

... One of the goals I sought as soon as we became active was contact with other resistance organizations. I realized that we needed the active guidance of a military expert and also of groups having connections in the secret police and the civil administration. Contacts were needed among the Eurasians¹ and the Chinese as well. The point was not only to prevent each group from impeding the others' work, but to provide for co-operation among them where possible, as for example through the exchange of reports. Another thing we were particularly interested in was obtaining information concerning weapons: if and where the Netherlands Indies Army had left or hidden weapons, and how we could lay our hands on them.

... In general it appeared that the colonial government had made very inadequate preparation for underground-action.

... Our hope that the Chinese might be a reserve support for us was only partially realized. However, we did later get some weapons through the Chinese.

... I also found that in Batavia there were still a few small groups that tried to do such resistance work as they could. A Frenchman and a Ceylonese were involved.² The Ceylonese occupied an important position from our point of view — he was a translator of Allied news in the Japanese radio monitoring service.³ We managed to keep in touch with these people and also with an Indonesian major who had been connected with the nationalist movement.⁴ The major was closely watched by the Japanese police, but he was still active among the Eurasians, the Ambonese, the former military people, and later also among our students.

Officially I was almost always in the mountains in Tjipanas. The nationalists who were working with the Japanese politically were naturally somewhat unfriendly toward me.⁵

Eind '42 of begin '43 kreeg Sjahrir ook een vaste verblijfplaats in Batavia:

*'I received an offer from a Dutch lady who was soon to be interned, to rent her house in Batavia inexpensively, and I made use of the opportunity to set up a station there. During the last year, in fact, I was in Batavia more than in Tjipanas.'*⁵

Wij leiden uit dit nogal mager relaas af dat Sjahrir er in hoofdzaak in is geslaagd, in de steden op Java kernen van gelijkgezinden te vormen, dat hij regelmatig uit Geallieerde radio-uitzendingen berichten kreeg over het verloop van de oorlog en dat hij 'some weapons' verwierf van Chinezen — hij heeft die wapens niet laten gebruiken. Hij heeft voorts, naar wij aannemen, nieuwsberichten en andere informatie doorgegeven,

¹ de Indische Nederlanders ² De naam van de Fransman is niet bekend, de Ceylonese was een nationalist, Tambu, die eerst van Ceylon naar Singapore en vervolgens vandaar naar Batavia was uitgeweken. ³ Uit hoofdstuk 8 zal blijken dat Tambu de Japanners aanzienlijk belangrijker diensten bewees. ⁴ Majoor Santoso, een van de Javaanse officieren van het Knil. ⁵ Sjahrir: *Out of exile*, p. 240-48.