

Telegram by Francis Shepherd to the Foreign Office on the Dubois-Critchley proposals (Batavia, 17 June 1948)

Caption: On 17 June 1948, the British Consul-General in Batavia, Francis M. Shepherd, sends the British Foreign Office a telegram in which he outlines the principles of the Dubois-Critchley proposals, put forward by the American and Australian members of the Committee of Good Offices to break the deadlock in the talks between the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic.

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En Clair

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM BATAVIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir F. Shepherd
No. 413
17th June, 1948.

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Repeated to Singapore Saving
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U.K. Del. New York
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Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 413 of June 17th repeated to Singapore (Saving) The Hague, U.K. Del. New York and Washington.

Committee of Good Offices.

Press reports that Netherlands Delegation have informed the Committee of Good Offices that in view of the publication of the Dubois-Critchley proposals the delegation thinks it advisable to suspend discussions except for those concerning the implementation of the Truce Agreement pending instructions from The Hague.

2. According to United Press reports the first of the proposals is as follows.

[Begins].

We believe that the principles set forward below will safeguard and reconcile the proper and essential interest of the two parties. The plan calls upon the Dutch and the Indonesian Republic to accept "the spirit and the letter" of the Renville Agreement. The highlights of the Australian - American suggestions are:

1. Elections will be held throughout Indonesia within three months to initiate a Constituent Assembly, the elections will be based upon a secret ballot.

2. The Constituent Assembly is to convene and have the status of both a Constituent Assembly and a Provisional Government.

3. The final political agreement is to incorporate the statute on a Union, whereunder the Netherlands and the United States of Indonesia will hold equal partnership as sovereign independent states. Queen Wilhelmina and her legitimate successors to the crown shall head the Union.

4. The provisional Parliament is to form a provisional and federal Government, electing a president who in turn appoints a premier and full Cabinet responsible to the provisional Parliament.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor General will be empowered to exercise a veto over the acts of the Provisional Government, which are contravene [sic] to the

/Charter of the United

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Charter of the United Nations and the Union statute, as well as the power to direct the employment of the armed forces within Indonesia after consultation with the Provisional Government.

6. The establishment of six joint commissions to handle the delineations of the future component states of the United States of Indonesia as well as the restoration of foreign property now in Republican hands and the creating of a joint staff of the Indonesian and Dutch chiefs, which will carry out the reduction of the armed forces of both parties.

7. The Dutch will immediately turn over the full powers and the internal self-government to the Provisional Government, while the Republic transfers all attributes of sovereignty to Provisional Government, including the foreign relations, the foreign trade, the currency and control of the armed forces. The plan appears to embody the political aspects in the British agreement with India and the economic aspects of the United States agreement with the Philippines. Under the terms of the Australian-American plan the Dutch would be guaranteed to be a favoured nation in an economic treaty. The plan states "the principles of non-discrimination is to apply in all the economic relations between the United States of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands". The Dutch would hold the same rights of the citizens of the United States of Indonesia with regard to internal taxes and import and export duties and controls.

Foreign Office please pass to U.K. Delegation New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 91 and 93 respectively.

[Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York and Washington].

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