

No Trouble Expected During United Nations Rule of West New Guinea

Editor's Note—The writer of the following dispatch covered the recent transfer of the administration of West New Guinea from the Dutch to United Nations authority.

By PATRICK J. KILLEN

Singapore (AP)—Officials and observers on the humid scene in West New Guinea expect little or no trouble during the seven months of United Nations rule.

Following the Oct. 1 assumption of control by the United Nations temporary executive authority from the Dutch, these trends became clear:

—The native Papuans are prepared to give the United Nations and later the Indonesians a fair chance at guiding their destiny.

—Despite the mass exodus of Dutch civil servants, law and order has been maintained

and essential services continue to operate.

—United Nations rule will be handled largely by Indonesians because of recruitment problems.

Choice Due in 1969

Under the Dutch-Indonesian agreement of Aug. 15, West New Guinea will be run by UNTEA until May 1, 1963. Indonesia will then govern the territory until 1969 when the Jakarta government is obligated to give the 700,000 or so Papuans their choice of continued affiliation or independence.

West New Guinea is a territory which perhaps only a Papuan could love. It comprises 151,000 square miles of wild mountain, rain forests and malarial coastal swamps stretching in a southeast direction from the equator. Australia, currently eyeing Indo-

nesia uneasily, controls the eastern portion of the island.

Indonesians Welcomed

A backward land of small potential, it became an emotional issue when the Dutch held on to it as the last vestige of their once great West Indies empire. Indonesia, heir to the rest of the Dutch empire, demanded that "Irian

Bharat" be brought into the fold.

Large numbers of Indonesians, led by youthful, smiling Second Deputy Foreign Minister Sudharjo Tjondronegoro, began arriving only a few hours after Dutch rule ended. Papuans politely put their spears away and wel-

CP Couple Leave For Hong Kong

Central Point — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kennedy Jr., 3028 Old Stage road, Central Point, planned to leave today for Hong Kong, British Crown colony, where Kennedy will attend an annual Junior Chamber International World Congress from Nov. 4 to 11.

Kennedy is chairman of International relations for Oregon Junior Chambers of Commerce.

Between 80 and 85 countries of the free world will be represented and about 100 persons from the United States will attend. Another Oregon couple, Mr. and Mrs. Al Ringo, Gervais, will make the trip.

The group will spend a week in Japan and Formosa before attending the congress and will make the return trip by way of Bangkok, Singapore, Manila, and Honolulu.

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comed the Indonesians with smiles and handshakes.

"Merdeka," an Indonesian word for freedom, said the Papuans as they pumped the hands of the blue-green uniformed members of Indonesia's "development brigade."

The brigade, specially trained for service in West New Guinea, is expected to form the backbone of the UNTEA Civil Service.

As the two Asian groups met, they bore little resemblance. The Papuans were frizzly-haired, almost black-

skinned Melonesians who looked more Negroid than Asian. The Indonesians were sturdy small individuals with copper colored skins.

The rub may come when UNTEA departs and the sharply fluctuating Indonesian Rupiah replaces the hard Dutch New Guinea Guilder as currency. Affluent Papuans, used to Dutch beer and scores of other imports, may find their buying power drastically cut, their shelves less full.

The United Nations, recognizing the problem, kept lo-

cal business operating by guaranteeing the Guilder as the official currency. The move, welcomed by the local population, only served to point up Indonesian difficulties.

Desire to Help

To continue the late but relatively good start the Dutch made in developing the territory, Indonesia must find foreign exchange. The most obvious solution is for Jakarta to ask the Dutch.

The prospect is not so unbelievable as it sounds. Many Dutchmen hoped the end of

the West Irian dispute would re-establish relations between the two countries. Many of those who left the New Guinea capital of Hollandia appeared to have a sincere desire to help in the continued development of the territory.

Despite their differences, the two countries maintain a peculiar "love-hate" relationship. Outwardly there is mistrust and acrimony. But individual Dutchmen like individual Indonesians and the reverse presumably is true.

The Dutch must be given credit for much of the ease in transition to United Nations rule even though most of them were on their way to Holland at the time. Through their earlier work in bringing Papuan civil servants to relative maturity, the sleepy territory has gotten along so far

without chaos or many drastic changes. To be sure, it takes three days to get a flat tire fixed and immigration officials are nowhere in sight. But the lights are still on, the inter-island communications remain sporadically intact and the juke box at the Juliana Supermarket still plays twist records. There appears to be no shortages.

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