

ENCLOSURE 10.

MIJOSHI, June 29th 1944.

I have the honour to submit the following to Your Excellency:

On October 27th of the previous year the Captain of the Netherlands Military Hospital Ship "Op ten Noort" submitted a protest against the detention of this ship. In this protest he gave a complete survey of all incidents which had occurred on board the ship and what was done to her crew and staff. He finally applied to Your Excellency expecting You to be able to stop the injustice inflicted upon us.

To my great disappointment neither this protest nor the repeated protest of February 23rd 1944 had any success and were not even answered.

It is obvious now that Naval and Civil authorities acted by orders of the Japanese Government and consequently we hold this Government responsible for our treatment. Notwithstanding the fact that Japan signed the Geneva Convention of 1906, the Japanese Navy detained our Hospital Ship, occupied her with armed forces and used the ship for her own benefit. As her own organization fell short in this respect I cannot but qualify this act as a serious proof of unreliability of the Japanese Government, the more conspicuous through the fact that the hospital ship "Op ten Noort" was acknowledged by the Japanese Government less than 3 months prior to the outbreak of the war. From her side the Japanese Government gave evidence of relying on the loyalty of her enemies with regard to above-mentioned Treaty. We could perceive - be it said to the shame of the Japanese Government - that our ship sailing under the markings (a.o. being illuminated at night), protecting Hospital Ships against intentional attacks of the enemy, with a cargo of contraband, a.o. mines, with armed military on board, safely reached Japan. It was declared by Naval authorities by name of the Japanese Government that our ship had not been seized, only detained.

Even after the ship had arrived in Japan in the dishonourable manner described in this report, sailing under the Jap flag, under the command of a Japanese captain, and after the crew and staff had been interned in a remote corner of Japan, the Japanese Govt. persisted in her untruthful declarations.

I accuse the Japanese Government of disloyalty on the following grounds:

- a. Having instructed high-ranking authorities to make misleading statements.
- b. Not having properly answered any protest.
- c. Not having permitted the captain of the ship to contact the International Red Cross.
- d. Not having permitted the captain to guard the interests of the hospital ship, not even through the intermediary of a non-belligerent nation, representing the interests of the Netherlands subjects in Japan.

I may finally add here that - where all over the world Red Cross work in war time is watched with interest and respect - the Japanese Government paralysed the performance of our hospital ship with one blow, without any reason, without any urgency of war, without any official procedure.

The Chief Medical Officer of the
Hospital Ship "Op ten Noort".

To: The Prime Minister of Japan.

Translated by Section V.

A.M.V.V.

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