

## ***Indonesia's Goodwill Gesture Towards India***

### **PREMIER SJAHRIR'S OFFER OF 500,000 TONS OF RICE**

(Free Press of India)

BATAVIA, April 7.

**I**N an exclusive interview to the Free Press, Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, the Premier of the Indonesian Republic, expressed his deep concern and sympathy for the famine situation in India.

He offered and was ready to arrange the export of 500,000 tons of rice from Indonesia for India provided India made her own arrangements to ship them.

Dr. Sjahrir also pointed out in his talks the extreme shortage of cloth in his own country and wanted to know whether India could help her by sending textiles.

#### **GOOD CROPS THIS YEAR**

He referred to the gloomy picture of food conditions in Indonesia that has been deliberately presented to the outside world by foreign-interested news agencies, not knowing the true and actual conditions obtaining here. The Premier pointed out that Indonesia had never had such good crops and harvest as this year since the last six years.

## Batavia, A Dull Drab City

### DUTCH OCCUPATION COMPLETE

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 7.

The city presented a dull and drab appearance in comparison to the beautiful picture it presented five months back, with hundreds of Free Indonesian flags fluttering gaily, dainty Indonesian women dressed in multi-coloured and picturesque national costumes, strutting about the streets, shouting anti-Imperialist slogans and the general population full of enthusiasm for their newly-acquired freedom. Today one sees only a few flags of freedom waving in the air, all signs and slogans have disappeared—it appears the Japanese POW's were used to scrape off the freedom slogans—and a larger number of Dutch soldiers are seen moving about, with pistols and rifles, in a grim atmosphere. Armed Dutch military policemen and unarmed Indonesian civil police are in charge of the city and regulating traffic. Dutch and Eurasian women seem much happier moving about in vehicles with unarmed menfolk.

#### HAPPY INDIAN SOLDIERS

A strange contrast to the last six months, when they had to do an unpleasant and dirty job, the Indian troops are going about the city, quite 'unarmed' with a happy expression on their faces, at the early prospect of returning home. The famous Indian Division, which fought with distinction in the Manipur campaign, and saved India from the Japanese invasion, has secured from the Dutch a safe and strategic place for their present occupation.

## PANDIT NEHRU SHOULD VISIT INDONESIA

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 8.

Regarding Dr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India, high Indonesian circles desire that Pandit Nehru, well known to the Indonesian masses, should visit Java to negotiate for the terms of the offer. If unable to leave India at the present moment, Pandit Nehru may send some envoy, but it is essential that he should come with full authority from Panditji. Most of the people here are disappointed that Pandit Nehru could not visit them at the conclusion of his Malaya tour.

A Government official from India to arrange for the rice transaction is not likely to succeed much, while a representative of the Indian people will certainly be received with great respect and joy.

When from Malaya recently, Pandit Nehru applied to the British authorities for permission for Mr. Huthee Singh to visit Java, it was refused. It appears that high military authorities in Malaya originally expressed no difficulty to permit Mr. Huthee Singh to proceed to Java, but the request was turned down after high-level discussions.

The authorities here should have no objection to permit a representative to come here to collect food for the 400 starving millions of India, after India had sent two million renowned soldiers to fight for the United Nations. The Dutch have to be doubly grateful, because Indian troops have largely contributed to the maintenance of law and order here.



# DUTCH TRY TO SABOTAGE INDONESIAN OFFER

## "NOT ENOUGH RICE TO SPARE"

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 14.

**R**EGARDING Dr. Sjahrir's offer of half a million tons of rice to India, Dutch officials here believe that there is not enough rice in Java to spare, and they are understood to be planning aerial photography of rice cultivation in order to revise estimates.

Indonesian officials, however, point out that the fields formerly used for cultivation of tobacco and sugarcane have, during the last six months, been converted for rice. Good rains have also helped to produce bumper crop.

Foreign correspondents who have recently been to the interior mention having seen extensive fields of good rice crops.

The production of Java and Madura rice in 1938 was little more than eight million tons which increased slightly up to 1941 from which it declined by two million, and this year's estimate is about eight million tons. Nearly 50 millions of the population of Java and Madura, consume only about three and a half million tons annually at the rate of 200 grams per head per day.

Larger consumption is of cassava roots from which tapioca is prepared to the value of eight million tons per year. The pre-war balance of rice is not grown in such large quantities as to be self-sufficient and also a certain amount is exchanged for inferior quality of rice from Siam in order to gain surplus value.

## Dutch Offer To Help Dr. Sjahrir!

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 13.

At a Press Conference today Lieutenant-General Spoor, the Commander-in-Chief of the Netherland East Indies Forces indicated that at the end of the present negotiations the Dutch troops here may be used with the co-operation of Dr. Sjahrir's Government to put down "extremists."

Local feelings are such that use of foreign troops for such a purpose would have disastrous consequences and would be unhelpful to Dr. Sjahrir in restoring law and order, which will be his responsibility. Already the bitterness against foreign troops is so great that further use of foreign troops will embitter the large mass of Indonesian population and increase the cleavage between the Dutch and the Indonesians. It is for Dr. Sjahrir to consolidate Dutch-Indonesian relations. Dutch troops are already crying vengeance having read reports of torture of their men and women by Indonesians.

After investigation it is found that

## Nehru Greets Indonesia

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 14.

"Merdeka," the Indonesian newspaper, yesterday published a message from Pandit Nehru to Drs. Sjahrir, Soekarno and Hatta conveying greetings from the Indian people.

Pandit Nehru says: "On my visit to Malaya so near to Indonesia, I thought of your great struggle for freedom often and discussed it with many Indonesians and other friends here. We are facing grave problems in India today which might affect the future of our country. But however entangled we might be in our own problems, we think of you for we realise that your struggle for freedom is intimately connected with ours. In the event of any big changes taking place in India resulting in the formation of National Government, rest assured that we shall take every opportunity in such ways as we can."

tortures here have nothing to do with the Indonesian Nationalist movement. All people in a subject country whether torturers, criminals or Nationalists or saints claim independence for their country and one cannot on that account brand them all as one and condemn them "en masse." Wherever a state of war exists tortures are mutual and increasing support of forces striving for right and justice would help to minimise such excesses. It is estimated that there are about 20,000 Dutch troops in Java of whom only 20% are Indonesian.

## INDIANS TO RETURN WITHOUT TANKS

Indian tankmen will soon return to India without their tanks, since most of their tanks are being sold to the Dutch. It was the code of honour with the old horse cavalry to ride back home over their victorious animals.



# British Won't Talk - Even If India Starves

All-India Weather

POO  
Following is the daily  
showing the maximum and  
temperatures and rainfall in  
the past 24 hours, total for  
April 1946 and departure  
ended at 08.00 hours 187

## WHY INDONESIAN OFFER HAS NOT MATERIALISED

### PREMIER MAINTAINS THERE IS A BUMPER CROP IN JAVA

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 21.

**A** REITERATION OF INDONESIA'S OFFER OF HALF A MILLION TONS OF RICE TO INDIA WAS MADE BY DR. SUTAN SJAHRIR, PREMIER OF THE REPUBLIC, IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO THE FREE PRESS OF INDIA. DR. SJAHRIR HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HIS TOUR OF MIDDLE AND EAST JAVA PROVINCES. THE PREMIER TOLD THE FPI THAT HE WOULD SOON BE ISSUING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT EMBODYING THE OFFER.

It appears that so far no approach has been made to the Indonesian Republic by the Government of India about Premier Sjahrir's offer. Evidently there are political difficulties in the way of making a direct approach to the Indonesians.

The British recognise only the sovereignty of the Dutch in Indonesia. The Dutch still do not seem to believe that there is a bumper rice crop in Indonesia this season. The British appear to be under the impression that though there may be rice surplus in Indonesia available for export, it will not be in such large quantities as announced by the Premier.

#### TRANSPORT TROUBLES

Another difficulty would be to find suitable and speedy transport for the purpose. Anyway the British cannot have any commercial dealings with the Indonesians unless they recognise the Republic. It is quite likely that this will be circumvented by Lord Killearn taking the matter within his purview and orders for rice may be executed through the SEAC Commander.

Dr. Sutan Sjahrir made it clear in the interview that a bumper rice crop exists in Besuki, a rich rice bowl province in East Java. Several other observers who have just returned from the interior confirm that this year's rich harvest is unprecedented.

They described how most of the people were overfed, but went half-naked. Cloth is the most scarce commodity in Indonesia today. The people of Indonesia look to India for clothing them.



# SJAHRIR EXPLAINS HOW HE CAN SHIP RICE TO INDIA

## INDONESIANS EAGER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH INDIA

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 23.

**"MY** REMARKS to the Free Press of India Representative that Indonesia could help India by sending 500,000 tons of rice on the basis of exchange with textiles and eventually tools and iron implements for agricultural use, seems to have aroused some doubt in the outer world," says Dr. Sjahrir, Indonesian Premier, in an official statement issued on Monday.

He goes on: "I want to repeat here and now that I gave the FPI Representative a true picture of the food situation and of our needs of import goods. The lowest estimate of rice crop for this year is five million tons, while the highest estimate goes up to seven million tons. The actual consumption of Java in 1940 was less than four million tons while the yearly consumption during Japanese occupation could hardly have been more than two or three million tons of rice.

"During Japanese occupation millions starved in Java. Hundreds of thousands were moved to the front as coolies, so that we think it possible that there is a decrease of population in Java, compared to 1940, instead of the normal increase."

### READY TO GIVE

Dr. Sjahrir continues: "Even if there is no surplus rice, I think our people would readily give 500,000 tons of rice for sorely needed textiles, tools and implements. I think it is more than natural that the Indonesian Republic does what is possible to ease the food situation in India. We have much sympathy for the Indian people and would welcome the establishment of economic and spiritual relations between the Republic and India as between free nations."

The Indonesian Ministry of Information has released the following communique: "In full realisation of Indonesia's obligations as an independent country to render support to our neighbour country, India, which is facing famine, the Ministry of Information appeals to all Indonesians to offer every kind of assistance to all bodies for social relief in their efforts to collect foodstuffs for our friends in India."



# BRITISH NOT TAKING ANY ACTION ON SJAHRIR'S OFFER OF RICE

**E**VEN though Dr. Sjahrir has placed at India's disposal 500,000 tons of rice, nothing has so far been done by the British authorities to see that the promised amount of rice is transported to India to alleviate the sufferings of millions who are facing starvation. Instead of responding to that magnanimous gesture, the British are indirectly allowing Dutch propaganda regarding the inability to Java under the present conditions to provide relief to other countries to stand in the way of India getting food.

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

By Air Mail.

BATAVIA, April 24

There has been a distinct change in British official attitude towards the Indonesians. Yesterday, a flight of three Indonesian aircraft landed near Batavia. It is the first time that their planes have been seen in any Allied controlled area.

Nearly four weeks ago, Allied H.Q. here ordered all Indonesian planes off the air, saying that the planes were the property of the United Nations since they formerly belonged to the defeated Japanese.

The machines were single-engine monoplanes of the Kahayishi type. One of them suffered damage on landing while landing and one were hurt. They brought Major General Sudipyo of the Tentative Republic Indonesia (Republican Army) for conferences with the Allied HQ on the evacuation of Japanese and internees from East and Central Java. It is now reported that officers from the Allied HQ will soon leave for the interior to the Indonesian Army HQ for concluding the conference.

## TERMS OF FRIENDSHIP

Apart from the official attitude, British and Indian troops are on the friendliest terms with the local population. They could be often seen spending their time in Indonesian houses where they are now welcome. One sees them in local social gatherings too, and it is not uncommon to find Indonesian ladies and gentlemen dining with our troops in their messes. Their sympathies are now loudly expressed. They volunteer to do odd services to the Indonesians. And the RAF do not lag behind their army comrades in this respect.

Much help has been rendered to the people by many British and Indian soldiers but it would be unwise to describe them as being in a state of war exists.

In the midst of such sympathy for the Indonesians on the part of the British, it is difficult to understand their attitude towards Dr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India. They do not rely on Dutch information, yet would not take pains to find out or ask Dr Sjahrir if it would be really possible. Should the British allow Dutch propaganda that the country is on the eve of famine and economic chaos to justify intervention?

## A SUBTERFUGE

In an editorial entitled "Still Inexplicable", the "Independent", the Indonesian English daily, says: "If

the British here had wanted clarification of the offer—and it was crystal clear in its wording—they should have waited for Dr. Sjahrir's return to ask for the required elucidation. That, however, did not suit some people at British Headquarters. So they got hold of a minor Indonesian official, a born nincompoop and a veritable nobody, and prevailed upon him to supply them with a statement from the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply on the lines indicated by them. This was a deplorable subterfuge to discredit Dr. Sjahrir's credit and it was shockingly bad taste to inveigle Indonesians

into having a hand in it. Here is India, starving and on the brink of a revolution, crying for rice. Indonesia offers rice unsolicited. Yet the offer, which should have pleased Britishers and Indians alike, is unacceptable to certain individuals at British Headquarters. When India accepts the offer—and she must, the afore-mentioned British individuals and the Dutch notwithstanding—the exchange goods which Indonesia asks for will, as a matter of course, have to be delivered to the Republican Government, thereby by passing the Dutch blockade and Dutch pretensions to rule this country and to speak for it."

