

The Netherlands Government, on the other hand, stands by its declaration that it will at the appropriate time give to the inhabitants of Netherlands New Guinea the opportunity to determine their own future. As Mr. Munro well said, the issue is not colonial but territorial. And I believe, with the distinguished Representatives of New Zealand and Colombia, that the Assembly has no right to consider the revision of treaties, the alteration of boundaries and the wholesale transfer of large numbers of people.

The primary concern of my delegation is with the welfare of the local inhabitants of West New Guinea. We therefore welcome the assurances given by the distinguished Representative of the Netherlands concerning his Government's progressive development of the people of West New Guinea and the opportunity which will be given to them at the appropriate time to determine their own future.

In a matter of this kind, no good can come from attempting to assign the blame for the present situation to either party. Certainly my delegation fails to see what useful purpose would be served by the adoption of the Indonesian resolution. For the United Nations to call upon the parties to resume negotiations when neither party admits the claim of the other has a right to consideration would be an empty gesture. And to take it upon the initiative of one of the parties would appear to put the other in the wrong in a way that my delegation does not consider to be justified.

For these reasons the Canadian Delegation will be constrained to vote against the Indonesian resolution.

Mr. Chairman, I have up to now confined my remarks to the Indonesian resolution. A resolution was today introduced by eight powers and an amendment to that resolution has now been introduced by Colombia. My delegation has not had an adequate opportunity to consider this new draft resolution or the amendment and we would hope that they will not be put to the vote today. If they are we would probably vote for the amendment and if it is adopted we would probably not vote against the 8-power resolution as amended although we have strong reservations about the second operative paragraph which would place this item on next year's provisional agenda.

Text of statement made by Mr. D.M. Johnson in Plenary Session on December 10, 1954.

The Canadian Delegation wishes briefly to explain its vote on the resolution now under consideration.

Delegates will remember the circumstances in which this resolution came to a vote in the First Committee on November 30. On that morning the delegates had before them only one resolution, namely a draft resolution sponsored by Indonesia. Shortly before the vote was taken, a new resolution was tabled sponsored by Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Syria and Yugoslavia. Speaking on behalf of the Canadian Delegation I said in the First Committee that we would vote against the resolution sponsored by Indonesia. At the same time, I urged that the eight