

xTESTIMONY TRANSCRIPTION

SOETADJI

DHD 7 No. 068/IX/A/1945/1976

Surabaya, 9 January 1970

Dear brothers

The directors of Angkatan '45 in East Java

31 Sumatra Street

Surabaya

With respect,

Responding to your request on Daily News dated January 8, 1970 related to the flag incident at the Oranje Hotel in 1945, we can testify as follow:

When the Dutch flag raising incident (vlag-incident) took place on 19 September 1945, at around 11.00 am, I served as the secretary of the Resident of Surabaya, Mr Sudirman, I received a report by phone that a Dutch Indo-European named Mr Ploegman was killed.

At that time Mr Ploegman has raised the Dutch flag: red-white-blue flag, at the top of the front of Oranje Hotel building.

This Dutch flag raising was interpreted by the people as the return of the colonial power, thus causing the anger of the people of Surabaya.

As soon as I received the message, I accompanied Mr Resident of Surabaya and the police commissioner of Surabaya, Budiman Rahardjo, I came to the scene of the incident.

There we met the Kempateai [Japanese Military Police] commander, with him which Mr Resident of Surabaya exchanged ideas and considered what actions would be necessary to reassure the angry people.

The commander of Kempetai turned out to be afraid and did not dare to do anything about the incident. Then Mr. Resident of Surabaya told us that he wanted to speak directly to the angry people and they were carry weapons in the form of sticks, pieces of iron, etc.

We headed toward Mr. Resident Sudirman car which was parked at the corner of Embong Malang Street, Tunjungan, in front of store called Restu.

We climbed onto the car radiator and told the people who were huddled around the place, we asked them to be calm and quiet because Mr. Sudirman would speak.

At first the people were still shouting while holding up their weapons, they asked that the Dutch flag raising would not happen anymore.

Mr Resident Sudirman in the face of the still-angry people did not say much, he just said “O youth of Surabaya, I guarantee that the Dutch flag will not be raised again. If the flag is raised again, you can kill me!”

The people of Surabaya feel satisfied after listening to the statement of Mr Resident Sudirman. After they were asked to disband, they obeyed Mr Sudirman’s order.

Further information that we continued to follow Mr Residen Sudirman in evacuation and guerrilla, until Mr Residen Sudirman died on April 8, 1949 in Djogos village, on the border of Residency Kediri and Surabaya. His body was buried in Ngoro District, Jombang Regency. On 15 December 1963 his body was moved to Hero Grave in Surabaya.

While Mr Budiman Raharjo now lives in Jakarta as a retired high official of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This is my description about the Vlag-Incident 1945 in Surabaya, to be used as necessary.

Best regards

(SOETADJI)

Retired Resident assisted to East Java Governor