This is the way Indonesians feel about the offer and now that they have made all arrangements to fulfil the offer, they are anxiously awaiting the moves by the Indian people in response to their offer.



# AFTER ALL BRITISH CONTACT SJAHRIR FOR RICE !

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 26.

It is reliably understood that Mr MacFearon, British Consul-General in Batavia, has addressed a letter this morning to Dr. Sutan Sjahrir enquiring about Indonesia's offer of half a million tons of rice to India.

Mr. MacFearon has it is understood, asked the Indonesian Premier to state categorically details regarding the offer—whether it would be delivered by public bodies or the Republic itself and what goods Indonesia expects in return. He has also expressed the wish for an early conference with Dr. Sjahrir to discuss the subject.

Admiral Mountbatten has not yet discussed the rice offer with Dr. Sjahrir, though his visit to Indonesia is expected to be mainly in this connection.

## MINISTERS GET BUSY

The Indonesian Cabinet met this afternoon and discussed Mr. MacFearon's letter. As a result of the discussions the Ministers for Supply and Agriculture have been asked to prepare complete details to be discussed in conference between the Premier and the British Consul-General.

All over Java Dr. Sjahrir's offer has been enthusiastically received. Telegrams are pouring in into the Premier's residence affirming people's preparedness to support the offer in every way. Railway workers have promised voluntarily to give first priority for rice supplies to India.

Reports have been received from various parts in the interior stating that voluntary collections of rice to be sent to India have already begun.

Dr. Sjahrir, in view of this spontaneous response, is now more hopeful than when he made the offer of fulfilling his promise.



## RISING HOPE FOR SETTLEMENT IN INDONESIA

### Delegation Returns From Hague After Preliminary Talks

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA.)

BATAVIA, April 29.

**T**HE Indonesian Delegation which returned this evening from Holland was received by a large gathering of Indonesians including Ministers. The gloom which had enveloped high Indonesian circles during the last few days vanished with the return of the Delegation and a more hopeful atmosphere was noticeable.

It appears that the Delegation's work in Holland was more of a preliminary nature and it is learnt that understanding was not reached on essential points like recognition of the Republic. Though certain grounds have been cleared by the visit to the Hague, it is likely that fresh negotiations will start here with the return of Dr. Van Mook next week.

#### TO MEET THE PREMIER

The Delegation is meeting Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, the Indonesian Prime Minister, tonight.

Delegation members were not

communicative about the Mission, though one member said, "We are not unsatisfied."

Reuter reports from the Hague that it was being decided today whether the debate on the Indonesian question in the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament—earlier reported to be taking place this week—would be held in secret session.

The first part of the report by Max van Poll, head of the Dutch Parliamentary Delegation to study the Indonesian question, will be published before the Parliamentary debate. The second part will not appear until later.

## Sjahrir's Ministers Get Busy

### Rice For India Being Brought To Ports

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, April 28.

The Ministers for Agriculture, Supplies, Trade, and Commerce of the Indonesian Republic are now preparing schemes for the immediate execution of Premier Sjahrir's rice offer to India. It is believed that the rice will be delivered at the Republic-controlled ports of Probolinggo, Tegal and Cheribon which are nearest to large rice producing areas. The Premier has already asked the British to be ready with ships to take delivery of half a million tons of rice.

In return for the rice, it is anticipated, that in addition to cloth, Indonesia will ask for a large number of gunny bags to carry the rice, machine parts for rice mills and transport equipment to move the rice from production centres to the ports. That now sets the stage for the British to strike a deal with the Indonesian Republic.

An Indian official here, who is well acquainted with present conditions in India, said that the deal would be of infinite benefit to the British Government too. As per an understanding between Dr. Sjahrir and Admiral Mountbatten, the Indonesian Government have already drawn up plans for supplying rice from the interior to areas in Java controlled by the Allies. When both these offers are executed, the world would be convinced of the availability of surplus rice for export in Java, and more than all, of the humanitarian character and international outlook of Premier Sjahrir's Republic.



## NEHRU TAKES IT UP

### DR. SJAHRIR'S OFFER OF RICE

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 6.

Dr. Sjahrir, the Indonesian Prime Minister, who has been in bed with influenza for the last few days, received a cable from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru yesterday asking for details of his rice offer, and it is understood that he will soon reply to it through official channels.

Reports of the people's approval of Dr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India and their determination to fulfil it continue to flow from the interior. Peasants' League, the Economic Board, and prominent people are enthusiastic to implement the promise to India. Resident Indians returning from the interior confirm the report of abundance of rice.

The following is the text of Pandit Nehru's message: "I learn through the press that you have been good enough to offer to send half a million tons of rice from Indonesia to India to relieve famine conditions here, provided the necessary shipping is arranged for. I understand also that you are in great need of textiles from India. We are grateful for your offer. Half a million tons of rice or other foodgrain would make a great difference to India in the months to come. Could you kindly let us have further details of your offer so that we can make arrangements in regard to it. There is cloth scarcity here also, but I am sure the Government here will do utmost to provide textiles in exchange for foodgrains. I should be grateful for an early reply."—Reuter.

## INDIANS HARASSED BY THE DUTCH

### Govt. Must Depute A Leader To Java

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 3.

Indonesia bleeds for freedom, and yet offers rice to India; in return, it is understood, a Bombay firm has undertaken to supply two million yards of cloth to the Dutch.

An Indian merchant, self-appointed leader of the Indian community in Padang, cabled to the Congress President, through the Government of the Netherlands East Indies, for protection against Indonesian looting and kidnapping. Why he did not appeal through the British Consulate here, who are doing their utmost to render aid to Indian nationals, reveals certain influences at work.

Though generally Indian civilians and soldiers are most sympathetic towards the Indonesians, certain classes of Indian merchants are keen on amassing wealth without respect for the State and its laws. No Government would tolerate this.

### INDIANS' LOT

The position of Indians is rather unfortunate here in that they are arrested by both the Indonesians and the Dutch, and in most cases the British Consulate has to obtain their release. Two brothers were recently arrested in Bandoeng, one by the Dutch, and the other by the Indonesians. Indians in Batavia allege rude treatment from Dutch police and troops, and one Indian was interrogated by the Dutch about his connection with the Independence League.

In the prevailing unrest in Sumatra, several Indians were kidnapped by the Indonesians, and the matter is engaging the attention of the British Consulate.

The Indian community of Indonesia needs direction and leadership, and the sooner the Government of India send a representative here, the better for India, for this representative could pack home all undesirables.



# DR. SJAHRIR — A LIFE-SKETCH

(By Free Press of India Representative)

Thirty-seven-year-old Sutan Sjahrir, Doctor of Law, little more than 5 feet in height with almost boyish features and a pleasant smiling face, patiently enjoys it as two 'Big Powers' woo him alternately. The British offer him planes for his tours, invite him to high-level cocktail parties and keep constant and close liaison with him through their "Political Intelligence" Staff of the Far East Publicity Section of SEAC, which is only the British Foreign Office in military uniform. A number of British newspapers are also supplied to him.

Undoubtedly, the British see in Sjahrir a powerful ally for the execution of their policies. But Sjahrir is an ardent socialist and can certainly see the wood from the trees. Tropical climates, like here, reveal quickly the 'body-odour' of socialist-cloaked imperialism.

The more astute 'Big Power' works diligently behind the scenes and has its influence felt and its wishes consulted on every important issue. Secret envelopes pouring every morning into the Premier's house in increasing numbers are perhaps to a certain extent indicative of the growing influence of this 'Power' which is definitely likely to last much longer than the British.

They both do not recognise the Republic but yet treat Dr. Sjahrir as the head of the Indonesian Government. They respect him and generally have diplomatic relations with him and his Ministers. Naturally, this perturbs the Dutch who are still in a stupor about Asia and the future.

Sjahrir is a realist. He repeatedly appeals to his countrymen to think in terms of international events and is convinced that his country's future will be influenced to a considerable extent by global politics.

He is not unaware of the great part that the United States is likely to play in this region of South East Asia.

Though he fully realises the need of his country for foreign capital, investment and technicians, it is futile to think of him as a "moderate" who would compromise the freedom of his country. After all, 'moderates' and 'extremists' are terms used by imperialists to suit their own ends.

Sjahrir is an inveterate enemy of imperialism of all types and has often asked Indonesians to arraign themselves alongside the socialist forces of the world and be prepared for the final struggle with world capitalism and imperialism. An ardent worker in the Indonesian Socialist Party for the last 15 years, he hopes to launch a socialist programme by his Government as soon as the state of war disappears. His vigorous attacks on Indonesian feudalism are frequent and he is determined to put an end to it.

Second to none in his admiration and appreciation for the part played by the youth of his country in the present Indonesian struggle, he has repeatedly reminded them that though they should always form the vanguard in the freedom struggle, yet they should not assume the powers of leadership. He has condemned their excesses and is insistent on their eradicating all traces of Japanese militarism and influence left in them by more than three years of occupation.

No flags fly on his car nor do bodyguards strut about close to him. Sjahrir lives in a simple way, only with a guard at the entrance to his house, which is more a measure of precaution against Dutch terrorists who have recently made several attempts on his life. He dresses simply and moves about without any ostentation. He talks and chats freely with everyone but withdraws himself into his shell whenever he desires. He looks ordinary and is a man of the people, but what endears one to him is his sincerity and earnestness for uplifting the common and poor man.

715 May  
Dr. Sjahrir is married and his wife who is Dutch with her two children are in Holland where they were sent by the Dutch authorities when he was deported to Digul, equivalent to Andamans for Indian 'terrorists.' He was born in Sumatra and after his early education in Medan and Bandoeng, he went to Holland to study law at Amsterdam. While there he took active part in the Students' Socialist movements upto 1932. During that time, he travelled widely in western Europe and met Mahatma Gandhi and Sarojini Naidu in London.

On returning to Java, in 1933 he was elected President of the Indonesian Labour Union. A year later came his first imprisonment when he was arrested for "dangerous political activities." The next year brought him a more severe sentence and he was interned in Upper Digul in New Guinea. In 1936, along with Dr. Hatta, he was transferred to Banda Neira, where during the six years of interment, he prepared himself for leadership by an intensive study of Kant, Hegel, Schelling, Nietzsche, Bertrand Russell and others.

When Holland was invaded by the Germans, he sought permission to educate the Indonesian public against Fascism but permission was refused. During the Japanese occupation, he lived in Batavia repeatedly refusing all invitations to co-operate. Instead, along with select Indonesian students, he ran an underground movement between 1943-1945, all of them being convicted of an Allied victory. In August 1945 he was elected Chairman of the National Committee, the preliminary parliament of the new Republic. In November, he became the Prime Minister of the second Indonesian Cabinet and in March this year of the third one.

Though his talk with Mahatma Gandhi in London was brief, Sjahrir has closely followed the progress of the nationalist movement in India. Like Nehru, he envisages greater co-operation amongst the free peoples of India and South East Asia and realises the great part free Indonesia will play in such co-operation.



## Bright Outlook In Indonesia

### Sjahrir, Taking New Dutch Proposals To Soekarno

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 10

The political centre of gravity in Indonesia today shifts to Jogjakarta whereto Dr. Sjahrir the Premier, is flying today on a British plane, with the latest proposals from the Dutch Government brought by Dr. Van Mook, reinforced by the suggestions and assurances of the British Government. These latter, it is believed, are in keeping with the latest policy of the British Labour Government in regard to Egypt, India and elsewhere.

It appears that a delicate stage has now been reached in the Dutch-Indonesian negotiations; and the present sudden departure of Dr. Sjahrir to consult President Soekarno and other members of the Cabinet suggests that we are on the eve of important developments.

It would be of interest for India to learn that the British authorities would not permit the Free Press of India Correspondent to accompany Dr. Sjahrir to Jogjakarta, though the Premier himself was willing to take him.

### JAVA'S RICE OFFER (FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 11

"Is something afoot, is some plan being hatched, which will reduce to naught all the preparations at the last minute?" asks an independent editorial today under the heading "Uncanny silence," commenting on the reply given by Dr. Sjahrir to Pandit Nehru. The paper complains with reference to all the pronouncements made in India regarding Java's offer of rice, and the food situation in India that though these give no reason for such a suspicion it is essential that the Indian Food Mission should arrive in Java as early as possible to allay such fears. This is also necessary in view of the fact that Indonesian enthusiasm may fade.

An early broadcast from the Indonesian Government will, it is hoped, clear the air.

### No Quarrel Between Sjahrir And Soekarno

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 12

Dr. Sjahrir the Indonesian Premier met Dr. Soekarno at Jogjakarta to-day before the latter left for Cheribon a mid-Java port, to pacify his fanatical followers, who are not willing to evacuate Japs and Internees, until their own comrades who have been captured are returned.

The report that a showdown between Dr. Sjahrir and Dr. Soekarno is imminent is unfounded, though there are some differences in their ideologies.

Dr. Soekarno has a large following among the masses and his exit is unlikely till the Republic is recognised. Dr. Soekarno, in fact, is as popular as Netaji Bose, though imperialists dub him as a Japanese and are intriguing to put him down and minimise his influence.



