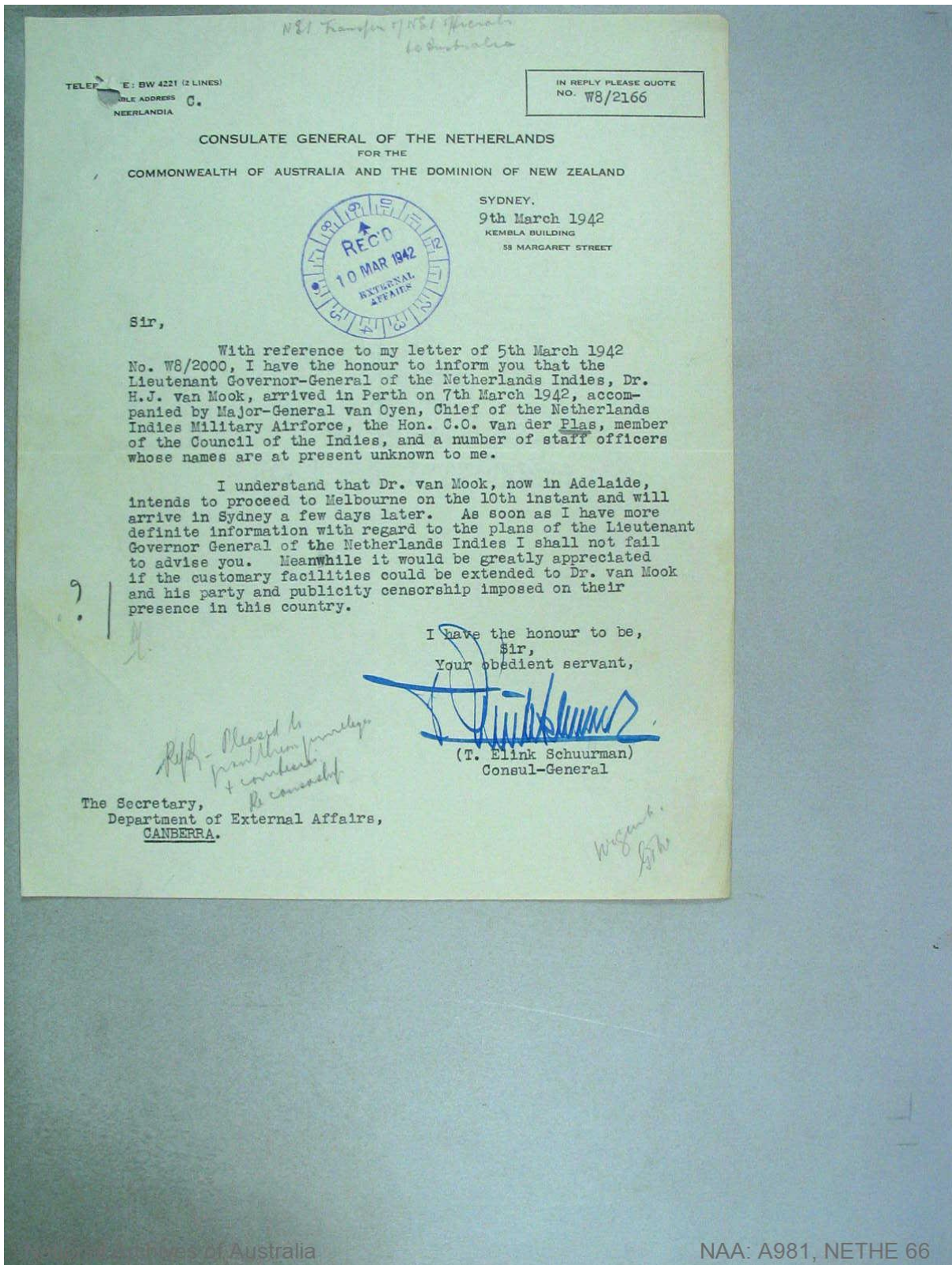
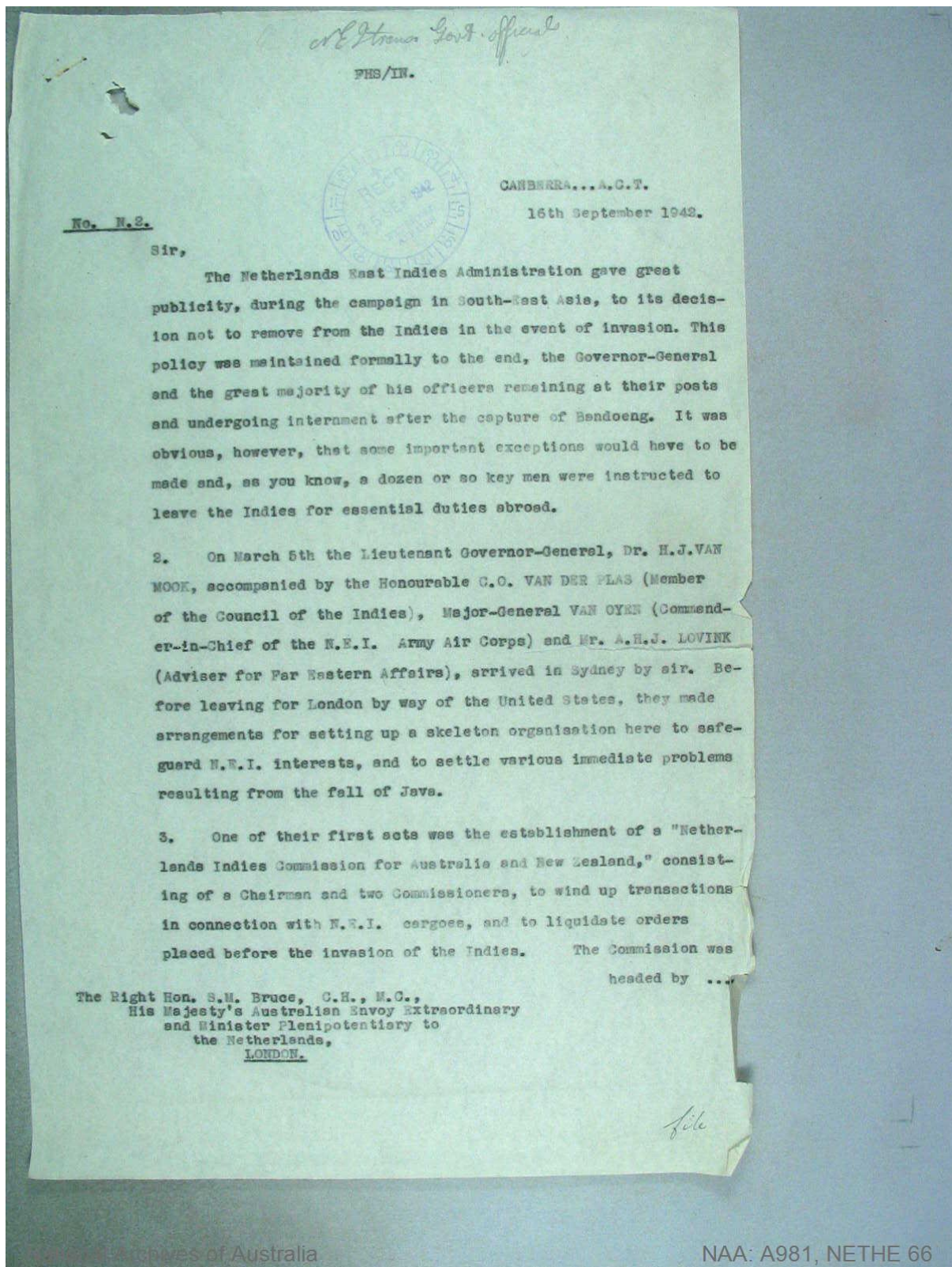


