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Sourabaya, 12th December 1946.

To the
Commander in Chief of
the British Forces
at Sourabaya.

Sir,

Now that things have settled down somewhat for most of the Dutchmen who until November 10th were held in jail by the Indonesians under rather trying conditions, we want to give expression to our feelings of gratitude for the cautiousness and the deeds of bravery you and your troops have displayed in liberating us and most of our women and children.-

We will never forget November 10th when in the morning your artillery laid down a barrage so accurately that notwithstanding it was concentrated upon the Indonesians at only a few hundred yards distance from our jail, not one shell did actually hit our jail clearing all resistance.-

We still marvel at your organization which rendered it possible to at once transport those roughly 3500 prisoners by motorcar to the harbour and to feed and house them.-

We beg to tender you our sincere thanks for all the above and remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Ex-Prisoners of Werfstraat-jail
delegated.

REPORT ON HAPPENINGS AND CONDITIONS IN SOURABAYA DURING THE
INDONESIAN "REVOLUTION".004
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What has happened in Sourabaya as from September 19th in its full extent has not appeared in the news.

No doubt there can be strategic reasons why full particulars at this moment are not revealed to the public.

But we, citizens of Sourabaya, who have been able to closely watch part of the events and whose wives and children eventually were taken along by the Indonesians in the interior, we often wonder whether the full seriousness of the case is fully known to those who have to clear up these chaotic conditions. - That's why we composed a summary of events as far as we have been able to check them up i.e. based upon facts.

This summary is not destined for publication as a great many Europeans are still into the hands of the Indonesians and might suffer reprisals from particulars mentioned.

The business was started on September 19th when the Indonesians started to exploit an incident at Toendjoeng where Dutch boys, rather foolishly, had tried to hoist the Dutch flag at the Oranje Hotel whilst there were no troops available to warrant such a deed. - A row arose in the street before the hotel as a result of which the flag was pulled down by the Indonesians and a few Dutch and Indonesians were killed.

(see Mr. Ploegman (15))

From that date the show was on. - Bands of Indonesians appeared in the streets in motorcars and upon trucks (of which mysteriously enough they suddenly could dispose in big numbers) displaying rifles, shotguns and swords; a few days later (towards October 1st) these bands managed to "liberate" what was left of the Japanese Army, who gave over their weapons and ammunition almost without any resistance.

In those days a great many Indonesians began to arrive from the interior by train, apparently all men who had been trained by the Japanese, the so-called Heiho and Soekarelas; they were housed and concentrated at various central points in the city and were abundantly provided with Japanese arms.

By about that time the Indonesian organisation "B.K.R." (Beian Kerjasama Rakyat) appeared upon the stage and at about the same time the "P.R.I." (Pusat Republik Indonesia). - From the beginning it seemed as if the B.K.R., although being rather a composite organisation, harboured the more moderate elements and the bystanders, whereas the P.R.I. was for the larger part composed of non-thinking former Japanese soldiers (all Indonesian nationality) and for a small but by far the most important part of terroristic Japanese-educated youth with blind hatred against white people irrespective of nationality. - Killing and looting is their object and they have no ideal at all. - They are the fellows who are called "extremists". A most ridiculous name in this case. - As far as we know extremists are people with an ideal who are willing to go to the extreme point of a political theory whereas these nihilistic

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Gangsters have negative qualities only, hatred and greed. -
 These bands are a danger to any community. - They are guided by a broad
 cast of their own, the "Pembrontak"-sender, which in the evening pours
 its screaming, terroristic propoganda over the streets through the
 loudspeakers erected by the Japanese. - (Heng Tomo (Solomo) &

Indonesian politics has always been a complicated and badly affair
 continually new parties are appearing and a great many of them are at
 the same time upon the stage. - The same so during the last few months
 when political and pseudo-political organisations arose like mush-
 rooms, such as the B.K.R., P.R.I., T.K.R., K.N.I., The Black Fan, The Black
 Banteng, etc. whilst also existing parties displayed some activity. -
 Upon paper these organisations are said to be mutually connected to
 some extent, but in practice they always have appeared to represent as
 many different combinations all working for their own; the whole re-
 sults in anarchy, official functionaries like governors and residents
 holding nominal power only. -

In Sourabaya you were held up in the street by a B.K.R.-man who
 searched you and a few yards further you had to undergo the same by a
 Femeda who was not interested in the B.K.R.-man's proceedings etc. -
 Your house was searched by a band of Indonesians sometimes carrying
 fantastic weapons like e.g. a swordfish-tooth. A few minutes after-
 wards another gang came running in for the same purpose. At first they
 felt rather ashamed to steal openly, but by about October 10th they
 calmly entered houses taking away curtains, cutlery, money and other
 precious things. And every day the Pembrontak-radio was yelling over
 the streets at about 11 p.m. sewing the seed of murder and looting. -

On October 15th when a few days earlier some arrests had been made
 of Rendi-connected people, the Indonesians proceeded to definite action

The whole male European community was collected from the houses
 and from the streets. Those coming from Goebeng- & Darmo-district were
 transported to the Simping Club where the "P.R.I." had prepared some
 kind of salistic feast along Japanese lines. - The Europeans had to
 sit down upon their knees, were kicked and beaten with swords after
 some kind of idiotic interrogation; all their clothes and boots were
 taken away and they were only allowed to retain their underwear. Sev-
 eral men were beaten to death and although reliable estimates are not
 available we take their number to be at least 40. -

Afterwards these men were loaded upon trucks and were despatched
 to the Werfstrat-jail where also men from other quarters were being
 assembled. - They were arriving towards and during the evening of Oc-
 tober 15th. -

Hordes of Indonesians, multitudes of them, were running savagely
 through the streets, yelling "Merdeka" and "Death to the Whites" and
 brandishing their spears. - That was our last impression of Sourabaya
 into the hands of the mob. - These street scenes regularly occurred
 when something of importance occurred during the first few weeks to
 come and it broke further down the nerves of our women and children.