# JAVA, CONFLICT OF IMPERIALISMS

THE deeper aspects of a problem which is by no means a mere tussle between the Indonesian Republic and the Dutch Government anxious to establish its ascendancy are uncovered here by the "Free Press of India" Correspondent in Batavia. Apart from a domestic struggle, there is also coming to a head the unannounced quarrel between the British and the Dutch Imperialisms in Indonesia, though the former ostensibly has been trying to pull the chestnuts for the Dutch. Here is an analysis of the various forces at work as it strikes an observer on the spot.

## (FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, (By Air)

Judging from event, emotions and intrigues, the problem here is no longer "an internal affair" between the Indonesians and the Dutch. If the situation is allowed to deteriorate, it would involve one or two big powers, several smaller powers and the peoples of subject nations in Asia. If the UNO wants to live as an effective organisation to prevent war, it has to interfere and right now, September may be too late.

Looking at the forces at work, there is no doubt that two Imperialisms are gradually coming into conflict. Socialist Britain, still propped up by its dying Imperialism, is making an all-out effort to earn the goodwill of the people of Asia and often reveals an anxiety to outshine Russia as the champion of liberty but unfortunately couples capitalist interests with socialists aim. Perhaps this is the result of an evil legacy and her present economic condition. The British authorities are for all purposes pro-Indonesian except that they cannot recognise the Republic and that they continue to wage a war against "extremists."

At the same time, though they have utter contempt for the way in which the Dutch handle their affairs here, they hand over occupied areas to the Dutch and have commenced equipping them with tanks large and small guns and ammunition. This is in keeping with traditional policy.

### Dutch Hate British

The Dutch in Indonesia are intensely anti-British. A Dutch military policeman was not wrong when he expressed to an Indonesian friend that their present slogan was: "British first, extremist next". They have reasons for it. They find the British treating the Republic as a "government" and besides having orders executed by them, they invite Indonesian ministers to conferences and consultations. The Dutch do not in the least like the Allied Headquarters working in liaison with the Republican Army Headquarters.

More than anything else, they cannot stand to see the Republican Army being equipped by the British and working under the latter's supervision to evacuate the Japs and in-

ternees, thus giving opportunities to the Indonesians to add more feathers to their crown.

Do not the British officers and troops fraternise with the Dutch "dames" to their disadvantage? Are not British and Indian troops received with welcome in enlightened Indonesian homes, and is there not a growing bond between them? Are not the British heaping insults after insults upon the good Queen's Government and Empire by allowing the "rebel" air force to land on the holy soil of Batavia?

### The Dutch Nazis

In spite of professions of friendship and identity of outlook, the Dutch and British are as far apart as the U.S.S.R. and the Anglo-Americans. The British way is democratic, while the Dutch have imbued much from their Nazi neighbours. Out of a population of eight and a half millions, by official count, Holland had 400,000 Nazis of her own make. When Anton Mussert, the Fuehrer of Holland, (recently executed), visited Indonesia before the war, local Dutchmen received him with great ovation and also presented him with funds. Some of them remained loyal to him and co-operated with the Japanese here.

Ninety thousand Dutch Nazis are behind the bars in Holland, while the rest are still at large and not a few of them are in Java in the employ of the Dutch Government, both as civilian officials as well as soldiers. These "herrenvolk" think that the subject races have no right to freedom and the colonies are theirs by right. Indonesia is not without good realistic Dutchmen, but they are afraid to speak their mind in the face of third degree pressure.

In this mood, "Het Daglabad", popular amongst all classes of Dutch here, writes: "To arms, to defend once again our freedom." Dutch freedom in Indonesia! The Dutch Government here supplies translations of this anti-British paper to British Headquarters, offices and messes and one can imagine the British reaction!

Frequently, one hears of minor clashes between Indian and Dutch troops. Naturally the Dutch do not like them, because they seem

to feel that if there had not been Indian troops to whose use India objected strongly, the Allied conquest of Indonesia would have been complete and the Dutch would have regained their colonies. With unimuffled curses, they often say that India intervened at the proper time! Reciprocally, Indian troops here dislike the Dutch intensely and do not desire to fight to reimpose Dutch rule on the Indonesians whom they regard as brothers.

### Total War?

There is no doubt that the Dutch are preparing for total war though they may be contemplating it only as a last resort. But the rush to gather arms is there, and therein lies the greatest danger to peace. They have obtained tanks, guns, rifles and ammunition from the British, and recently, quite a number of landing crafts and automobiles from the U.S. Army. Dutch parachutists are in training and there are rumours of the existence of a plan for the invasion of Central Java both by sea and from the air. In one of their broadcasts to their troops, they have outlined what should be their behaviour soon after "subjugation".

The Netherlands Government is anxious to postpone the issue till the Dutch elections are over, and to gain time to enable them to prepare for war as well as to succeed in their attempts to create a split among the Indonesians. At present, they have only about 20,000 troops, which by themselves can never hope to conquer Java; and Indonesian intelligence is so well organised that any attempts to split their ranks is foiled easily and nipped in the bud. Why are the Dutch proposing to call a round table conference in August? Are not the last British expected to leave in October?

### The Sad Man

Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr's formula has not been accepted by the Hague, though Indonesians were prepared to abide by it. Dr. Van Mook is a disappointed man, and the proposals he is going to bring back with him cannot be either the same as suggested by Sir A. Clark-Kerr or any better than that. In the absence of an influence like the British representative's, the future negotiations will not make any headway.



The attack on Lord Louis Mountbatten and dubbing the Republic as "Made in Japan" by the Dutch Parliamentary Commission indicate which way the wind is blowing. How different are their conclusions from those of their British counterpart after their visit to India! Are not the British exerting sufficient pressure? Yet, why does the Hague want to continue the stalemate? Dr. Sjahrir and his Government wish to try every peaceful means to attain their end, but there is no doubt that his people are also preparing to face the final curtain--war.

### Outside Aid

Where do countries like Australia, India, Egypt and other Muslim countries stand with respect to Indonesia? They may appear to be paying lip sympathy now; but it is doubtful if they would allow the Dutch to slaughter millions of Indonesians, which would be the only result if there is war here, in view of the superiority of the Dutch in air and on the sea, although on land the Indonesians will prove superior.

As a result, trouble would spread to Malaya, as already the Communists in Malaya have much contact with Sumatra. Then Burma would catch fire and India has been for some time a scething cauldron. There is no doubt that if there is war in Java, an international brigade including Indian soldiers would be fighting on the Indonesian side.

The solution of the problem is in Britain's hands, and if she is not going to be firm to the Dutch now, she will soon find herself at war with the Dutch only to realise that those whom she fought to save herself from slavery have risen up again in another part of the world. Indonesia is a challenge to Britain, and if she fails, it is for the UNO to intervene to save the world from another war.



## British Will Retain Hold In Java

### ONLY TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 14

The Free Press of India reliably understands that though the British troops in this country would withdraw shortly, handing over Sourabaya, Semarang and ultimately Batavia to the Dutch, British control over the colonial policy of the Dutch in Indonesia would remain perhaps in a greater degree.

Australia seems to have had some influence in the British policy of pushing Indonesia into the Pacific zone to prevent effectively a federation of South East Asia.

When British authority has been established in Indonesia by the sweat and blood of over four Indian divisions, and even today it is being exercised with the help of Indian troops, India has a legitimate right to demand a voice in the shaping of British policy in Indonesia but she merely displays an anxiety to collect salvage scrap from Germany and Japan.

### India's Food Secretary In Batavia

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 1

Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Joint Secretary, Food Department, Government of India, who arrived here from Singapore yesterday, revealed in an interview that discussions were proceeding with the Indonesian authorities regarding Dr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India. He appeared to be hopeful of succeeding in his mission.

### PUNJABI ARRIVES IN JAVA (FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 13.

In connection with the Indonesian offer of rice to India, Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Joint Secretary, Food Department, Government of India, arrived here by noon by air. Immediately on arrival he conferred with the British Counsel-General with whom he is staying.

## Indonesian Rice Only For Indians

### Not A Grain To Be Diverted

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 17.

Last evening Mr. Punjabi had a two-hour talk with Dr. Sjahrir, the Indonesian Premier, and Dr. Darmawan, Minister of Economic Affairs, when further progress was made in the negotiations for the barter of Indonesian rice for India against Indian cloth. Mr. Punjabi is meeting them again on Saturday to discuss further details, and thereafter Mr. Punjabi will be able to fly back to India with complete plans and agreement for ratification by the Government of India.

It appears that Dr. Sjahrir has made it clear to Mr. Punjabi that the Indonesian people would supply rice voluntarily to feed famine stricken India only, and that diversion of even a portion of it to any other country would be viewed as a breach of faith. Indians alone must consume the rice offered by Java, and this rice must not go to any pool.

From Indramayu in Central Java comes a report that Dr. Soekarno, the President, who is on tour, was greeted by people in the paddy fields with slogans saying that all efforts would be made to fulfil the promise of rice to India.

The Republic has received a message from the Muslim League in India thanking it for its offer of rice, and affirming age-long friendship between India and Indonesia.

Several Dutchmen met by the Free Press of India representative expressed humanitarian sympathy for India's appeal for rice, and desire fulfilment of Dr. Sjahrir's offer. Would India make a reciprocal gesture by sending a medical mission here, as the Indonesians need many doctors and a great deal of medical supplies?



## JAVA RICE TALKS PROGRESSING

### Sjahrir Asks India To Get Ships

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 19.

Mr. K. L. Punjabi had another interview with the Indonesian Premier Dr. Sutan Sjahrir yesterday evening. As the talks progress, it is becoming clear that the offer of rice to India will soon be implemented, though the conditions for the execution of the offer are still being discussed. There are some more details regarding loading, shipping etc., yet to be gone into before Mr. Punjabi returns to India.

It is understood that Dr. Sjahrir has asked Mr. Punjabi to arrange for the transport of the rice as soon as possible. Indonesia, the Premier is reported to have said, will be able to begin shipments by June and complete the shipment of half a million tons of rice in five months at the rate of a lakh tons a month.

Indonesians expect that with the formation—which they feel is imminent—of an interim national Government in India would result in speedy agreement about the Indonesian rice offer.

## Indonesia To Present Counter-Proposals

### LITTLE OPTIMISM ON OUTCOME OF TALKS

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 25.

The Indonesian Cabinet, meeting at Jogjacarta during the last three days, have decided to present counter-proposals to Dr. Van Mook after obtaining clarification regarding certain points contained in the latest proposals brought by Dr. Van Mook from the Hague.

As the new proposals seem even weaker than Sir Archibald Clark Kerr's, the outcome of the present negotiations between the Indonesian Republic and the Dutch authorities does not appear bright, but the negotiations are not likely to be abandoned unless a definite deadlock is reached.

The Indonesian Cabinet are likely to view the Indonesian problem in an increasing degree in relation to international events, owing to the rightwing trends in the political activity of Holland.

## Sheaves Of Paddy For India's Spokesman

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 20.

Last night at a pleasant function the Indonesian Prime Minister, Dr. Sjahrir on behalf of the Indonesian people and Government presented to the Indian people and Government as a token of the rice promised to India a gold-like harvest of sheaves of paddy with rice in a red and white basket. Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Joint Secretary of the Food Department, Government of India, received the present, and undertook to deliver it to the Viceroy as head of the Indian Government.

The simple ceremony, at which the entire Indonesian Cabinet was present, was held after an informal dinner in honour of the Indian visitor at the Premier's residence.

## Rice Is Ready Says Sjahrir

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BANGKOK, May 28

In thanking Pandit Nehru for his latest cable Dr. Sjahrir has sent the following reply: "We are anxiously awaiting the moment you will be able to visit us. You and Mahatma Gandhi are known and loved by our people as the leaders of Asia. Your struggle for freedom has always inspired our own. That is why we are now happy to be in a position to show our sympathy to your people by sending all the rice we can send in order to prevent disaster overtaking your country."

"We have made all the necessary arrangements with Mr. K. L. Punjabi, representative of the Indian Government and it is up to the India Government to decide now whether rice shall be transported from our harbour or not. If ships are there the loading can take place at any time. I am convinced that the opportunity is not far away, when we shall be in a position to extend this splendid constructive co-operation between our people to cultural and political relations as well. We lay great hope by your future political status, because we are deeply interested in your freedom and welfare as you have in ours. Please convey our greetings and best wishes to your people and other great Indian leaders."



23 May 1946  
25

## Afraid Of Dutch Extremists!

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

While the prestige of the British is generally gaining in Indonesia, the actions of the British military in the name of the Allied Headquarters are becoming inexplicable. Apparently under Dutch pressure, they prohibited the Indonesian independence anniversary celebrations in Batavia, but made the Indonesians understand that they were anxious to avoid incidents and that they feared the Dutch military extremists. This admitted inability to control the Dutch troops is gradually becoming an excuse with the British military authorities, many of whom have led their Indian divisions to gallant victories against the Japanese in Burma. Or it might perhaps be a blunt military way of explaining political moves.

Throwing a cordon round Dr Sutan Sjahrir's residence, they used the Indian military policemen to prevent the Indonesians from entering the compound for the ceremony.

