NAA Files. Series number A981, Item ID 179208, Netherlands East Indies, Transfer of Government Officials to Australia. 1942

7th March 1942, Dr van Mook, van Oyen and van Plas arrived in Perth

NET Transfer TINGS Spren TELEP E: BW 4221 (2 LINES IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE NO. W8/2166 ANDIA CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE NETHERLANDS COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND SYDNEY. 0112 RECO 9th March 1942 KEMBLA BUILDING 0 MAR 1942 58 MARGARET STREET EXTERNAL ATEAINS Sir, With reference to my letter of 5th March 1942 No. W8/2000, I have the honour to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor-General of the Netherlands Indies, Dr. H.J. van Mook, arrived in Ferth on 7th March 1942, accom-panied by Major-General van Oyen, Chief of the Netherlands Indies Military Airforce, the Hon. C.O. van der <u>Plas</u>, member of the Council of the Indies, and a number of staff officers whose names are at present unknown to me. I understand that Dr. van Mook, now in Adelaide, intends to proceed to Melbourne on the 10th instant and will arrive in Sydney a few days later. As soon as I have more definite information with regard to the plans of the Lieutenant Governor General of the Netherlands Indies I shall not fail to advise you. Meamwhile it would be greatly appreciated if the customary facilities could be extended to Dr. van Mook and his party and publicity censorship imposed on their presence in this country. I have the honour to be, Sir, obedient servant, Your Elink Schuurman) Consul-General (T. Reco The Secretary, Department of External Affairs, CANBERRA. NAA: A981, NETHE 66

A letter discussing the creation of the "Netherlands East Indies Commission for Australia and New Zealand", to wind up transactions with NEI cargoes, to liquidate orders placed before the invasion

FHS/IN. CAMBERRA...A.C.T. 16th September 1942. No. N.2. Sir, The Netherlands Roat Indies Administration gave great publicity, during the campaign in South-Rest Asis, to its decision not to remove from the Indies in the event of invasion. This policy was meintained formally to the end, the Governor-General and the great majority of his officers remaining at their posts and undergoing internment after the capture of Bandoeng. It was obvious, however, that some important exceptions would have to be made and, as you know, a dozen or so key men were instructed to leave the Indies for essential duties abroad. On March 5th the Lieutenant Governor-General, Dr. H.J.VAN 2. MOOK, accompanied by the Honourable C.O. VAN DER PLAS (Member of the Council of the Indies), Mejor-General VAN OYEN (Commender-in-Chief of the N.E.I. Army Air Corps) and Er. A.H.J. LOVINK (Adviser for Far Eastern Affairs), strived in Sydney by sir. Before leaving for London by way of the United States, they made arrangements for setting up a skeleton organisation here to safeguard N.R.I. interests, and to settle various immediate problems resulting from the fall of Java. One of their first acts was the establishment of a "Nether-3. lands Indies Commission for Australia and New Zealand," consisting of a Chairman and two Commissioners, to wind up transactions in connection with N.R.I. cargoes, and to liquidate orders The Commission was placed before the invasion of the Indies. headed by .... The Right Hon. S.M. Bruce, C.H., M.C., His Majesty's Australian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Planipotentiary to the Netherlands, LONDON. file NAA: A981, NETHE 66

headed by Dr. J.E. VAN HOOGSTRATEN, formerly Director of "conomic Affeirs in the Indies administration, assisted by two other Commissioners, Reden LOEKMAN DJAJADININGRAD, and Dr. R.E. SMITS, Managing Director of the Java Bank. The Secretary of the Commission is Mr. J. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAM, N.B.I. Trade Commissioner at Melbourne. It is learnt that Mr. van der Plas is returning to Australia to assume the chairmanship of this Commission, and that Messrs. van Hoogstraten and Djajadiningrad are to be transferred to London, to join the Council for Netherlands Rest Indian Affairs established there by Dr. van Mook. At the same time Dr. Smits may be appointed to a similar body in Washington. The Netherlands Rest Indies will thus have semi-governmental organisations in Melbourne, London and Washington. There is also prospect of a fourth body being set up in India.

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4. A Netherlands Indies Government Information Service has been set up with headquarters in Melbourne. This organisation is concerned with propagands to the Metherlands Rast Indies and with the collation of information received from that territory, in which work it has the co-operation of the Department of Information. In addition, it has commenced publication of a weekly newspaper in the Dutch and Malay languages, for the benefit of Netherlands service personnel and Netherlands residents in Australia. Both the Commission and the Information Service work in collaboration with, and, it is gathered, under the general supervision of, the Netherlands diplomatic representative, who accordingly finds it necessary to spend much of his time in Melbourne.

5. In a small way the Netherlands Hast Indies war effort is also being kept up from Australian soil. In addition to some hundreds of air cadets who are now completing their training on three airfields in this country, a thousand odd Netherlands service personnel were able to reach Australia after the cessation

of resistance ....

of resistance in Java, mostly men of the Army Air Corps, who have now been regrouped in a bombing squadron equipped with new United States aircraft. It was a machine of this squadron which sank a Japanese submarine off the New South Wales coast and prompted the message of appreciation which you transmitted to Queen Wilhelmins on June 11th.

3.

