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**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY The Netherlands

DATE DISTR. 7 Feb 1949<sup>25X1A2g</sup>

SUBJECT Trade Union Attitude Towards Indonesian Police Action

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

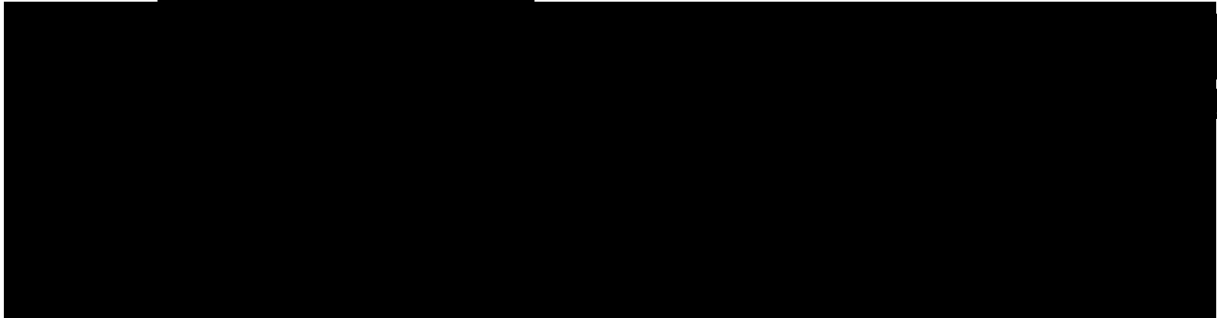
NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X6

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1. It has been ascertained that, with the exception of the Communist-controlled EVC (Unity Trades Union Central) and the OVB (Independent Confederation of Factory Workers) of Communist tendencies, the Dutch Trades Unions consider the Netherlands government police action in Indonesia strictly a political matter and, as such, not the basis for a wave of protest strikes.
2. Originally the OVB, a small rival of EVC and influential only among the dock and transport workers in Rotterdam, condemned the police action and obtained support from EVC in its intention to stage protest strikes. However, when EVC issued a call to Rotterdam harbor workers for a 24-hour strike without prior notice to OVB, the latter refused to participate and its members stayed at work. After this experience with EVC, OVB decided to align itself with the NVV (Netherlands Trade Unions Association) which deplored the Indonesian action but refused to use it as an excuse for strikes.
3. Although the EVC has strongly opposed government policy in Indonesia and summoned the working class to defend its interests, it has based its appeals for action primarily on economic factors and not on the Indonesian incident. EVC's plans for invoking strikes were formulated well before the renewed police action in Indonesia and were published in De Waarheid on 17 December 1948, which was prior to the government's move. It is, therefore, apparent that the EVC feels the Indonesian situation is incidental to the success of its program.
4. While there have been a few isolated strikes since the Dutch Army moved in Indonesia, these have been, for the most part, in the Amsterdam area and, thus far, reflect EVC activities in the economic field rather than an attempt to exploit the situation in Indonesia.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
 Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 009  
 NO CHANGE in CLASS.   
 X DECLASSIFIED  
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 Auth: LDA WASH DC 107 77  
 Date: 17 MAY 1978 BY: 221

STATE	X	#	NAVY	X	NSRB										
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