It is reported in Indonesian circles that one Punjabi military policeman, when accosted by a little girl, and asked, whether his act in preventing their celebrations was concomitant with the rice offer to India, and the friendship between the two countries and the fact India herself was fighting for her independence, said in reply that it was his duty to carry out orders; he then hung his head in shame, and with remorse went and sat under the nearest tree weeping bitterly. *FPI 235*

## Dutch Law Restored In Batavia

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

Last week the British military headquarters abolished the Indonesian law in Batavia, and reimposed Dutch Law under the excuse that it was necessary in order to avoid "juridical duplicity and consequent inconvenience caused to both litigants and Courts of Law by two different systems of Law."

Indonesian circles here feel that this British intervention is clearly beyond the scope of the United Nations' tasks entrusted to them in Indonesia, and that the British all the world over have jockeyed into positions between two opposing parties so as to be able to dictate to both parties.

It is also pointed out that only in Indonesia there are noticed discordant notes between the Foreign Office and the military authorities. *FPI 236*



# BRIGHT EAGERNESS IN JAVA TO SEND RICE TO INDIA

## Kisans' Sympathy: Soekarno's Full Support To Sjahrir

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 25,

**D**URING a three-day tour of the interior of Java, the "Free Press of India" representative noticed elaborate preparations and all round enthusiasm for fulfilling the promise of rice to India: a young Indonesian engaged in the task of collecting rice disclosed that he had already stocked 15,000 tons of paddy. ....

The Indonesian President, Dr. Soekarno, said that even the poorest "thani" (kisan) in all Indonesia was keen on fulfilling the promise to meet the famine threat in India.

Dr. Soekarno, greeting the Free Press of India representative with a pleasant "Jai Hind," declared in an exclusive interview: "The Indian people are close to my heart, and so I am fully backing Dr. Sjahrir's offer. Apart from our cultural and racial relationship, we are indebted to India and her leaders for their leadership of the freedom struggle of the subject nations of the world, and from whom the Indonesian national movement has largely drawn inspiration."

Questioned on recent reports of a show-down with Dr. Sjahrir, Dr. Soekarno described the reports as mischievous, adding, "Dr. Sjahrir and I are one."

### KISANS' EAGERNESS

The President of Indonesian "thans", pointing out the identity of the cause of Indian and Indonesian kisans, expressed a keen desire to have a link with the Indian kisans. He added, "It is, therefore natural for Indonesia to be anxious to feed her starving Indian brethren."

The Indonesian Cabinet have confirmed the tentative agreement with Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Joint Secretary, Food Department, Government of India.

A high Indonesian authority pointed out to the Free Press of India representative that there does exist a precedent for bartering food from an unrecognised Government since Britain in the early twenties had obtained wheat from the U. S. S. R.

The generally quiet interior of Indonesia appeared very impressive, and since the recent night shootings in Batavia it has become more and more evident that where there are no foreign troops, there is peace and quiet, law and order.

Travelling both by train and road, the Free Press of India representative saw on one side of the road paddy being harvested by thousands of Indonesian labourers, and on the other side paddy in the stage of shooting up, which would be ready for harvest within two months.

### WOMEN IN SACKCLOTH

But another sight on the road was of women dressed in sack-cloth, turning their backs in shame as one passed by them. One could not help feeling that if only India would send cloth to relieve the cloth famine in Indonesia, how it would delight the hearts of millions of their brethren!

Indonesian Muslims, who are anxious to perform their long overdue "haj" pilgrimage, are enquiring if the rice ships could also take them to India, where they would join Indian pilgrims. Perhaps the difficulty about currency could be solved by the munificence of the Nizam, which would, moreover, be accepted as another magnanimous reciprocal gesture on the part of India.



# POLITICS MAY PREVENT JAVA RICE REACHING INDIA

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, May 28.

**A**S THE political situation deteriorates, India's chances of obtaining rice from Indonesia also become remote.

The British alone are in a position to avert war and bring about a settlement between the Indonesians and the Dutch. Why have the British allowed the Dutch to reject Sir Archibald Clark Kerr's formula; and is there any other power influencing the course of events from behind the scenes?

While Great Britain's sincerity is generally accepted everywhere, it is today undergoing a severe test. If during the next week there is no fresh approach to the political problem war may break out.

## DUTCH ATTITUDE

The Free Press of India correspondent understands that at this same conference Van Mook took up rather a good deal of time in entering vehement protests against the British attitude towards Dr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India. It is expected here that Lord Louis Mountbatten, who is flying to London on Thursday, will while on his way, discuss with Lord Wavell and Pandit Nehru the Dutch attitude regarding the offer of Indonesian rice.

Meanwhile, Mr. K. L. Punjabi, the Government of India's representative left this morning by air for Delhi and on reaching there on Friday he will submit a complete report to the Government including his observations on the political situation in so far as it affects the procurement of rice.

Since the Indonesian Republic has assured Mr. Punjabi 700,000 tons of paddy, the Indian merchants of Batavia have resolved to constitute a syndicate with the necessary staff to supervise and control the export of rice and the import of Indian goods.

## INDIA'S CHANCE

Thus to the extreme disgust and dislike of many foreigners, India in a manner holds the key to the

Indonesian situation. India should insist that Great Britain must make renewed efforts at a settlement between the Dutch and the Indonesian if only will a view to save millions of Indian lives by shipping rice.

The firm attitude of India and Britain will compel the Dutch to adopt a more realistic attitude, if, that is, other parties interested in oil do not interfere and stop the feverish excitement on both sides as they so obviously prepare for war.

It appears that the Dutch have had their plans ready for some months now, even as the Indonesian Republic is swinging over to defence measures to meet the threat of war. The Indonesian population in Batavia has been thinking, the "Independent" has ceased publication; and the exodus of the key personnel to the interior is proceeding. Dr. Sjahrir, who flew this morning to Jogjakarta, told the Free Press of India correspondent that as soon as he returns on Friday, he would present to Van Mook their counter-proposals; and then war or peace will depend entirely on the Dutch response.



# FOUR SHIPS SENT TO BRING JAVA RICE

## Bajpai Warns Against Paper Allocations

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 6.

**T**HE Indonesian Government has been informed, according to reports current here, of the departure from India of four ships to bring rice from Indonesia.

NEW DELHI: In an exclusive interview, Sir Girjashanker Bajpai dealt exhaustively with our food prospects with reference to allocations from the Combined Food Board. "All is by no means plain sailing.

Mr. Morrison's visit brought forth this concrete advantage that the U.S. will now support our claims but paper allocations and the arrival of foreign food in India at a time we need it most, are two different things," he said.

"It appears America's main difficulty is to get food moving. Farmers have in the past found it more advantageous to feed corn to their cattle than sell it because price of meat was higher. That plus the fact that food remains an important political weapon and the needs of the former enemy countries continue to get highest priority, makes the situation not so rosy as far as we are concerned."

Sir Girjashanker was hopeful that a representative of the new provisional Government, whoever he may be, would have immeasurably more power and authority to put India squarely on the international map.

### IMMIGRATION BILL

• Speaking with reference to the Immigration Bill, he said he was glad it had been approved by the Immigration Committee and was confident that it would receive an overwhelming support of the Senate and soon become a law. This means that three thousand Indians will immediately become American citizens provided they have had five years residence in that country plus hundred new Indians each year. "Since I have been out of the country four and a half years, I cannot comment on the internal political situation. But in Washington now the hub of the allied world, both officials and non-officials is following the negotiations with the keenest sympathy and their hope that they will lead to a provisional Indian Government being established which in turn will help India to attain final sovereignty in the shortest possible time." Sir Girjashanker Bajpai will be returning to Washington, but it is not known for how long.



File No. 8-6-46

## Chinese Killed By

## Indonesians

### TOUGH PROBLEM FOR REPUBLIC

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 7.

More facts are pouring in about the massacre of hundreds of Chinese by the "Laskar Rajat," Indonesian people's army, in villages around Tangerang, 25 miles west of Batavia, during the last days of May, soon after the peaceful occupation of Tangerang by Dutch troops by agreement with the Allied Headquarters at Ettri.

While the causes of the massacre are not yet known, the Chinese community is generally surprised at the sudden attack by the hitherto friendly Indonesians. It is reported that there were some Chinese troops in the Dutch troops occupying Tangerang; stray armed Japanese were also reported in that area. There was a gap of one day between the evacuation of Tangerang by the Indonesian Army and the taking over by the Dutch troops.

Tangerang is rich in poultry, rice and vegetables, and sends large quantities of supplies to the city of Batavia. This perhaps weighed heavily in influencing the Allies to take over the area, and will prove to be a further step in stabilising the currency of N.I.C.A.

#### POLICE HELP ORDERED

The Republic has expressed its regrets at the incidents, and ordered police protection for the Chinese and their property in the interior. The Indonesian Cabinet has also promised to make enquiries in the matter. The British Headquarters has lodged a strong protest with Dr. Sjahrir, and the Chinese Consul-General has left by air for Nanking to consult his Government about the steps to be taken to protect the life and property of the one million Chinese in Java.

There was never much love lost between the Chinese and the Indonesians, owing to the Chinese economic domination of the country, their leadership in this country being somewhat similar to that in Malaya.

It is thus evident that survival and international recognition of the Indonesian Republic would hereafter depend to a large extent upon what steps the Indonesian leaders propose taking to bring under control the large number of armed and unruly elements and bring about a unified military command. Also they have to close in their ranks and reduce the number of parties to one fighting organisation to achieve their aim, and not to blame the Dutch for their own shortcomings.



## Dutch Anxious <sup>B. J.</sup> To Retain Troops <sup>20-10-46</sup> In Indonesia

### Main Obstacle In Way Of Settlement

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)  
BATAVIA, Oct. 19.

A high Indonesian authority told the Free Press of India on Thursday that Dutch anxiety to retain Dutch troops in Republican territory would prove the main obstacle during the Dutch-Indonesian negotiations.

It is hoped that even the question of sovereignty could be amicably settled on the basis of relations which the Irish Free State has with the British Commonwealth; this idea was sponsored by British circles some months back and is still believed to have their backing.

Political circles in Batavia generally assume the recognition of the republic in Java and Sumatra by the Dutch, but the truce is regarded more as a necessary step to clear and soften the atmosphere for negotiations than as an armistice.

#### FIRST ROUND TO THE BRITISH

All circles are of the opinion, however, that the British have scored the first round by establishing themselves as the final military authority in Indonesia even after November 30th by which date, the last of the British and Indian troops are to withdraw. It would be interesting to watch how the British who have now established themselves militarily, act in the political and economic sphere.

The release of political prisoners by the Dutch, including Dr. Ratulange of Celebes, a doughty champion of freedom, now held by the Dutch, is likely to come up during the discussion next week.

Another important problem to be discussed in the early stage will be the future position of the present Allied bridgeheads which are gradually being transferred to Dutch hands. The possibility of these, particularly Batavia, and Medan, becoming international settlements is suggested in certain circles. India is also interested in this since the bridgeheads were secured at the sacrifice of Indian blood and manpower.

Of late there has been increasing American interest in Indonesia and ~~rumours~~ <sup>rumours</sup> that U.S. State Department officials, mostly economic experts, are shortly arriving in Batavia.

The Indonesian political society is gradually being urged and though persuasion is being tried, a showdown with extremist leader, the twenty-four year old Dr. Soetomo, is not unlikely, but the Republic is stronger now than ever before as a result of the recent Cabinet reorganisation.

The Republican Government is also attaching greater importance to the sending of rice for India, and it is expected that a Minister with Cabinet rank will hold only this portfolio. The former Minister of the Interior, Dr. Soedarsono, has been tipped for it.

## Bringing Peace To Tangerang

### SJAHRIR'S APPEAL TO INDONESIANS

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 8.

The Indonesian Cabinet have had so far no contact with the area of the recent massacre of Chinese, west of Tangerang, but a local report stated that the TRI had taken control of the area and informed the Indonesian Minister of Defence by radio about its determination to restore law and order.

Mr. Mohamed Natsir, the Minister of Information, accompanied by Indonesian officials and leading Chinese citizens, has gone there to enquire into the incidents, and pacify the angry Muslim fanatics. Mr. Natsir himself represents the Muslim Party in the Indonesian Cabinet and has considerable influence with the religious population of Banting district, well known for terrorist activities and religious extremism.

It is generally believed that the situation is improving, but exaggerated reports will continue, till the return of the Natsir mission today.

#### APPEAL FOR PEACE

In an eloquent broadcast on Thursday night, Dr. Sjahrir, the Indonesian Premier appealed to the Indonesian people to do their best to preserve peace, and to take particular care of foreign nationals. When owing to events of a military character, the situation is confused he said, organs of security cannot do their duty in the proper way, especially when they are compelled to leave their places.

"It seems such a course of events has taken place in the surroundings of Tangerang," he said, "Events in Tangerang have aroused feelings of anger and hatred among the Chinese people towards our people. In spite of this, our feelings should not cloud our reason and views, because the bad happenings we are now experiencing are only the result of the political and military conditions prevailing in our country."



# DUTCH AND CHINESE TROOPS STARTED THE FIRE

F.P.J. 10-6-46 (FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 9.

More details about the situation in the interior are now available. It is apparent from them that the picture of the Tangerang massacre has been greatly exaggerated and the causes of the 'massacre' become clearer.

