
The Netherlands Government's decision to send the aircraft carrier *Karel Doorman* and two destroyers to Dutch New Guinea, announced on April 5, aroused strongly hostile reactions in Indonesia.

In a Note delivered on June 3 the Indonesian Government protested against this decision, which, it said, had given rise to an “explosive situation” in South-East Asia. The Indonesian Air Force announced on the same day that all air crews and ground staff had been instructed to have their aircraft in a state of constant readiness, and that Indonesian jet fighters had been patrolling the air border between the Moluccas and Dutch New Guinea for some time. President Sukarno subsequently announced on Aug. 17 that diplomatic relations with the Netherlands had been broken off [see 17606 B].

In Jakarta about 700 students broke into the Netherlands diplomatic mission on May 6, broke windows and furniture, and tore down the Netherlands flag and portraits of Queen Juliana. No one was injured, however, and the demonstrators dispersed shortly before troops arrived to restore order. The Indonesian Foreign Ministry tendered an apology to the Netherlands on May 7 and promised that an investigation would be held.

The Soviet Government, in a Note on June 2, expressed regret that the Netherlands had taken a number of military measures which could “only increase the danger of war in South-East Asia” and evoke “a legitimate feeling of disquiet.” This action, it asserted, “amply proved that the military threat in that area did not emanate from Indonesia.”

When the Dutch warships on their outward journey reached Fremantle (Western Australia) on June 12, dockers refused to assist in mooring them. During their return voyage to Europe it was proposed that they should visit Yokohama; on Sept. 3, however, the Japanese Government asked for the visit to be postponed “until a more opportune time” after the Indonesian Government had threatened to break off diplomatic and economic relations. In Japan itself the Socialist Party had expressed strong opposition, the Yokohama dockers had decided to boycott the warships, and Japanese extreme left-wing student, trade union, and other bodies had announced that they would organize widespread protest demonstrations.

The Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr. Subandrio, sent a message of thanks to the Japanese Government and commented at a press conference on Sept. 3 that its decision indicated Japan's
refusal to become entangled in the Indonesian-Dutch conflict over New Guinea. The Netherlands Foreign Ministry stated on Sept. 4 that the Japanese attitude was very unusual between friendly nations, and that the Government had noted the Japanese decision with “great astonishment.”

About 350 Netherlands Air Force personnel embarked for New Guinea on Sept. 28, and about 700 soldiers two days later. A Dutch Army spokesman stated on Sept. 30 that this was the last detachment of military reinforcements to be sent out.

The Netherlands Government announced on Nov. 21 that a small band of Indonesian “infiltrators” armed with automatic weapons and hand grenades had landed on the south-west coast of Dutch New Guinea about six days before. Some of them had been captured, and had said that further infiltrating groups could be expected to land in the near future. Several Indonesians had been arrested in October who were alleged to have traded amulets to Papuans, telling them that the amulets would make them invincible if they resisted the Dutch authorities.