

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

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Date: Sept 15, 1965
5:30 PM

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHINGTON 652

INFO: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 47

AMEMBASSY MANILA 150

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 20

REF: A. Embtel 636 (NOTAL)

B. Embtel 641 (NOTAL)

1. Dutch Protestant Missionary just arrived from Manokwari area of West Irian today discussed Lovestrand case, Papuan rebellion and future prospects for foreign missionaries in area with Emboff.

2. Lovestrand Case -- In discussing events which in eyes Indo officials cast suspicion on Lovestrand in particular, Dutchman recounted same factors noted by Lovestrand himself (para 5, Ref.A), except that more emphasis placed on latter's daily trips between home and town during period of Evangelical Alliance district meeting. At this period rebels were interdicting road and soldiers were suspicious that this ^{foreigner} ~~white man~~ could

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apparently travel with impunity whereas if they ventured on road they would be shot.

3. Other Missionary Detentions -- Report that Dutch Catholic Priest Vandenberg (para 5, ref B) also arrested was confirmed. Vandenberg located in Sukarnapura and not resident Manokwari area. Present whereabouts or status his investigation unknown.

4. Manokwari Rebellion -- Talk of open rebellion by Papuans had begun as early as March 1965. In early June Indo authorities intercepted Papuan leaving for Australian side with Free Papua declaration signed by many prominent Papuans in Manokwari. Ensuing police sweep arrested most Papuan civil servants and functionaries in area.

5. First armed action occurred July 26 in valley near Manokwari. Three soldiers raising flag at morning colors were shot and flag hauled down. Indo reaction was brutal. Soldiers next day sprayed bullets at any Papuan in sight and many innocent travelers on roads gunned down. Bitterness thus created ~~xxxx~~ not easily healed. Fighting

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at times rather widespread in ensuing days but rebels never assaulted Manokwari itself. Missionary had impression casualties on both sides quite heavy. Rebels used mortars in addition to small arms and active fighting not quelled until arrival major army reinforcements_x from outside area. While Manokwari now quiet again on surface, tensions high and relations between Indos and Papuans now less reconciled than before rebellion broke out. During rebellion there much loose talk that if Papua free then Netherlands, Australia and USG would provide economic aid to develop country.

6. Missionary Prospects in West Irian -- Dutchman said political tensions making it increasingly difficult for all foreign missionaries, but especially for Americans, since military and Indo petty officials are imbued with steady diet anti-American political propaganda. Easy relationship and respect between Papuans and missionaries also resented by Indonesians, who have not been able to gain respect local people themselves. When foreigner

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greeted pleasantly by Papuans on streets this resented
by soldiers. Papuans in turn resent it if missionaries
greet Indonesians in public. Thus foreigners caught
in middle. Frustration of role/Indonesians find themselves
in ~~the~~ West Irian is exacerbated by example of white
missionaries who are increasingly feeling effect of
resulting Indo mistrust and dislike. While reluctant
come to conclusion about future, Dutchman indicated he
felt Americans at least had only limited period of
useful work left to them in West Irian before they would
be forced by harassment and incidents to withdraw
unless change comes in political orientation of Djakarta.

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Sept. 15, 1965

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