According to the Indonesian Health Vice Minister Dr. Laimina, who has just returned from Tangerang and from the Indonesian territory, as well as from other information collected by him from what he has himself seen, there have been no burning of houses within an area of a hundred square miles.

Dr. Laimina went through the Dutch lines beyond Tangerang after the Dutch occupied it and after rescuing a Dutch family has returned by the same way.

It appears that Dutch and Chinese troops set fire to Indonesian houses two and a half miles in the no man's land area and as a reprisal the engaged Indonesian population while migrating further into the interior set fire to Chinese houses in the Indonesian territory.

The Indonesian population of Tangerang have suspected that several Chinese N.I.C.A. agents and also alleged Dutch and Chinese troops have been brought from Batavia, and several Indonesian agents engaged as agents-provocateurs disguised as military men.

## ALL QUIET ON FRONTIER

Though Dr. Laimina says that the victims of murder are no more than 50, it is difficult to form an estimate until complete inquiries have been made. Everything is quiet on the Indonesian frontier and no damage has been done to the nearby Chinese villages of Balaradja, Kresak, Ettoenve and Mauk.

For the second time within ten days Indian troops clashed with Dutch troops last night. Dutch and Chinese troops and the Chinese civil police have been involved. It appears that one Indian soldier was injured, one Chinese killed and one wounded.

# Indonesian Rice Moves To Ports By June 16

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 9.

Replying to a question from the Free Press of India Correspondent regarding the statement of Mr. Hutchings, Food Secretary to the Government of India, that 9,000 tons of paddy were expected in India from Indonesia during the next two weeks Dr. Herbert Van Mook said "I am not aware of any basis to say whether the statement is true." It is reliably understood that according to tentative agreement arrived at with Mr. Punjabi, the Indonesian Government will commence movement of rice to Indonesian ports by June 16. Informed sources also indicate that sufficient paddy is available at ports for shipment.

(SEE PAGE 5)

# Delay In Delivery Of Java Rice

## POLITICAL SUSPICIONS IN THE WAY

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, July 11.

Though nearly three months have passed since Dr. Sjahrir made his offer of Indonesian rice to India, political suspicions are still preventing fulfilment of the offer.

Paddy is ready in Indonesian ports and ships from India with "exchange" cargo, if not on their way already, ought to sail for Java immediately.

The Dutch have agreed under certain conditions to the export of rice from Indonesia. Then who are responsible for holding it up? They are the architects of a new economic hegemony based on Singapore who are encroaching upon politics from the food angle. And yet the Government of India and the Indian people have been relying on the British Government for active help in obtaining Indonesian rice.



## Anglo-Dutch Dealings Shrouded In Secrecy

### SHIPMENT OF RICE TO INDIA

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 19.

Secrecy envelops the recent Anglo-Dutch negotiations here to ship rice to India from Indonesia, in which connection Mr. Denning, former Political Adviser to the SEAC and now Envoy-designate to Tokyo was here some days ago.

During the last week, members of the Indonesian Rice Transport Committee have been to Bollingo and Bangoewangi, from where the June shipments of rice to India are to be made. A similar committee today left Batavia for Cheribon, from where rice in West Java will be shipped to India during July.

The Indonesian authorities have yesterday sent nearly 30 million Japanese guilders to East Java to cover the loading expenses.

Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Joint Secretary Food Department, Government of India, who recently carried on the negotiations with Indonesian Government on behalf of the Indian Government regarding the supply of Indonesian rice to India, is expected to arrive here today from Singapore.

## JAVA RICE BEING SHIPPED

F. P. I. 17-6-46

### First Consignment By End Of Month

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 16.

Indian Liberty ships are lying in Singapore awaiting orders from the Government of India to proceed to Indonesian ports. They have to proceed to Bollingo and Bangoewangi about the 25th of June to collect the first consignment of rice for India.

One of them is carrying thousands of gunny bags to pack over half a million tons of paddy but since it would take time to put the paddy into the bags, the Indonesians are understood to be intending to load the paddy in bushel.

Bollingo and Bangoewangi lie in Besuki, the rich rice bowl, and the promised first month's shipments of paddy are already ready there. It appears, political difficulties have been surmounted and the next problem will be of loading quickly. If rice is to be collected without any hitch, it is essential that Indian troops should not be used in offensive operations, as at Bekassy recently, and as declared by the Government of India of the withdrawal of Indian troops from positions where conflicts with Indonesians are likely to take place.



## Indonesian Bitterness Growing

### Gentleman's Agreement Broken

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 20.

There is widespread resentment in Indonesian circles over the premature publication by the Hague of their counter-proposals in violation of the "gentleman's agreement" between Dr. Sjahrir and Dr. Van Mook and this has caused a certain amount of surprise even in Netherlands East Indies Government circles.

As a result the political situation is likely to deteriorate with increasing bitterness.

According to the Indonesian Ministry of Defence, Bekassi was attacked and occupied by Indian troops without an agreement, though negotiations to end that are proceeding, since the Indonesians are not willing to lose the important rice area.

Against the expressed wishes of the Indian people and the Indian Government, Indian troops are being used by the British Headquarters in its offensive to capture Bekassi, and Indian troops suffered heavy casualties, though the official communique speaks of only six dead.

The Free Press of India representative has noticed the keen interest among the Indian troops here over the rice offer to India, though local official broadcasts for them have often excluded such items of news from India.

Mr. Punjabi, Government of India's official negotiator for Indonesian rice arrived this morning from Singapore, and he is expected to meet Dr. Sjahrir this evening.

## JAVA RICE TALKS IN A DELICATE STAGE

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 22.

Mr. K. L. Punjabi, the Indian Government's official representative in Indonesia to conduct the rice negotiations with the Indonesian Republic, met Dr. Sjahrir, the Indonesian Premier, on Thursday night after his meeting with Lt.-Gen. Mansergh, the Allied Commander-in-Chief in this area.

The Free Press of India understands that the talks have reached a delicate stage. For the offer to materialise, the Indian Government and people must take up a bold stand and a firm attitude.

Mr. Punjabi had another conference yesterday with the Allied C-in-C and a Netherlands East Indies Government representative, when further progress was made, it is learnt.

Although considerable reticence is being observed by all parties on tactical grounds, indications are that India's hopes of securing Indonesian rice will be fulfilled.

However, it would be worthwhile for Indian leaders to elicit in the meantime from the American Government its views about the rice offer, since the dollar exchange is very much involved in transactions between the Dutch and the United States Governments.



# INDONESIAN RICE WILL REACH INDIA SOON

## Dr. Sjahrir Conferring With Van Mook On Dutch Proposals

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, June 23.

IT can now be said with some confidence that Indonesian rice will reach Indian ports soon, and the efforts of Mr. Punjabi, the Indian Government Official who has been carrying on bilateral discussions with Dr. Sjahrir on the one side and with the Allied C-in-C and the Netherlands East Indies Government on the other, have reached a hopeful stage.

India's needs are imperative and in the prevailing atmosphere. Mr. Punjabi's role has been delicate and difficult. But it is heartening to learn that Mr. Punjabi is leaving on Tuesday for Indonesian ports to study shipping and warehouse conditions.

### POLITICAL SITUATION

Meanwhile, one hopes that the political situation does not deteriorate.

At the time of sending this cable, Dr. Sjahrir and Dr. Van Mook are in conference and it is believed they are discussing the Indonesian republic's attitude to the Dutch proposals.

It is likely that Dr. Van Mook will, at the first available opportunity try to find out from Dr. Sjahrir if the demand for the recognition of the 'de facto' situation, stated in the latest Indonesian counter-proposals, permit the Indonesian Republic to recognise the

'de jure' sovereignty of the Dutch, both in Java and Sumatra.

Clashes of a minor scale continue and the Indonesian Ministry of Information reports attacks of villages near Padang in Sumatra by sixty lorries of Japs and Eurasian troops.



## NEHRU INVITES DR. SJAHRIR

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)  
BATAVIA, June 24.

Dr. Sjahrir has received an invitation from Pandit Nehru to attend the pan-Asian Conference in Delhi in January and it is understood he will personally attend the Conference, if conditions permit; otherwise he will depute a delegate.

## INDONESIANS KEEN TO HELP US WITH FOOD

PUNJABI'S 1000-MILE  
TOUR ENDS

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)  
BATAVIA, June 27.

Mr. K. L. Punjabi, the official Indian food negotiator in Indonesia, returned to Batavia today after an air and rail tour covering over a thousand miles, cables the Free Press of India representative who accompanied him on the tour.

The Indian food representative, who was accorded a kind reception everywhere, was much impressed by the abundance as well as the non-stop cultivation of rice, especially in Besuki district, the richest rice bowl in Java.

Mr. Punjabi inspected the ports of Probolinggo and Bandoewangi where he held discussions with local officials, regarding loading and unloading facilities, such as lighters, cranes and labour. He also met local Indians who are to assist in receiving and checking the cargo.

### LARGE PADDY STOCKS

He was also shown round godowns and rice-mills, where there were large stocks of paddy. It appears nearly 200,000 tons of paddy are ready in East Java for immediate export. Huge stocks of paddy could be seen not only in fields but also at various collecting centres near the ports.

Dr. Sjahrir took keen personal interest in the tour and accompanied Mr. Punjabi throughout it.

This morning, before returning to Batavia, Mr. Punjabi met at Jogjacarta Dr. Soekarno and Dr. Hatta, the Indonesian President and Vice-President respectively, who received their guest with the greatest respect and expressed their desire for closer relationship with India, of which they said, the rice offer was but the beginning.

It has been well explained to the Indonesians—whether it was the poor woman harvester clad in sack-cloth or the westernised intellectual—that it was their duty to help feed starving India, and prevent the ravages of famine there.

While to many unimaginative foreigners the interior of Java is still a closed museum containing barbarous people with a large number of "extremists," to us it seemed a peaceful land of kind, hospitable dignified and firm people, reminding us of the days of glory of a civilization that was theirs during the reign of Majapahit and of Majaram. Even now one could not fail to notice their united desire for freedom every time they raised the cry of "Merdeka."



# MISGUIDED MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SJAHRIR'S KIDNAPPING

## ALLIES' PROPAGANDA DID ALL THE MISCHIEF

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, July 3.

**D**R SJAHRIR'S kidnapping has revealed influences working in the body politic of Indonesia. Judging from the high Cabinet status of the persons kidnapped, it is apparent that the group responsible for the kidnapping was opposed to the policy of the Indonesian Cabinet—to the offer of rice to India, to the evacuation of internees and to the Republican Government's counter-proposals to Dr. Van Mook.

There is no doubt that this group did somewhat succeed in deluding a section of the Army into believing that they were the real guardians of Indonesian freedom, a belief which was to a considerable extent heightened by British and Dutch psychological propaganda over the radio.

The present circumstances are a direct result of the Allied policy of divide and rule. Even as early as November 1945, the British in Sourabaya operated a pirate radio station, appealing to its listeners to disavow Dr. Soekarno and rally round an imaginary Socialist leader.

### DUTCH MISCHIEF

Then again, even while carrying on negotiations with Dr. Sjahrir, the Dutch were making attempts to undermine the strength of the Republic, by playing up the differences between Dr. Sjahrir and Dr. Soekarno.

Recent broadcasts from Dutch-controlled Bandoeng are reported to be stressing on Indonesian listeners that it was not in the interests of Indonesia to export rice to India. Bandoeng was all the while posing as an Indonesian radio station run by Indonesians.

However, in spite of all this subtle propaganda, Dr. Soekarno has come out of the ordeal successfully, as a colossus striving over Indonesian politics. He is still a power in the land, and a politician of no mean order, although both the British and the Dutch like to dub him as a Japanese collaborator. The President of the Republic has on the other hand, warned the people of Asia against Imperialist anxiety to discredit popular leaders and sabotage the struggle for freedom of the subject nations of Asia.

Dr. Soekarno's broadcast on Saturday night, appealing to the nation to help trace the Indonesian Premier's whereabouts, revealed not only his oratorical ability to move the masses but also his great political acumen.

### NOT A CLUB

"This is a State, not a club, not a league, nor a party," he said, expounding to his people the idea of a republic, and explaining that the radical Leftist elements in Indonesian politics were overstepping the limits of agitation.

Quoting Lenin, Dr. Soekarno characterised extreme radicalism as "a disease, a degeneration and a danger," and warned the people that this extreme radicalism was playing into the hands of Dutch agents.

Informed Indonesian circles suspect that Dr. Soehardjo, ex-Foreign Minister and one-time colleague of Dr. Hatta in Europe, who was believed to have purchased pardon from trial as a Japanese collaborator from the Dutch in return for sabotaging the Republic from within, was the brain behind the plan to kidnap Dr. Sjahrir and mislead certain sections of the Republic Army.

### POWER NOT CENTRALISED

The fact that the officers of the Indonesian Republican Army who took the Premier into custody believed that they were executing the lawful orders of the Government indicates that power has not yet been centralised in the Republic, and that Dr. Sjahrir's Government is not above reproach. Trouble had been brewing for the last two months, and the Premier could have with courage nipped it in the bud.

To a certain extent this also reveals the weakness in Indonesian society. There are too many organisations with different ideologies and ideas of revolution, and only Dr. Soekarno, the President, can keep them together. Any attempt to compel Dr. Soekarno to retire from Indonesian politics would only be aiding in the process of disintegration of the Republic.



