

# CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

(Proceedings of the Security Council of the United Nations summarized for the month of January, 1949, with particular reference to the problems of Indonesia, Palestine, Berlin and Kashmir)

## I. Indonesia<sup>(1)</sup>

The importance of Canada's contribution to a settlement of the Indonesian problem was particularly emphasized during January, when General A. G. L. McNaughton was President of the Security Council and therefore had the responsibility of attempting to reconcile divergent opinions as to the best solution. The Council's first meeting of the year was held on January 7 at Lake Success, where the issues raised at the special December meeting in Paris were further discussed.

### Netherlands Statement

Dr. van Royen, the Netherlands representative, opened the January 7 meeting with a statement regarding his Government's compliance with the Council's three resolutions of December 24 and 28 calling for:

- (a) a cease-fire in Indonesia;
- (b) the release of political prisoners;
- (c) the extension of necessary facilities to the Committee of Good Offices and to the Consular Commission in Indonesia.

In connection with these resolutions, Dr. van Royen said that military activities had ceased in Java on December 31 and in Sumatra on January 5, that President Soekarno and Premier Hatta were still in custody and that "necessary instructions" had been given to enable the Committee of Good Offices and the Consular Commission to carry out their tasks.

### Criticism Expressed

Representatives of the Philippines and of India strongly criticized the Netherlands action and suggested that because of it the United States should consider suspending Marshall Plan aid to the Netherlands.

The Security Council again met to discuss the Indonesian question on January 11, when Dr. Philip Jessup, the United States representative, attacked the Netherlands for their failure to comply with the Council's instructions and insisted that the Indonesian leaders who were still held as prisoners should immediately be released. Dr. Jessup said that the "first and fundamental step" in the solution of the Indonesian question should be the fixing of dates for elections in Indonesia and for the transfer of sovereignty from the Netherlands to a newly-constituted United States of Indonesia. General support of the United States views was expressed in statements by the representatives of China and of Norway, both of whom stressed the desirability for a more positive role of the Security Council in Indonesia.

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(1) See also *External Affairs*, January, 1949.