SOEKARNO KOMT NAAR VOREN

For several months Sukarno kept me fully informed concerning the course of his discussions with the Japanese, and he came occasionally to ask my advice.

Dat laatste bleef niet zo:

'Everywhere disappointment grew into resistance, and into nationalist resistance. Under these circumstances, the efforts at legal collaboration made by Sukarno and Hatta came to nothing. There was no longer any immediate reason for Sukarno to see me and I lost touch with him until just before the proclamation of our independence.'

Hatta's relaas over hetgeen door Soekarno, hem en Sjahrir op de avond van 9 juli '42 besproken was, luidde aldus:

'Sukarno opened the discussion. He was sure that the Japanese would win the Second World War. They had already defeated the Americans, British and Dutch. We should make use of this opportunity, he said, to cooperate with the Japanese and rebuild our People's Movement.

I said that I did not agree with him. Indeed the Japanese had won the first round, but their industrial potential was below that of the Americans. The Americans could rebuild their armed might and within short time would surpass the Japanese. I also said to Sukarno that the Japanese Military Government would not allow the Indonesian movement to progress. All parties had been dissolved since the Japanese arrived and no independence movement was allowed. I was trying to reduce the impact of the oppressive policies of the Japanese on the Indonesian people by accepting the appointment as Adviser to the Japanese Military Government.

Sjahrit added that perhaps I and Sukarno could not avoid cooperating with the Japanese. He himself would stand aside as he was not so well-known.

I warned Sukarno not to join the Three A Movement under the leadership of Shimizu. People disliked this movement, and it was doing more harm than anything else. A lot of Chinese people supported Shimizu and had donated hundreds of thousands of rupiah\(^2\) to the movement. However, another Japanese office was charged with keeping an eye on the Chinese and had arrested many of them. Chinese who had been working for the Dutch Indies Government had been put in prison.

Sukarno replied that the same thing had happened in Sumatra. But he said that he wanted to join the Three A Movement\(^3\) so that he could abolish it. We finished our discussion then.

It was clear to me that Sukarno wanted to cooperate with the Japanese with the intention of establishing a new party, especially with the purpose of satisfying his ambition to agitate.

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1 Sjahrit: Out of exile, p. 245-47. 2 Bedoeld worden: gulden. 3 Voorzover bekend, heeft hij dat niet gedaan, althans niet publiekelijk.