## DR. SJAHIR RELEASED

### Mystery Yet To Be Resolved

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, July 1.

Dr. Sjahrir, the Indonesian Premier, who was reported to have been kidnapped last Thursday has been released by his captors.

The Ministry of Information has announced that Dr. Sjahrir, Gen. Sudibyo, Dr. Madame Maria Santoso, Minister for Social Affairs and Mr. Darmawan, Minister for Public Welfare, have been released this morning. They have been returned to Soerakarta.

The news of the release came exactly three days after the mysterious kidnapping. Gen. Sudibyo, one of the victims, had been apprehensive before the kidnapping since some days previously one of his lieutenants was similarly kidnapped.

Till the kidnappers' identity is revealed, at any rate, these questions will still remain a mystery: who kidnapped the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues, and why; and what exactly happened during the three days they were kept in captivity? The answers will come when Dr. Sjahrir meets his other Cabinet members.

Hard on this news came confirmation from the Indonesian Republican Government of Jogjakarta who said that Dr. Sjahrir "is in good health."

Back with Dr. Sjahrir were the Indonesian Minister for Public Welfare, Mr. Darmawan, the Director of Evacuation of Prisoners-of-War and Internees, Major-General Soedibjo, and member of the Netherlands Delegation to the UNO, Mr. Soemitrio who arrived from Holland some months ago.

The Netherlands News Agency reports that Dr. Sjahrir and party were freed by a small force of TRI (Indonesian Republican Army).

## FIGHTING REPORTED

The Free Press of India adds:— An unconfirmed report says that fighting has broken out in Soerakarta between the Indonesian armed forces, and the insurgents as a result of the kidnapping of Dr. Sjahrir and party. It is believed that Dr. Sjahrir was kidnapped by certain Army officers who for some time past had been opposing Dr. Sjahrir openly and had been taking a prominent part in the agitation against Government moves to re-establish law and order, arising out of the situation created by the movement to depose rulers.

It is likely the insurgents would be put down in a few days, but it would largely depend on the attitude of Dr. Soekarno, who is expected to broadcast later.

It appears Dr. Sjahrir and party were rounded up, without shots being fired at midnight of last Thursday. Dr. Sjahrir was aware of the plans to kidnap for some time, and decided to run the gauntlet in order to achieve political unity. The situation created by the dramatic kidnapping of the Indonesian Premier have completely confounded diplomatic circles here and a cautious approach is being made. Indonesian politics is heading to a crisis and it is likely Dr. Sjahrir will resign after being rescued if he finds no increased support, in which case the

Indonesian attitude will be most uncompromising.

## WHAT ABOUT RICE?

India should take interest in the situation since rice is still to be obtained and a larger part of the Allied forces there is still Indian, though of late they are being gradually replaced by Gurkhas. India should make it clear that Indian troops should not be used in the interior under the pretext of maintenance of law and order. If possible Pandit Nehru, recognised leader of the masses of Asia and popular among the Indonesian people, should be allowed to come here to negotiate between the Dutch and the Indonesians and restore peaceful conditions. Otherwise the political situation would move on with intermittent and protracted deadlocks.

Dr. Sutan Sjahrir is believed by Republican quarters here to have been kidnapped by the followers of TAK Malacca former Communist leader, and Dr. Soekarno, former Indonesian Foreign Minister who are themselves under house arrest for conspiring against the Government.

*Soekarno*



## Indian Troops Again Used In Indonesia

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, July 4.

Supported by Indian tanks and Indian artillery, Gurkhas, this morning extended the Allied perimeter to South Batavia against opposition. There was no agreement between Indonesians and the British over this action.

It is understood that the British Commander-in-Chief's note to the Indonesian Defence Minister, pointing out that this move was being taken since the Gurkha troops were being constantly shelled and sniped from the west side of the River Bekasi, was delivered only last night. The British move is in no way helpful to Dr. Sjahrir to resolve the political situation in the interior. But then the British have always told Dr. Sjahrir that military and political situations were two different water-tight compartments.

All Indonesians kidnapped by the extremists on Thursday night in the interior of Java have now been released, it was officially stated here today.—Reuter.

## RICE OFFER A NATIONAL PLEDGE

### Premier's Assurance

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, July 6.

Broadcasting from Jogjakarta, Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, the Premier of Indonesia, told the people to continue to do their duty and remain undisturbed by rumours. He compared the state of a Republic to a rough sea and said it was time to co-ordinate all powers. "The republic has already overcome many dangers and hope it will overcome this danger also."

The Jogjakarta Radio announced the measures taken against right persons including the Communist, Tanmalacca and ex-Foreign Minister, Soebardjo, the main conspirators against the republic, who did not hesitate to attack Dr. Soekarno's residence and kidnap Dr. Sjahrir simultaneously.

To an earnest query from Mr. Punjabi, Dr. Soekarno has replied: "It has been an honour for me and the colleagues of my Government to make your acquaintance and have among its representatives of India in connection with a humanitarian mission. I can reassure you that our rice offer to the Indian people is supported wholly by the Indonesian people. The recent development has not in the least affected our relations with regard to the rice offer. In reality the Indonesian people consider this offer as a national pledge unconnected with internal political considerations. May you rest assured that the Indonesian Government and people will endeavour to their utmost to redeem their pledge. For further discussions in this matter, kindly refer to our Prime Minister, Dr. Sutan Sjahrir."

When asked, Premier Dr. Sutan Sjahrir gave the lie direct to the vicious propaganda that Dr. Soekarno was unwilling to give up dictatorial powers and Dr. Sjahrir was no longer the de facto Premier.

## ALLEGED DESTRUCTION OF BANJOEWANGI

### Chief Rice Exporting Port To India

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, July 7.

Indonesian reports from Banjoewangi, the principal port for exporting rice to India say that the port was attacked with mortars and shells from the sea by Dutch warships for half an hour on the morning of July 4, killing one civilian. One shell burst in the centre of the town, but did not cause any damage.

Indonesian authorities recently alleged that the port was machine-gunned from the air which was however promptly denied both by the Dutch and the Allied headquarters. During Mr. Punjabi's tour, the Free Press Journal correspondent noticed the effects of machine-gunning on the roofs of buildings in Banjoewangi port. An Allied spokesman however suggested that it was the effect of bombing when the Japs invaded Java.



# INDONESIAN RICE IS READY.

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

F-P-J-12-7-1946

BATAVIA, (By Air Mail).

**E**NTHUSIASM for Mr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India was so great that I decided to go to the interior of Java and see for myself the situation, writes the FPI Correspondent.

So, one Monday evening accompanied by an officer of the Ministry of Information, I found myself berthed in a green government saloon with large glass windows on the train bound for the Indonesian capital, Jogjakarta.

Travelling in the same compartment were several ministers on their way to attend a special cabinet meeting including vivacious 70-year-old Haji Agu Salim, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, widely travelled and speaking several European languages. They say that Haji Salim was a leading political figure in Mecca before the war.

Prior to departure from the Manggarai Station, an young Indonesian girl approached me and pinning a little red and white flag on to my shirt wished me godspeed. This unnerved me a little since I had often heard that the population in the interior were still suspicious of foreigners.

## DUTY BOUND

A small Dutch detachment examined our baggage for hidden arms but they did not pay much attention to me; evidently they could not distinguish me from others. But I was prepared for such a contingency and had armed myself with a "chit" from Allied Headquarters saying that I was going to the interior on legitimate duty.

The train slowly sped its way along scattered Dutch sentries with levelled tommyguns till it reached Klender the farthest allied position south of Batavia where Gurkha troops examined our train and let it pass. With their pointed rifles and sten guns, the Gurkhas were all prepared in case shots were fired from the train.

## NO MAN'S LAND

Then we passed through a few miles of "no man's land" but really the battlefield of frequent patrol clashes. It is dreary and it appears so drab and dull that even nature seems to have deserted this place of strife. Wild growth in its undisturbed virginity lends a macabre blend to the overgrown fields and streams revealing now and then the grave of some brave young Indonesian who died to defend the republic.

## PROUD EVEN IN DEATH

Not far from here is desolate Bekassi, the victim of allied retribution. Beneath the ruins of the village, lie the burnt bones of many young Indonesians of whom their nation is quite proud. As the passengers of the train looked at the burnt village, I noticed them lowering their heads in grief for the dead heroes their faces instantaneously transforming into a bitterness for the foreigner as they ground their teeth.

## THEN CAME "MERDEKA"

A young boy with rifle in hand, grenade at the waist, clothed in an odd green uniform surmounted by a

pointed green forage cap with red and white shoulder badges like a boy-scout, was our first glimpse of republican territory. All the passengers heaved a sigh of relief to be back in the country which they could call their own. As we passed him by, the boy raised his right fist and shouted: "Merdeka", which was answered by all in the train. He was one of the soldiers of the 'Laskar Rajat', the People's Army.

## NOSTALGIC SCENES

An endless vista of paddy-fields caught my attention on either side of the railway track. On one side the golden crop was being harvested by hundreds of young scantily-clad women while on the other side the new crop was coming up to be ready for harvest in a few months. Here and there, the paddy was being threshed while in wet fields, the young crop was being transplanted. It was so typically an Indian scene that to my mind it appeared that the very sight itself would raise the hopes of our starving populations.

Burning precious teakwood instead of coal that is locked up in Sumatra owing to the Allied blockade, the engine whistled past more and more paddy fields. Soon after dusk, hot rice and curry like in Malabar was served on the train.

## JOGJAKARTA

Jogjakarta appears similar to a small Indian town. It is the capital of an ancient state of the same name and it has a very small Indian merchant population. President Soekarno lives in a big house entrance to which is lined on one side by four large stone-Buddhas and on the other forming an inner circle by four stone-Bhimas with maces.

## GIRDLED LOINS

At Jogjakarta, one feels the pulse of the nationalist movement. It is the headquarters of the republic and it is also the headquarters of their army, the TRI. One sees propaganda posters urging the people to join in the defence of the country and warning about spies and black-marketeers as in most allied countries during the early days of the war. Besides, here and there are large number of slogans in English evidently intended for British troops whom the Indonesians had expected to occupy the whole country. The army and the trainees march along the roads singing national songs and frequently military trucks loaded with soldiers and rations fly past. Women and little girls in uniform carrying rifles and pistols, who normally attend behind the frontline to the sick and wounded but often fight in the de-

fence of their 'kampongs' (villages), could be seen walking with a brisk air.

Their GHQ is a bustle of activity. Despatch riders, scouts and intelligence officers walk in and out every few minutes and the quickness with which they plan a defensive campaign often surprises even an experienced soldier.

Young men have for the first time taken up responsible commands and posts and the discharge of their duties has been beyond expectations. Perhaps, in the future, with British training, Indonesians could be moulded into a fine army. But the greatest difficulty the British will encounter would be in the eradication of Japanese influence. It must be admitted that Japanese training has taught them accurate shooting, besides too much shouting.

From President Soekarno to the smallest 'thani' (peasant), they all assured me that they were keen on sending the half million tons of rice to India. President Soekarno said that the people of India were dear to his heart whereas one 'thani' who was actually harvesting the rice for India when asked by me the reasons for his supporting the rice offer said 'saudara, saudara,' meaning brothers.

The latter was referring to the people of India being his brothers. Tall and lean with deep set eyes the president of the Indonesian peasants organisation merely echoed the 'thani' who was harvesting.

## PADDY PILES

At other places, paddy was stockpiled in large quantities and mills working both day and night have not been able to husk the entire lot. Stocks of rice formerly held by the Japanese were also in evidence.

On the way to Borubuder, a standing monument of Buddhist influence in Java, I noticed more and more paddy fields awaiting harvest. Borubuder itself is not in good care and the whole structure is leaning and sinking although the carving of the story of Buddha on every piece of stone forming the structure is still intact. Many of the statues of the meditating world teacher are missing but the leprous descendent of a long line of guides is still there to tell visitors of "the glory that was Ind." He pointed out to a small banyan tree planted by Tagore some years ago and added that many Hindu Indians make a pilgrimage to the place. It will be in the fitness of things for India to send her own curators to preserve and renovate these relics of Indian culture and influence.



## **Delay In Delivery Of Java Rice**

### **POLITICAL SUSPICIONS IN THE WAY**

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, July 11.

Though nearly three months have passed, since Dr. Sjahrir made his offer of Indonesian rice to India, political suspicions are still preventing fulfilment of the offer.

Paddy is ready in Indonesian ports and ships from India with "exchange" cargo, if not on their way already, ought to sail for Java immediately.

The Dutch have agreed under certain conditions to the export of rice from Indonesia. Then who are responsible for holding it up? They are the architects of a new economic hegemony based on Singapore who are encroaching upon politics from the food angle. And yet the Government of India and the Indian people have been relying on the British Government for active help in obtaining Indonesian rice.

### **A New Dutch Puppet**

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA.)

BATAVIA (By Air Mail).

While the world over, kings are abdicating or are deposed, or their powers are being limited, a new king has arisen in South Celebes under Dutch auspices.

He is the autonomous ruler of Bone, called Andi Panbenteng Daeng Palawa, who has been accredited under a Dutch Government decree. The "deed of liaison" stipulates that the ruler acknowledges Netherlands sovereignty.