NAA Files. Series number A981, Item ID 179208, Netherlands East Indies, Transfer of Government Officials to Australia. 1942

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



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



headed by Dr. J.E. VAN HOOGSTREten, formerly Director of Economic Affairs in the Indies administration, assisted by two other Commissioners, Raden LOEKMAN DJAJADININGRAD, and Dr. R.E. SMITS, Managing Director of the Java Bank. The Secretary of the Commission is Mr. J. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN, N.E.I. Trade Commissioner at Melbourne. It is learnt that Mr. van der Ples is returning to Australia to assume the chairmanship of this Commission, and that Messrs. van Hoogstreten and Djajadiningrad are to be transferred to London, to join the Council for Netherlands East 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 East 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.

4. A Netherlands Indies Government Information Service has been set up with headquarters in Melbourne. This organisation is concerned with propaganda to the Netherlands East Indies and with the collection 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 East 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 Wilhelmina on June 11th.

6. Among the problems facing the Commonwealth Government, as a result of the Japanese conquest of Java, was that of the disposal of cargoes of war material and other goods aboard ships then in Australian 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 Mook 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 East Indian account, and to requisition N.E.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 authorised agent. Similarly, arrangements were made to take over certain Netherlands purchases of aircraft in the United States.

7. The use of Netherlands merchant tonnage ex the Netherlands East Indies is at present the subject of negotiations 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 ...

4.

