

No. 54/39/UN9/16

WEST NEW GUINEA

The texts of two statements made by Mr. D.M. Johnson, Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in the First Committee on November 30, 1954, and in plenary session on December 10, 1954, at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 61 - West New Guinea - are attached.

Note: The text of a resolution adopted by the Committee, but rejected in plenary session, and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statements.

Test of statement made by Mr. D. M. Johnson in the First Committee on November 30, 1954.

The Canadian Delegation took no part in the general debate on this item. Like the New Zealand Delegation, we seriously doubt that the discussion of this question by the General Assembly could in present circumstances lead to any useful result and would in all probability add to the difficulties of three of our members in maintaining cordial and co-operative relations. As we ourselves have the happiest relations with all three parties, we could only deplore the introduction of this controversy into the Assembly, and for this reason we abstained on the inscription of this item.

Although I am bound to say that the three principal participants in our debate--Dr. Sudjarwo, Dr. von Balluseck, and Sir Percy Spender--have succeeded in keeping this debate on a serious level, I am afraid that my delegation's misgivings have only confirmed, for we cannot see any good coming out of it, indeed, we shall all have reason to be thankful if it does no positive harm.

Although for obvious reasons, Canada has no primary concern in this unfortunate dispute, we have from the beginning been much interested in the efforts which have been made through the United Nations to reach a satisfactory, amicable and just solution. As a member of the Security Council in 1948 and 1949, Canada had something to do with the discussions between the Governments of the Netherlands and of the Republic of Indonesia which culminated in the conclusion of the Round Table Agreements at The Hague in 1949.

I think I can explain my point of view more concretely by specific reference to the Indonesian draft resolution (Document A/C.1/L.109).

The essence of the Indonesian resolution is that it calls upon the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands to resume negotiations without delay. This, on the face of it, is a not unreasonable request. We all know there is a dispute and that at one time the Netherlands and Indonesian Governments undertook to