The swearing-in ceremony was performed by the Resident of the Celebes in the presence of several Boeginese headmen.



18

## AGREEMENT OVER JAVA RICE

### *Shipments To Begin This Week*

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, July 28.

It is reliably understood that an agreement between the Indian Government and the Indonesian Government is being concluded and signed on Monday in Batavia over the export of 70,000 tons of paddy to India in exchange for textiles and other goods.

In the middle of this week, a ship "Empire Favour" will load nine thousand tons of paddy at port "Problinggo", which will be the first consignment to India.

Though assurances have been given to the Indian Government by the British military authorities, greater vigilance and interest are necessary on the part of the latter in order effectively to prevent any military action likely to cause hindrances to regular shipments of paddy from Indonesian ports. Otherwise as indicated by present events, it may develop into an international "incident."

India should not forget that there are still powerful elements in South East Asia which are totally opposed to the rice offer.



# SOCIALIST PARTY OF INDONESIA 4-8-46

## Its Strength And Weakness

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

**C**LAIMED to be the largest secular party in Indonesia, the Socialist Party of Indonesia wields tremendous influence in the body politic of the nation. In its sway, it is second only to the Islamic Party which has purely a religious basis.

For a number of years, even before the war, confined to merely the intellectual layers of society, since the founding of the Republic, the S.P.I. has emerged as a nation-wide organisation. It was firmly re-established in October 1945 and its membership comprises of workers, peasants and progressive educated classes. Like in India, the 'thani' or 'kisan' is the backbone of the socialist movement owing to the poor industrialisation of the country and the consequent absence of a large body of organised industrial proletariat. This also explains the lack of response to the Communist influence in Indonesia. The struggle of the workers here is more against imperialism and feudalism than against industrial capitalism.

Dr. Amir Sharifuddin, Defence Minister, is the President of the S.P.I. and Dr. Sutan Sjahrir is also a member of the party.

### PART OF INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE

According to Indonesian socialists the present revolution in Indonesia is a national and social revolution—a revolution for national freedom based on democratic principles and social justice and there is an inter-relation between the national revolution of the colonial and semi-colonial people and the anti-imperialist struggle of the workers and peasants of the world. It is also an integral part of the international class-struggle of the proletariat for establishment of world-socialism.

In the struggle for the international recognition of Indonesian independence, the S.P.I. collaborates with all the democratic organisations, both at home and abroad. Its immediate objective is to stand for the defence

of the Republic in order to achieve complete democracy and social justice by way of developing the living conditions of the people in the political, economic and social spheres. Finally, they stand for the achievement of a Socialist State in Indonesia.

### SOCIALISM BY STAGES

Since the education of the people in the methods of and benefits of democratic institutions in all walks of life is not yet complete, the S.P.I. is convinced that socialism cannot be achieved at once in their country and so aims at graded steps, each step being fully achieved before complete socialism could be established.

In the political sphere, they are for the immediate consolidation of the people's strength in all fields of activity in order to achieve an organised people's resistance to any attack on the integrity or safety of Republic. They are also endeavouring to bring about an all-democratic Governmental structure and system.

### ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

In the economic sphere, their programme includes: improvement of production and distribution of cloth and food in villages and cities; establishment of new factories for the production of tools and machine tools; stimulation of private enterprise and handicrafts; in order to raise the position of peasants, to free them from colonialism and feudalism, to assist them in improving agricultural methods, to fix reasonable paddy prices and to improve livestock.

In the social sphere, they desire to combat unemployment with all means at their disposal and to fix wages and



DR. AMIR SHARIFUDDIN  
The President of the Socialist Party

labour conditions with a view to suit the present conditions.

Internationally, I.S.P. is opposed to all forms of colonialism and oppression and stands shoulder to shoulder with the workers in the struggle against imperialism and capitalism all over the world.

### WEAK POINTS

While its objects and programme are laudable, to an independent observer, the following seem to hinder the growth and influence of the S.P.I. There are tendencies amongst the party to show that they are beginning to be intolerant of opposition; would like to extend the influence of the party by underground activity; espionage of non-party men; and rigid adherence to text-book definitions. Perhaps, they are the result of the unsettled conditions through which the Republic is passing or perhaps not. But there is no doubt that the future of Indonesia rests largely upon the right growth of the Indonesian Socialist Party.



# FINAL TOUCH TO JAVA RICE OFFER

## Staff To Complete The Deal Arrive In Batavia

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, Aug. 9.

**N**EGOTIATIONS for the purchase of rice from Indonesia and its transport to India are almost over and Mr. Punjabi, Joint Secretary, Food Department of the Government of India, arrived in Batavia yesterday to tie up the loose threads of the talks which he has had with Lord Killearn, the British Special Commissioner in Indonesia.

Most of the staff to supervise the shipping of rice to India and hand over goods in exchange to the Indonesian Republic have arrived in Batavia. Mr. Punjabi will soon return to India after achieving a unique diplomatic service.

The Indonesian Information Department has published today the correspondence that passed between Mr. Punjabi and the Prime Minister of the Indonesian Republic, Mr. Sutan Sjahrir.

### The Correspondence

In a letter to the Indonesian Premier on July 27, Mr. Punjabi expresses the India Government's sense of gratitude for the offer of rice and assures the Premier that India would supply Indonesia with such consumer goods as are required by that country to the maximum extent. He writes:

The Government of India accept the offer to supply paddy on the terms and conditions as mentioned below:—

- (A) Seven hundred thousand tons of paddy will be supplied.
- (B) The price of paddy will be Rs. 10-13-4 per one hundred kilogrammes.
- (C) Paddy will be delivered at ports in bags which will be supplied free for this purpose by the Government of India.
- (D) The paddy to be supplied will be of fair average quality, clean and full grain, and without stem. Dust mixtures will be kept at a minimum and, in any case, will not exceed 5 per cent. In case the quality of paddy offered is below the specification mentioned above, the shipping officer of the Government of India will have the option either to reject the supply or to purchase it at such lower price as may be mutually agreed between the representatives of the Government of India and the Indonesian Republic.

### DR. SJAHRIR'S REPLY

In his reply to Mr. Punjabi Dr. Sjahrir says: "I have great pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your letter of the same date. It has been my earnest desire to relieve the critical food situation in India by the supply of paddy from Indonesia. I am very glad to note that the Government of India desire to assist the Indonesian Republic to relieve the shortage of consumer goods and that they will supply such goods as are required by us to the maximum extent possible."

### DUTCH TRUCULENCE

Immediately after the publication of the correspondence came a Communiqué from the Dutch Government saying that "this publication is premature as the agreement has just been submitted by Mr. Punjabi to the N.E.I. Government for assent, according to the agreed procedure. The proposed transaction has at the same time been submitted to the C.-in-C. of the N.E.I. whose responsibility is also involved. Discussions with Mr. Punjabi are in progress. In the meantime the "Empire Favour" with her load of jute sacks has been allowed to proceed to Indonesian ports."

### INDIA'S PRESTIGE UP

Only those in touch with Foreign Governments can realise how much India's prestige has gone up by the way in which Indonesia's rice offer has been tackled. Only four months ago, most foreign Governments thought the rice offer was impracticable and slimy with unsurmountable difficulties. In an exclusive interview to the Free Press of India, Mr. Punjabi declared that he was satisfied with the unloading of gunny bags in Charbon and that a ship has now reached Probolinggo where after discharging the gunnies it is expected to load 10,000 tons of paddy ready on the port.

A India Government Food Official is on board the "Empire Favour" to receive paddy and unarmed TRI (Indonesian Republican Army) are assisting the other labour on the



## INDONESIA, GREAT FRIEND IN NEED

### Punjabi Voices India's Gratitude

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, Aug. 15.

In a statement to the Press, Mr. K. L. Punjabi, the Government of India official negotiator for Indonesian rice, says: "An agreement for the supply of 700,000 tons of paddy has been concluded between the Indonesian Republic and the Government of India and paddy is now being loaded in the "Empire Favour" at Probolinggo, and other ships will follow in quick succession.

"The goodwill and sympathy shown by the Indonesian Republic have placed India under a deep debt of gratitude which we can never repay in full. However, India is also determined to supply consumer goods to the maximum extent possible, and thus assist Indonesia to relieve her shortage of consumer goods.

"The Government of India have set apart 20,000,000 yards of textiles for supply to Indonesia, and a first consignment of 5,000,000 yards has been packed ready in ports, awaiting despatch. It is hoped that it will be shipped very early. Orders for the supply of agricultural implements, cooking utensils, and other consumer goods are being placed.

#### BOND REVIVED

"The ancient bond between India and Indonesia has been revived in the hour of India's dire need, and it is hoped that it will become a closer and warmer recognition of the common heritage of culture and the common need of peace and progress.

"I am very happy that the Netherlands East Indies Government have signified their assent to the arrangements made for the export of paddy to India. I have every hope that unstinted cooperation which India expects from every friend in her need will be extended by the Netherlands East Indies Government and that the arrangements made for the export of paddy will have smooth passage."

Mr. Punjabi is leaving on Thursday for Probolinggo to make final inspection of the loading of paddy before returning to India.

## New Dutch Envoy To Java

### FINAL ATTEMPT TO SOLVE DEADLOCK

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, Aug. 12.

It is reliably understood that a Dutch envoy with full powers—other than M. Schmerhorn—and greatly acceptable to the Indonesian leaders—is arriving from the Hague shortly to enter into negotiations with the Indonesian republic in a final attempt on the part of the Dutch to resolve the Indonesian deadlock.

Confirmation is lacking from the local authoritative Dutch circles. But it is learnt that British blessings to the move have already been given, and it is likely that Lord Killearn, Special Commissioner in South-East Asia will play a leading part in the negotiations.

Singapore may be the venue for the negotiations, and it appears that Dr. Sjahrir and Dr. Soekarno will soon receive invitations. It is learnt that the Dutch Envoy will be armed with powers to make decisions on the spot.



# Indonesia Celebrates First Anniversary Of Freedom

## RICE AGREEMENT WITH INDIA A LANDMARK, SAYS SOEKARNO

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

JOGJAKARTA, Aug. 18.

**A** LARGE gathering of proud people, rededicating themselves to the cause of freedom and the defence of their Republic marked the first anniversary celebrations of the Indonesian Republic on August 17.

Young and old, men and women, joined in the celebrations, which were permeated by the same spirit that one unmistakably notices all over the East from Cairo to Manila.

### A FLAME LIT

Here a flame has been lit in the hearts of a great people, and Jogjakarta will for centuries to come remain as a strong centre of nationalism in the East. Perhaps a torch from here will be carried to Delhi for a pan-Asiatic Congress, to which all the common people of South-East Asia are looking forward, for striking the final death-knell of Imperialism and Colonialism.

The day commenced with a military parade and display by all units of the Republic armed forces, the Indonesian Minister of Defence, Amir Sharifuddin, took the salute at the march past. The parade concluded with a mock fight.

Later in the morning, at a reception held at his residence, President of the Republic, Dr. I. R. Soekarno, read the proclamation of independence made a year ago, and addressed his people for over an hour, during which he surveyed the progress made by the Republic during the last year.

### UNITY WITH INDIA

"The most satisfactory aspect of our foreign policy," the President declared, "is the agreement arrived at between ourselves and the Government of India. We have thereby won the friendship and awakened the fraternal feelings of Indians, and forged links of understanding, which will stand us in good stead when India takes her rightful place as one of the big nations of the world."

"We have also thereby obtained conclusive proof that a large nation regards us as having an esta-

blished place in the world, that it places trust in us, and treats us as a mature people."

Immediately after the speech, the same flag which a year ago proclaimed the Republic to the people was unfurled.

Greetings have been received from many foreign countries, including India.

### PUNJABI'S ABSENCE

The Indian Government's Food Envoy, Mr. K. L. Punjabi, who is in town, was conspicuously absent, apparently because he happens to be the representative of a foreign Government in India. But even the present Government in India should know how to reciprocate and honour those who came to their rescue in India's hour of need.

Apparently, Bureaucracy in India has not yet grown out of its shell of false value; and Mr. Punjabi's presence at the meeting would not have implied any recognition of the Republic.

High Indonesian circles are bitter about this, though they know that an Indian people's representative would not be allowed to come here. One hopes that the Indonesian masses would not confuse the representatives of a foreign Government in India as representative of the Indian people.



# DELHI MUST SUPPLY TRUCKS TO JAVA

## DELAY IN LOADING RICE FOR INDIA

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

BATAVIA, Aug. 22.

**T**HOUGH loading of paddy for India is proceeding satisfactorily, it is not as quickly as one would have expected. Indonesians are short of road transport; the existing few trucks, run with worn-out tyres on extremely bad roads, and the Indonesian railways running on wood are unequal to the task of transporting thousands of tons of paddy.

Supply of trucks by the Government of India for transporting paddy to ports was stipulated in the agreement between the Government of India and the Indonesian Government, but all goods to be supplied to Indonesia require the prior approval of the Allied Commander Netherlands East Indies. Indonesians are surprised that General Mansergh, Allied Commander, who is from the Indian Army and who is fully aware of the gravity of the food situation in India, should be hesitating to give approval to the supply of trucks by India, while the Foreign Liquidation Commission of the United States Government are making large sales which include trucks, to the Netherlands East Indies authorities under the "Principal Relief and Rehabilitation Materials" scheme.

