

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 114P 94932By 114P 94932SPA:JCM:lion
(Drafting Office and Officer)

M-762

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

This document consists of 2 pages
Number 1 of 4 copies, Series A

643.56/10-2058

XR 756c.00
656.56d13

DATE: October 20, 1958

DECLASSIFIED

NND 891099
HR-M/SG 8/14/90

SUBJECT: Australia-Netherlands Agreement on West New Guinea

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. M. R. Booker, Counselor, Australian Embassy
Mr. J. C. Ingram, First Secretary, Australian Embassy

Mr. Mein, Director, Office of Southwest Pacific Affairs

OCT 27 1958

COPIES TO:

FE - 2
SPA - 3
INR - 2
IRC - 8
WE - 1AmEmbassy, Canberra 15
AmEmbassy, Djakarta 16
AmEmbassy, The Hague 17

18-20

Mr. Booker was informed that on October 15 Foreign Minister Subandrio had given Ambassador Jones the text of a draft agreement between Australia and the Netherlands on the defense of West New Guinea. Mr. Mein said that Ambassador Jones had reported that both President Sukarno and Foreign Minister Subandrio were very much disturbed by the alleged agreement but had agreed that the Foreign Minister should seek any information which the Ambassador might have before reacting publicly. Mr. Booker was given a copy of the draft.

Mr. Booker referred to an item which appeared in a recent issue of "Foreign Report", a confidential report printed by The Economist, on "New Guinea's Independence Prospect". That report stated among other things that the Australian Government had committed itself under a "gentleman's agreement" to stand by the Dutch Government in the event of an Indonesian military attack on Dutch New Guinea. Mr. Booker said that the report was not correct and that the Australian Government had not entered into nor contemplated an agreement with the Netherlands on the defense of West New Guinea. He said that the Netherlands Government was apparently attempting to create the impression that an "understanding" had been reached with the Australian Government. Mr. Booker said that on the basis of the item in "Foreign Report" Ambassador McIntyre had been instructed that immediately upon his return to Djakarta, which evidently is scheduled for some time within the next few days, he should call on the Indonesian Government and officially deny that there had been an agreement with the Netherlands and state further that no such agreement is contemplated.

Copy No(s) 18, 19, 20

Destroyed in RM/R

Name FinnDate 4/24/77

SECRET

copy # 3 & 4 rec'd RM/R

copy # 4 retained for RM/R evac files

OCT 28 1958

FILED

Mr. Booker

643.56/10-2058

SECRET

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

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 11/P 94952By AB NARA Date 1/2/85~~SECRET~~

-2-

Mr. Booker was also informed of the instructions we had sent Ambassador Jones on October 16 (DEPTEL 741) and of Ambassador Jones conversation with Foreign Minister Subandrio on the 18th (Djakarta tel 1347). Mr. Booker is quite concerned over the possibility of publicity being given to this draft agreement especially in view of the national elections in Australia scheduled for November 22. He was informed that Foreign Minister Subandrio had on October 15 told Ambassador Jones that there would be no public reaction until the Ambassador had had time to hear from Washington. Mr. Booker was also informed that Foreign Minister Subandrio was concerned because Foreign Minister Casey apparently was not prepared to say anything on this subject for public consumption.

Mr. Booker said that the meeting between the Australian and Dutch representatives in Canberra on implementation of the administrative agreement for New Guinea announced last December was now in progress. He reviewed the purpose of the administrative agreement, pointing out that the Australian Government's position is that everything should be done not to preclude integration of the two parts of the island if at some stage the inhabitants should desire that, whereas the Dutch Government wishes to promote the integration of the island. He said that this is a basic difference between the Dutch and Australian approach and should not be overlooked.

~~SECRET~~

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