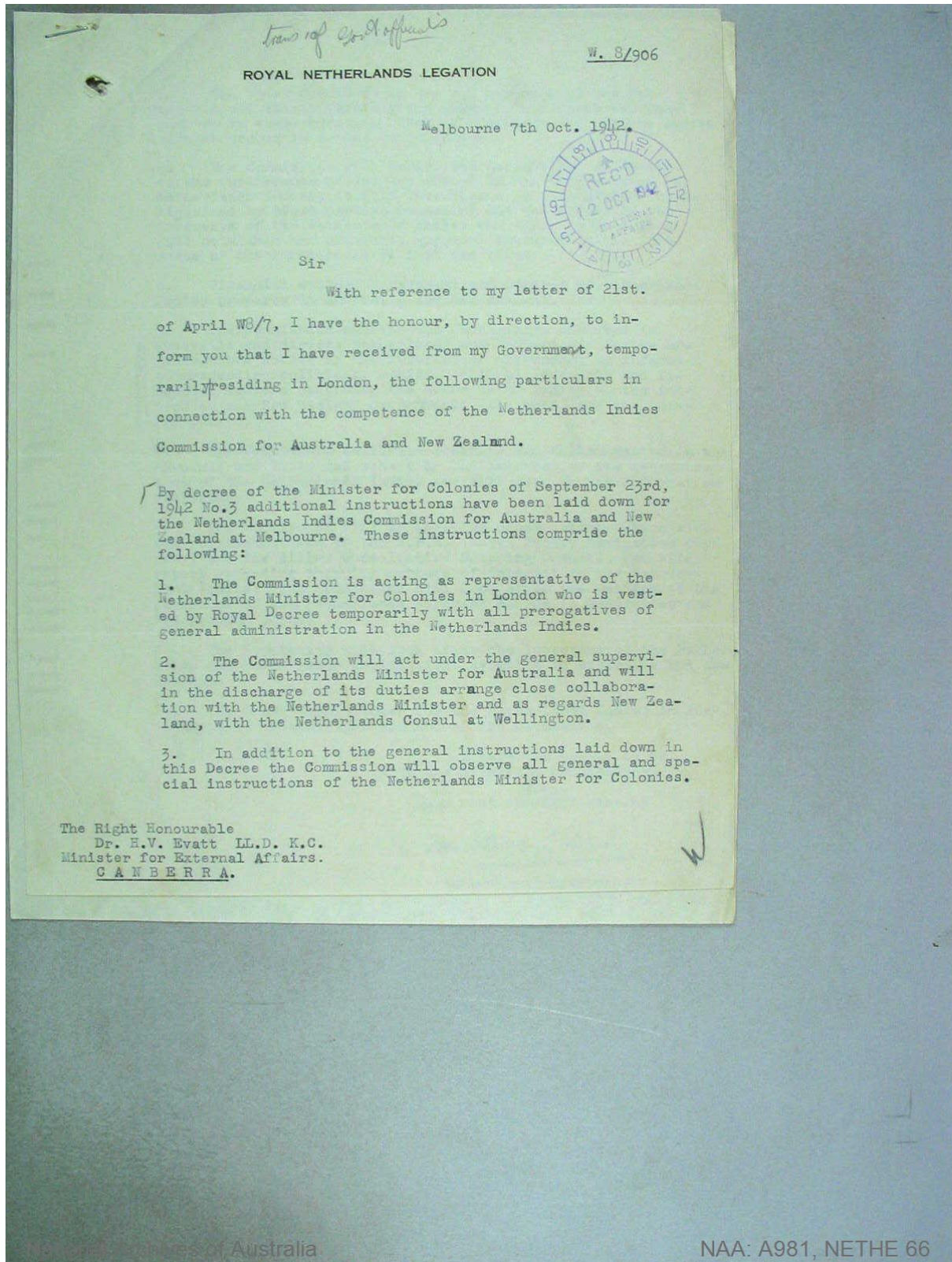
Airlines (K.L.M.) and the Royal Netherlands Indian Airlines (K.N.I.L.M.), consisting of seven Douglas and three Lockheed machines, also escaped to Australia. These aircraft have been purchased by the Director of Air Transport of the United States Army Air Transport Command, and are now being used within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

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

(Signed) H.V. Evatt

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



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.

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 organisations active in the interest of disseminating information regarding 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 solicits 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 Netherlands Indies. The Commission will look after the welfare of the personnel of the Netherlands 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

Paulus Pieter Regener

Netherlands Minister.

Copy.

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

W.8/1291

Melbourne 24th December 1942.

Sir,

In reply 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. J16/251 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 Netherlands 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 enemy.

The Hon. Dr. Evatt, etc.
CANBERRA

I have the honour to be etc.
(SGD) VAN AERSSSEN BEVEREN
Netherlands Minister.

*for Brigs - see file
Netherlands property & assets
Netherlands*