

fortuitous connection in the past. I quite understand the argument of the representative of Indonesia that the fact that the inhabitants are different in race is not conclusive because Indonesia is a state which is not based on race or religion. I not only accept this argument, I honour it, for we Canadians have long believed that the state based on the union of races and languages is a higher conception than that of the uni-racial and unilingual state. However, one must be careful of this argument. It cannot be used as a reason for extending the state to include races which have no desire to be included. It does not seem to us that there is any clear evidence of a desire on the part of the inhabitants of West New Guinea to join Indonesia, and it seems to us a fact that the Indonesian Government has passed over this aspect of the question somewhat lightly. The Netherlands Government, in our opinion, should continue to administer this territory with the purpose, which it has constantly avowed, of educating and assisting its people to the point when they can govern themselves and choose their own destiny. If, when that day comes, they choose to affiliate themselves with Indonesia, the situation would be quite different. It may be, of course, that they would prefer to remain a state to themselves or to join with the peoples, more closely related to them, in other parts of the island which they share. But these are questions which the people of West New Guinea should decide for themselves when the time is ripe, not questions which should be decided for them by this body. If we are, as we are constantly urged, to liquidate the empires of the past, I see no reason why we should impose forever on peoples now dependent a pattern of nationality for which the only justification would appear to be the imperial structure from which they have emerged.

What really bothers us most in this debate, I must say frankly, is what seems to us a regrettable lack of consistency on the subject of self-government and self-determination. We hear a great deal in this body about the evils of colonialism. Canadians strongly support the development of self-government and autonomy in colonial lands; we are members of a Commonwealth of Nations founded on the essentially anti-colonialist principle of the growth of self-government and independence. Our attitude is based on an unshakeable belief in the efficacy of self-government and a recognition of historical processes. It is not based on a belief in the wickedness of the inhabitants of any particular continent or of great powers. And it is not based on any pre-occupation with race.

In speaking thus of colonialism I trust my Indonesian friends will not think I am implying any desire on their part to exploit the people of West Irian. I believe in the sincerity of their intentions as described here. But it does seem to me that no transfer of the land and people of West New Guinea can be justified simply on the grounds that an