Supply of trucks by the Government of India is absolutely essential if paddy is to reach India in time, to avert famine and surely there could be no objection to India loaning or bartering to Indonesia what the United States Government are selling to the Netherlands East Indies authorities.

Indonesians are anxiously awaiting the arrival of textiles from India and are anticipating to wear new clothes from India on Ramzan day. It is believed ships have been assigned for textiles, but they have still to be loaded in Bombay. It is hoped textiles would arrive soon, and meanwhile lest the Indonesian people should feel suspicious over the delay in the arrival of textiles, Pandit Nehru should send a message to the Indonesian people assuring them that textiles would arrive at the earliest time possible.

One more ship has left for Cheribon this morning to load more paddy and another is shortly leaving for Banjoewangi.

Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Food Secretary to the Government of India, it is learnt, is returning to Delhi during the next few days. *FPT-WK*



## **IT IS INDIA'S BUSINESS**

### **Trucks For Rice Transport**

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, Aug. 28.

It is reliably understood that the question of supplying trucks to the Indonesian authorities to transport more paddy from the interior to the ports, is now engaging the attention of the British Foreign Office. Authentic reports from the interior of Java indicate that large stocks of paddy, purchased by the Indonesian Government are lying in the open and are likely to be damaged by rains, which might break out within a few weeks over Java.

The supply of trucks to the Indonesian Government, it is thought here, is not so much a concern of the British Foreign Office; it is a matter for the Indian National Government to speed up the supply of trucks in order to prevent a breakdown of the shipping of paddy from Indonesia.



# INDONESIA'S IMPLICIT FAITH IN INDIA

4.9.46

## Great Things Expected Of Nehru Government

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

JOGJACARTA (By Air Mail).

**S**EVENTY million Indonesians are looking towards India with hopes and are watching closely Indian events. Their leaders realise that henceforth their survival and prosperity are closely linked up with the fortunes of a country from whom they have long drawn inspiration.

It was significant therefore when President Soekarno ordered that the Indian national flag should be flown alongside their own national flag on August 17; and explaining the significance of 'Jai Hind' exhorted his people to follow the lead of India and Pandit Nehru. Vice-President Hatta followed suit in his radio address to the people and at the official reception Mrs. Soekarno greeted the Free Press of India correspondent with a pleasant 'Jai Hind'.

The Indonesian people do not expect nor are their leaders unpoltic enough to think that the moment India is free, she would unhesitatingly recognise the Republic of Indonesia. But they have pinned their great faith in a free India guided by Pandit Nehru and desire to co-operate fully and equally in the realisation of the common dream of a union of free nations in South-East Asia.

More than ever, Indonesian leaders now realise that the success of their struggle depends to a large extent on their own inherent strength but they are not oblivious to the fact that international political winds will affect their own fortunes.

India's recognition of the Indonesian Republic is a matter of course and time, since such recognition is already implied in the rice agreement entered into between the two governments. Will India be ungrateful to a nation which came to her rescue in her dire need when more powerful, well-established nations with greater and unlimited resources took up the attitude: "What if a few Indian millions die?" Indonesians value human life of whatever colour or nationality as precious material for the progress of humanity and are not content to pay lip sympathy to ideals of Freedom and Equality for all human beings.

### IS IT A COMPROMISE?

Indonesia will prove a powerful ally and close friend to India if the latter would accept the leadership that is offered her now. Of course, in such a case, the path for India will not be smooth but paved with more incessant and bitter struggles against Imperialism and Colonialism. How can India be really free if all her neighbours and friendly kin and kin are still in bondage.

Subject peoples all over South East Asia are wondering if the formation of an Interim Government in India under British auspices is a compromise with Imperialism or is it the step to a new phase wherein India led by Pandit Nehru would carry on the struggle with increased vigour together with the other countries of Asia. It is incumbent on India's honour to do so, since it was India's slavery and India's weakness that enslaved these sister nations.



**KILLEARN TO MEDIATE  
IN RICE OFFER**  
**3 (FREE PRESS OF INDIA)**  
SINGAPORE, Sept. 7.

It is understood that Lord Killearn is likely to examine the reported offer of Dr. Sjahrir to divert rice to India from Malaya.

Lord Killearn is still far from well but may go early next week to commence his role as a mediator between the Indonesian Government and the Dutch Government.

His last visit to Batavia was not welcome to certain high Dutch officials but now the matter has been set right by the invitation from Dr. Van Mook to mediate.



# Move To Counter India's Influence In S.-E. Asia

## WHY THIS DIVERSION OF JAVA RICE TO MALAYA?

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)  
SINGAPORE, Sept. 11.

Dr. Sjahrir has offered to divert to Malaya, a part of the rice consignments intended for India, provided the Government of India agrees. The offer has caused minor ripples in political circles here.

Those who are making efforts to counter India's growing influence in South East Asia, may utilise the opportunity to nullify the existing agreement between the Government of India and the Indonesian Republic.

It will be remembered what that when the Free Press of India correspondent reported Dr. Sjahrir's offer of rice to India in April last, the Food Member of the Government of India suggested that the report was not real, quoting Lord Killearn's authority. The same Lord Killearn is now prepared to negotiate on behalf of Malaya for the same rice, although it is now pointed out that he never characterised the report of the rice offer as unreal. It is still maintained that it is economically unsound to send Burma rice all the way to the Netherlands East Indies and to send Java and Siam rice all the way to India.

But the truth is that the British have felt that they should avoid political complications. They are also astounded at the existence of such large stocks of rice in Java.

### DO NOT LEAVE IT TO FOOD OFFICIALS

Though India has a responsibility to render aid to Malaya where a large number of her own nationals are without enough rice rations, political observers here opine that large political issues may be involved in any move to let Malaya share the rice earmarked for India, and that therefore Pandit Nehru's Government should not leave the matter in the hands of its Food officials. It is suggested that the Government of India should depute an envoy with political sagacity to discuss the matter with Dr. Sjahrir before making a final commitment. Moreover in spite of the Indonesian people's enthusiasm for Dr. Sjahrir's latest offer to divert rice to Malaya, they are still awaiting the long anticipated receipt of textiles from India. The Indonesian people have not forgotten the promise of Mr. K. L. Punjabi that the first ship from India would bring textiles for Indonesia.



# WILL JAVA TALKS END SUCCESSFULLY?

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

**SINGAPORE (By Air Mail).** Diplomatic circles are pessimistic about the forthcoming talks between the Indonesian Republic and the Dutch Commission General under Lord Killearn's presidency.

Though a new approach is being made by the Hague Government to resolve the deadlock, there is nothing to indicate that there is a change of heart on their part or a revision of their policy. A generous gesture, similar to Premier Attlee's statement prior to the advent of the Cabinet Mission to India, which is so essential to the success of any negotiation, is still to come.

## RECOGNISE THE REPUBLIC

With the Dutch, the starting point is still Queen Wilhelmina's declaration of December 1942, which is anathema to all sections of Indonesian nationalists, except the feudal nobility within the Dutch fold. Indonesians hope that they will start with the recognition of the Republic in Java and Sumatra, subject to certain limitations, and a joint proposal to determine the wishes of the population of Outer Indonesia whether to remain with the Republic or not.

## DUTCH HAVE TO GIVE IN

For a settlement, the Dutch will have to concede more than the Republic. They have to give up extensive political rights and their economic rights will be circumscribed by the political rights of the Indonesians. On the other hand, the Republic will have to modify its attitude towards the Dutch, as in their peculiarly undeveloped industrial stage, Indonesia does need the assistance of the Dutch to a limited extent.

Negotiations last time failed because the Dutch refused to recognise the Republic as part of the Republic but this time the Dutch are likely to concede on this issue subject to certain limitations. Hence, this may cease to be the main bone of contention.

## NO SUPREMACY FOR DUTCH

Indications are that the dispute will shift to the sovereignty of the Queen and the Netherlands Government over the Republic will not be acceptable to the Indonesian masses, although a few leaders may not attach much importance to it if a transitory period is fixed at the end of which the Republic could, if it wished, secede from the Kingdom.

But in no circumstances are a large majority of Indonesians likely to accept the sovereignty of either the Queen or the Kingdom. Their leaders have hitherto taught them that the sovereignty of the Republic rests with the people themselves. Indonesian leaders are most reluctant to accept collaboration except on an equal basis and provided there is a time limit to end such a collaboration.

But, on the other hand, the Dutch would like to strengthen the bonds by having a strong centre to compensate for their loss in granting complete autonomy to the Republic.

Indonesian leaders would resist this, but the Dutch might point out to them the example of the Viet Nam.

## CIRCUMSTANCES FAVOURABLE

Circumstances are favourable to a settlement. There is no denying the fact that both the Dutch as well as the Republicans are most anxious for a settlement and a compromise. With most of the world blaming them, the Dutch find that they are behind other European powers in liquidating their imperialism. Moreover, their Indies trade is at a standstill and their currency outside the sterling bloc, while British trade has made rapid strides to recovery.

## INDONESIANS IN TIGHT CORNER

For the Indonesians, though they have successfully "stood to" in a state of defence for a year, they find the strain too great to maintain for a long time. Though they might fight unto the last man in defence of the Republic, they are aware they are no match for the superior arms and British-trained troops of the Dutch. Dutch blockade affects the internal economy and a few Republicans are even seeking patronage under the Dutch. This fact perturbs the leaders who are anxious to avoid a set-back. More than ever, political rivalries are on the increase to the detriment of the Republic.

## GOOD SIGNS

But, there are a few good signs too. The Dutch no longer believe that the Republic will crumple from within as they imagined two months ago, perhaps based on Dr. Van Mook's reports, who, however, judging from the emphatic way in which he used to assert his belief, may believe so still.

Secondly, the Dutch now trust that any agreement entered into with Sjahrir's Government will have the backing of large sections of the Indonesian people. Another significant fact is the realisation both by the British and the Dutch, that Dr. Soekarno cannot be eliminated nor could a wedge be driven successfully between him and Dr. Sjahrir with the hope of weakening the Republic.

Two events have led to this change of outlook. One is the "coup d'état" against Sjahrir's Government, the emergence of Dr. Soekarno as the only Colossus striding Indonesian politics and the return to power of Dr. Sjahrir. The other eye-opener has been provided by the observations of a Dutch progressive journalist, Van Goodheart, Labour Member of Hague Parliament, Editor of "Het Parool" and a resistance leader who fought in the underground war against the Germans.

## LIES EXPOSED

The world was told that the interior of Java was full of fanatical beasts and bloodthirsty extremists but now high Dutch officials are on a visit to the interior to study conditions there at the invitation of the Republic. It was also said that Java was on the verge of famine

and that it was their moral duty to succour aid to the millions and save them from the 'extremists'. They opposed Dr. Sjahrir's rice offer to India, but now they themselves have accepted the offer of the Republic to feed hungry outer Indonesia.

In these circumstances, both favourable and unfavourable, negotiations are to be resumed. No fundamentals have been elucidated by the Dutch and they have not revoked their decision to bring in the "December Division." Lord Killearn has not categorically stated the present British policy in Indonesia, apart from a declaration that this Government are most anxious to help in finding a solution.

## FOOD SHORTAGES IN MALAYA

### British Policy The Cause

(FREE PRESS OF INDIA)

SINGAPORE, (By Mail)

Blaming the Government for the present food muddle in the country, Mr. Chang Ming Ching, representative in Singapore of the Malayan Communist Party, declared in an interview to the Free Press of India, "The main cause of the present food shortage in Malaya and Singapore is the British Government's economic policy."

He suggested that the Government should lift the present restrictions on free trade and sanction loans to farmers for the immediate revival of agriculture. People should also be given the opportunity to cultivate any fallow land.

"Local merchants must be allowed to import foodstuffs," he said, "but this does not mean that these merchants should hoard food. All food imported into the country by these merchants should be sold under control with a limited margin of profit." According to Mr. Chang, one of the reasons for the shortage was that the Government had not so far, sought the active co-operation of the people on food control bodies. Meanwhile, till the regular flow of food was assured, workers should be paid substantial allowances to meet the increased cost of living.

He pointed out that the policy of the Malayan Communist Party was to assist the Government in the rehabilitation of Malaya and to alleviate, as far as possible, the sufferings of the people. Mr. Chang disclosed that the Communist Party had suggested a peoples' inquiry into the food problem.

The party's policy was also to help Malaya to attain self-government with the assistance of the British people, and seek Malaya's representation as a member of the United Nations Organisation.

## LABOUR UNDER ONE FLAG

Though a larger proportion of the members of the Party are Chinese, a considerable number of Indian workers are within its fold. Mr. Chang added that it was an unique feature to notice labour of all nationalities under one union in Malaya.

Asked to comment on the recent recommendation of the Government to raise wages of workers, Mr. Chang pointed out that it was inadequate. He emphasised that since leaders of Labour unions were in intimate touch with labouring classes, they should also be appointed to Government policy-making committees with regard to labour problem.

Mr. Chang was a former member of the "Malayan People's anti-Japanese Army" and was connected with the underground movement throughout Malaya during the Japanese occupation. It will be remembered that it was this army that gave considerable assistance to British guerrillas, otherwise