

VAN MOOK ASSURES NEI OF US AID

BANDONG, Thursday. AAP.



Broadcasting today on the results of his visit to USA and Australia, Dr. van Mook, Lieutenant Governor-General of NEI, answered the question, "Why has USA not been more active?"

"We must remember," he said, "the difficulties that need to be surmounted by people who have hitherto been inspired only by a desire for peace, and who, after December 7, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour, had to begin building up a war machine. Much has been done to increase production to assist Britain, but when a country like USA concentrates on waging its own war it is a very different thing from increasing production to assist others."

Dr. van Mook assured the Dutch that USA was not under any illusion that NEI was the least important theatre of war. Reinforcements were on their way to the Indies, and some of them had arrived when he left USA. The Dutch should be inspired by a will to stand firm.

"Our main force is stationed in Java," he added. "Our defence plans never envisaged that the outer islands would be defended as Java would be. We are not alone in this fight, although, at the moment, we must mainly depend on our own strength. United forces are here, and they will stay here. Supplies will continue."