

NAA File, series A989, item 1944/600/5/1/8, Netherlands East Indies Indonesia Association in Australia, 1944

Information about the 'New Indonesia Association' to work amongst any Indonesian living in Australia. This includes a copy of their constitution.

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IN REPLY, PLEASE QUOTE
No. *BH. 112163.*

NETHERLANDS INDIES COMMISSION
FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

BRISBANE
BOX 1386 R. G.P.O.

44/600/5/1/8-1
Checked by
Indexed by

12th. December 1944.

19 DEC 1944

Sir,

A number of Indonesians in Melbourne have constituted an association called Sibar (Serikat Indonesia Baroe = New Indonesia Association).

I enclose the constitution of this association in translation.

From this constitution it will become apparent that the association has a political character and intends to work among Indonesians - in the broadest political sense of those who consider Indonesia (the Netherlands Indies) as their home - in Australia as well as in the Netherlands Indies.

The leaders of the association have asked my intermediary to ascertain whether a special permission from the Commonwealth Government is needed to work openly in Australia among Indonesians residing in or passing through Australia.

In its original composition the association was sincerely intended to devote its activities to furthering the war effort by making the Indonesians conscious of their duty towards their people and country and the united nations to fight the barbarous invaders and also to plead for close cooperation with the Netherlands Indies Government and between all groups of the population. However, the communist ex-internees from New Guinea, brought over here by request of the allied Commander-in-Chief, have - from what I learn: after having established contact with the communist party in Australia - grasped the leadership, especially of the branches formed in Casino and Sydney. In the central committee the communist Sardjono has become chairman and he has already several times had friction with the nationalist other

members...

The Right Honourable
Dr. H. V. Evatt LL.D., K.C.
Minister for External Affairs,
C a n b e r r a. A.C.T.

National Archives of Australia NAA: A989, 1944/600/5/1/8

2/ The Rt.Hon.Dr.H.V.Evatt, Canberra.

12.12.44.

members, because of his acting without their knowledge.

Since it is internationally incorrect to establish and work political organisations in a foreign country without that country's Government's approval, I should be much obliged if you would inform me of the Commonwealth Governments decision in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Ch. O. van der Plas

(Ch.O.van der Plas)

STATUTE.

Article (1)
Name and Place.

- a. The name of this association is:
"Serikat Indonesia Baroe"
- b. Settlement: Where the Headquarters are settled.

Article (2)

The Aim.

The aim of this association is:

- a. To cooperate with the Dutch Government for obtaining the liberation of Indonesia from the hands of the enemy.
- b. To prepare the basis for a democratic New Indonesia.

Article (3)

Endeavour.

To obtain the objects as stated in article (2) this association will make any possible effort, without infringing upon the laws of the Dutch Government, the Commonwealth of Australia and any other state in which this association exists.

Article (4)

Members.

There are two kinds of members in this association:

- a. Ordinary members: Indonesians, men as well as women above 18 years of age are eligible to be ordinary members. Indonesian will mean every subject of the Dutch Kingdom, who acknowledges Indonesia to be his home country.
- b. Members - Donors: Member - "Donor" can be anybody who contributes to the association at least £5/-/- (Australian pounds) for those living in Australia, or f.10.-- (ten guilders) for those living in liberated Indonesia.

Article (5)

Rights of Members.

Every ordinary member has the right of electing and being elected member of the executives of this association. And each has one vote in meetings of members. In the general meeting every 25 members have one vote.

Article (6)
Meetings.

In this association there are three kinds of meetings:

- a. Executives: The Headquarter's (general executive) Assembly and the Local executive Assembly.
- b. Meeting of members: Meeting of the members of the branches of the association.
- c. General meeting (Congress): A meeting of the association attended by delegates of all the branches. This Congress should be held at least once a year.

Article (7).
Validity of Meetings.

- a. Assemblies of Executives as well as of (Branch) members can only be proceeded with when there are present more than half the total number of their members.
- b. The Congress can only be proceeded with when the delegates of the branches present represent more than half the number of branches and bring the majority of the votes of all members of the association. In case majorities A. and B. are not attained, a second meeting shall be called, irrespective of these majorities.
- c. Decisions in meetings mentioned sub a and b are only valid if taken by a majority of members present. However in meetings called for amending these statutes and for dissolving the association, article 12 should be applied.

Article (8)
Executives.

The association is led by a head committee of at least five members: comprising a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, and treasurer. All these shall be elected from and by the ordinary members of the association.

Article (9)
Finance.

To cover the expenses of the association there shall be an admission fee of 5/- for those living in

Australia and f.0.50 (fifty cents) for those in liberated Indonesia and a monthly contribution of 2/- (two shillings) for those living in Australia and f.0.20 (twenty cents) for members in the liberated Indonesia.

And any other legitimate means.

Article (10)

Domestic Regulations.

What is not explicit in this statute will be set forth in the Domestic Regulations without being contradictory to this statute.

What is not to be found in the statute and domestic regulations shall be fixed up by the executives provided they are not in contradiction to the interest of the association.

Article (11)

Branches of the Union.

In places with at least 25 members, with the consent of the head committee, a branch can be established, directed by a committee of at least 5 members, among whom a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer to be elected from and by the ordinary members of the branch. This branch committee is under the supervision of the head committee.

Article (12)

Alteration of Statute

or

Dissolving of the Association.

To alter the statute or to dissolve the association a Congress must be called, especially for this purpose. The decisions of this congress will only be valid if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a. The attendance should represent two thirds of the total votes of all the ordinary members of the association.
- b. The agreement should be obtained of two thirds of all the votes represented in this meeting.
- c. When at a first meeting the majorities are not obtained sub a. and b. a second meeting is called and held according to article 7 of this statute.

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