

Dec 1957 - Expulsion, of Dutch Nationals.

The Indonesian campaign for the "liberation of West Irian" (i.e. Dutch New Guinea), launched at the end of October (see 15805 C), was followed during the first ten days of December by the wholesale seizure of Dutch enterprises and estates throughout Indonesia and the decision to expel some 50,000 Dutch citizens from the country. In taking these measures — described as "retaliatory actions"— the Indonesian Government officially stated that they were designed to force a "favourable solution" of the New Guinea question in the absence of U.N. support for Indonesia's claim to sovereignty over the western half of the island.

Some 600 representatives of political, military and youth organizations from all parts of Indonesia, meeting in Jakarta on Nov. 18–19, had urged the Indonesian Government to take "retaliatory" measures against Dutch economic interests if the United Nation's "failed to solve the West Irian question in Indonesia's favour." It was proposed that such "retaliatory" action should take the form of (i) nationalization of Dutch-owned enterprises; (ii) repatriation of Dutch nationals "who do not contribute to Indonesia's reconstruction programme"; (iii) a ban on the entry of Dutch nationals into Indonesia; (iv) withdrawal of permits issued to Dutch nationals practising the liberal professions. The meeting also urged the setting-up of a "West Irian Reconstruction Brigade" and a "West Irian Liberation Fund."

A resolution embodying Indonesia's claim to sovereignty over Dutch New Guinea was rejected on Nov. 29 by the U.N. General Assembly (see below), where it failed to secure the two-thirds majority necessary for adoption—as had also been the case at a number of previous Assembly sessions. On Dec. 1 the Indonesian Minister of information (Mr. Subidjo), acting as "chairman of the Action Committee for the Liberation of West Irian," authorized the following measures to be taken with immediate effect and with, the approval of the Indonesian Government: (i) a general strike of all Indonesian workers employed in Dutch enterprises; (ii) a ban on the publication of all newspapers and magazines in the Dutch language, and on the import of publications from Holland; (iii) a ban on all aircraft of Royal Dutch Airlines (K.L.M.), which were forbidden to land on or fly over Indonesian territory. K.L.M. planes already in Indonesia were required to leave the country immediately.

Although the Indonesian Government and the military authorities issued repealed warnings against the unauthorized seizure of Dutch concerns without official permission, large numbers of Dutch businesses, offices, banks and trading concerns were seized by groups of workers and youths in different parts of Indonesia during the first week of December. In Jakarta, red flags were hoisted over the offices of the Royal Dutch Packet Navigation Company (K.P.M.), the Netherlands Trading Bank (*Nederlandse Handelsmaatschappij*), the *Nationale Handelsbank*, the *Escomptobank*, the *Hôtel des Indes* (the largest in Indonesia), and other large concerns and enterprises, all of which were proclaimed the "property, of the Indonesian Republic." Indonesian employees at the K.P.M. offices demanded that the management should sign an "instrument of transfer"; this the board refused to do, and all Dutch personnel thereupon left the building.

Similar incidents occurred at many other premises illegally seized by the employees and groups of nationalist youths.