

STATEMENT BY MR. H.SUPANDAR
MEMBER OF THE INDONESIA OBSERVER DELEGATION
WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS
GENEVA, 5 AUGUST 1987.

WGIP 87 GOV/SEA.1DN/1

Madam Chairperson,

As was the case two years ago, my delegation is participating in your Working Group's sessions as an observer. We have followed with great interest, the progress made by the Working Group, over which you have so ably presided. A number of constructive contributions to the tasks of the Working Group in preparing draft principles of the declaration on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous populations have been undeniably useful for the successful completion of the mandate of the Working Group. In this respect, we cannot but express our deep appreciation to you, as well as to the other members of the Working Group for your noble efforts in helping to resolve the complex and intricate problems related to the rights of indigenous populations.

We would however, at this juncture, like to express our dismay that some representatives from NGOs who supposedly represent the so-called RMS (Republic of South Molucca) and OPM (Free Papua Movement) have abused the forum by launching a defamatory and callous attack against my country, Indonesia. Not only is their over zealous agitation completely devoid of any sense of proportionality, but their statements are irrelevant to the tasks of the Working Group and clearly reveal the true objectives of their indefensible political cause, namely their dream of establishing independent states within the Republic of Indonesia.

The calumnious and baseless accusations against Indonesia have been made many times in the past and are based purely on hearsay, second hand information and fabricated reports from Indonesia's detractors, which have been interspersed with clichés and which totally contradict the true situation prevailing in the provinces of Irian Jaya and Maluku.

There is no need, therefore Madam Chairperson for my delegation to

../..

entertain their accusations since they do not contribute to the objectives of the mandate of the Working Group but only lend credence to these self-styled movements.

Before concluding, we would like to recall the historical fact that that since independence in 1945, the province of Maluku has been an integral part of Indonesia. Indeed, the South Malukus, have always been part of the Indonesian nation. For the outsider with little knowledge of the history of Indonesia, the RMS's only connection with Indonesia is due to its name and because a small number of South Moluccans who dreamt of an imaginary state, were at one time, members of a group of mercenaries in the pay of the colonial army which fought against the Indonesian freedom fighters during Indonesia's war for independence. At the end of that bloody war, a number of these mercenaries, after their failure to create disorder and turmoil, chose to leave Indonesia and were shipped to the metropolitan country. The remainder were integrated into the Indonesian army.

Some members of the group who live in the metropolitan country have continued to nurture their dreams of an imaginary state and in the meantime they involve their children - who have never seen Maluku - in their illusions. Persistently believing in their unfulfilled dreams, they are unable to face reality which caused them in desperation to manipulate any forum to launch their attack against Indonesia. If they wish to voice their frustrations, it would be appropriate to address themselves to the metropolitan country which once promised them their imaginary state.

With regard to the separatist movement called the "The Organisation of Free Papua" (OPM), all their charges against Indonesia have been refuted in this forum in the 1985 session. There is no need therefore to repeat them again. We would only like to remind the participants of the meeting that the people of Irian Jaya, the former Dutch territory exercised their right of self determination through re-integration with Indonesia through elections under the auspices of the United Nations. This was based on the agreement of 15 August 1962 between Indonesia and the Netherlands which was thereafter approved by the General Assembly of the UN in September of the same year. Since then, the province has

substantially developed, in particular under the national 5 year development plan. As a result, efforts to revive the idea of creating an independent state within the Republic of Indonesia, as promised by the former colonial administration failed. This resulted in frustration on the part of an insignificant group, most of which were in exile, who later established the self styled movement called OPM.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.