Among the problems facing the Commonwealth Government. 6. es a result of the Japanese conquest of Java, was that of the disposel of cargoes of war material and other goods aboard ships then in Austrelian ports, and of the future of the Java Bank's large deposits here of gold and other assets. On March 8th the Netherlands Government published a Royal Decree (No. 18) extending to the Netherlands East Indies the regulations vesting in the Netherlands State the overseas property of persons and companies in Netherlands territory occupied by the enemy. After discussions with Dr. van Nook the Commonwealth Government undertook to co-operate in the execution of this decree. It was accordingly agreed to authorise the transfer by the Australian banks to the Netherlands Government of assets held on Netherlands Eest Indian account, and to requisition N.R.I. cargoes for disposal to the Netherlands, United States and Commonwealth Governments, thereby accepting responsibility for payment of compensation to the Netherlands Government or its suthorised agent. Similarly, arrangements were made to take over certain Netherlands purchases of sircraft in the United States.

7. The use of Netherlands merchant tonnage ex the Netherlands East Indies is at present the subject of negotistions between the Commission and the Allied Consultative Shipping Council, but it is understood that the vessels available have already been diverted, some to the United Kingdom Ministry of War Transport, some to the United States shipping authorities, and some to the Commonwealth Shipping Control. Some aircraft of the Royal Dutch

Airlines ...

stralia

Airlines (K.L.W.) and the Royal Netherlands Indian Airlines (K.N.I.L.M.), consisting of seven Dougles and three Lockheed machines, also escaped to Australia. These aircraft have been purchased by the Director of Air Transport of the United States Army Air Transport Command, and are now being used within Australia for military purposes.

4.

I am, with great truth and regard, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H.V. Fratt

Minister for External Affairs.

7th October 1942. More on the Netherlands East Indies Commission for NZ and Aus. -> growing in power as a seat in the Pacific representing the Netherlands body which currently resides in London. This was stated in a decree of the Minister for Colonies on September 23rd 1942

trans rap good office is W. 8/906 ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION Melbourne 7th Oct. 1942. STREED B RECO 2 007 842 With reference to my letter of 21st. of April W8/7, I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that I have received from my Government, temporarilyresiding in London, the following particulars in connection with the competence of the Metherlands Indies Commission for Australia and New Zealmnd. By decree of the Minister for Colonies of September 23rd, 1942 No.3 additional instructions have been laid down for the Netherlands Indies Commission for Australia and New Zealand at Melbourne. These instructions comprise the following: 1. The Commission is acting as representative of the Netherlands Minister for Colonies in London who is vest-ed by Royal Decree temporarily with all prerogatives of general administration in the Netherlands Indies. 2. The Commission will act under the general supervi-sion of the Netherlands Minister for Australia and will in the discharge of its duties arrange close collabora-tion with the Netherlands Minister and as regards New Zea-land, with the Netherlands Consul at Wellington. 3. In addition to the general instructions laid down in this Decree the Commission will observe all general and spe-cial instructions of the Netherlands Minister for Colonies. The Right Honourable Dr. H.V. Evatt LL.D. K.C. Minister for External Affairs. <u>G & N B E R R A</u>. -s NAA: A981, NETHE 66

4. The Chief Commissioner and all members of the Commission are each separately empowered to represent the Commission in every respect. They will arrange the various duties of each member in mutual consultation.

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5. The Commission will devote its unremitting attention to the furtherance of the war effort in the interests of the Netherlands Indies; it will investigate or will assist investigations by other parties regarding the war effort in the interests of the Netherlands Indies and will, in as much as will be within her province, suggest measures in the interests of the furtherance of that war effort.

6. Financial duties: Management and control of Netherlands Indies property in Australia and New Zealand.

7. The Commission assists the Netherlands Minister in Australia and directs Netherlands and Netherlands Indies orgenisations active in the interest of disseminating informationregarding political, social, cultural, economic and financial matters regarding the Netherlands Indies to the Australian and New Zealand Governments, the press and the general public.

8. The Commission sollicits contacts and collaboration in the economic and financial sphere in the interest of the reconstruction of the Netherlands Indies and will pass on the information collected.

9. The Commission will arrange for close collaboration with the representatives of the K.P.M. (Royal Packet Navigation Company) and the Allied Consultative Shipping Council, and will report regarding shipping matters of interest to the Metherlands Indies. The Commission will look after the welfare of the personnel of the Metherlands Merchant Marine in Australian and New Zealand ports.

10. The Commission will look after the interests of the Netherlands and Netherlands Indies civil aviation in Australia and New Zealand.

11. The Trade Commissioner for the Netherlands Indies in Australia will be under the command of the Commission.

> I have the honour to be, With the highest consideration, Sir, Your most obedient servant

> > Manderspert Propres

Netherlands Minister.

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

W.8/1291

Melbourne 24th December1942.

Sir,

Copy.

In eply to your letter of 7th December concerning the competence of the Netherlands Indies Commission for Australia and New Zealand, I have the honour to inform you, that "Netherlands Indies property", mentioned in paragraph 6 of the instructions laid down by the Minister for the Colonies, refers to Netherlands Indies Government property in Australia and New Zealand, and also to property vested in the Netherlands Government, according to Royal Decree C 18 of March 8th 1942. Powers have been vested in the Netherlands Indies Commission for Australia and New Zealand to deal with all matters affected by the abovementioned Royal Decree. As mentioned in the translation of the Decree, which was sent to you with my note No. JI6/25I of June 16th, 1942, these matters include all properties and rights in whatever form, belonging to persons, firms, companies or corporations residing or domiciled in the Nemherlands Indies, which are capable of being mortgaged, offered by way of security, transferred or disposed of or dealt with in any other

way outside enemy territory or territory occupied by the territory occupied by territory