

Indonesia at the United Nations : 1950-1965

Brown, Colin Patric Metcalfe, author

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Abstrak

This thesis is a study of a particular aspect of Indonesian foreign policy: that country's relations with the United Nations. Its aim is to try to isolate the variables which determined the ways in which various Cabinets pursued their political objectives within the Organisation. An explanation of the methods used in investigating these variables can be found in the Preface: a discussion of the sources consulted is contained in the 'Sources' section of the Notes on the Text. Section I of the thesis is concerned with Indonesia's experience with the UN during the period of the physical revolution. This is not, however, treated in very great depth, since it lies outside the main chronological limits of the thesis. The basic aim of this Section is to look at the back-ground to Indonesia's decision to join the UN in September 1950; a background which could well have affected the ways in which Indonesian political leaders viewed the Organisation at that time. Sections II to V form the main body of the thesis. They examine the use various Indonesian Cabinets made of the UN from 1950 to 1965. Each Section concentrates on one particular problem area: Section II on the maintenance of international peace and security; Section III on the eradication of colonialism; Section IV on the recovery of West Irian; and Section V on the campaign against Malaysia. It is believed that these topics cover virtually the entire ambit of Jakarta's political relations with the UN, ranging as they do over items of great, immediate significance to Indonesia, to matters which were of as much interest to Indonesia as to any other UN member. The final Section presents the conclusions drawn from the research carried out. It is suggested that there were three major variables which determined Indonesia's UN policy over this period: the particular political complexion of the Cabinet in office; the nature of the particular case being considered; and the power balance in the Assembly, as perceived in Jakarta. Of these three, the former is felt to be the most important, due to its influence over the latter two.