his government would prefer to keep the Indonesians guessing on this question, and said that he hoped that his and the Australian denial of the existence of the treaty would not be conveyed to the Indonesians. Indonesian suspicions that the treaty did exist would, in his opinion, reduce the likelihood of an Indonesian attack.

Mr. Mein said that we had already informed the Indonesian Government that we had no knowledge of a Dutch-Australian agreement on defense of West New Guinea and that the document appeared to us a fabrication, but agreed not to pass on Mr. Ketel's comments to the Indonesian Government. He added, in response to Mr. Ketel's question, that we were not seeking any formal dementi from the Netherlands Government.

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2 cc's rec'd RM/R  
1 retained for evac. file

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Record Group 59 - General Records of the Department of State,  
Central Decimal File, Box 2611

Class 6 International Political Relations. Other International  
Relations.

Class 7 Internal Political and National Defense Affairs.

56c West New Guinea  
51g French Indo-China  
43 Australia  
56d Indonesia