



Adenan Kapau Gani: A Doctor in the Struggle of Indonesia's Diplomacy (1945-1949)

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.47814/ijssrr.v6i11.1676>

Abstract

Adenan Kapau Gani is a doctor who has devoted almost his entire life to fighting for Indonesian independence. He is one of the nation's figures who has expertise in diplomacy, especially during the period of defending Indonesian independence. In this regard, this article intends to analyze: (1) the reasons behind dr. A. K. Gani's expertise in diplomacy; (2) the initial involvement of dr. A. K. Gani in the diplomatic struggle; (3) the contribution of dr. A. K. Gani in the diplomatic struggle during the period of defending Indonesian independence. The research method used in this case is historical, with stages which include heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The results showed that Gani's proficiency in diplomacy was derived from his experience in the organization since he was a medical student. Gani's involvement in the diplomatic struggle began when he became the Resident of Palembang. He was involved in several negotiations with Japan and Sekutu to fight for people's interests. Gani's role in the diplomatic struggle expanded when he became the Minister of Welfare for three cabinet terms. He was assigned as an Indonesian delegation representing the Indonesian Government in several conferences and negotiations to seek de facto and de jure recognition of Indonesian independence.

Keywords: *Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani; Diplomacy; Defending Independence*

Introduction

Adenan Kapau Gani is a doctor born in Palembang, September 16, 1905, who spent almost his entire life fighting for the independence and sovereignty of the Indonesian nation.¹ Gani has been actively involved in the national movement since taking his medical education at STOVIA at the age of

¹ Susetyo, B., Gani, P., & Wahayuni, M. (2022). Peran Adnan Kapau Gani dalam Perjuangan Militer Daerah Sumatera Selatan Tahun 1945-1949. *Historia Madania*, 6(1), 78-81.

18.² Gani then made political parties a vehicle for his struggle. He first entered the world of politics by joining as a member of Partindo which was open and non-cooperative towards the Dutch East Indies government.³ And founding a new party, Gerindo, on May 24, 1937, with him as chairman.⁴

His role in the struggle continues to grow when he decides to move to Palembang. According to Imran et al, he became one of the important figures who led and mobilized the struggle of the people there.⁵ On this basis, he was increasingly trusted to occupy various important positions in the struggle. One of them is in Indonesia's diplomatic struggle. During the period of defending independence, Gani began to be actively involved in various negotiations to realize peace and national sovereignty, both at the local level and international forums.⁶

Several studies have been published regarding dr. Gani among others, is a book by Ruben Nalanan and Iskandar Gani entitled "Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer", published in 1990, which discusses the life of dr. Adenan Kapau Gani, starting from his background and struggle for Indonesia in various fields, to the view of other national figures regarding him. The book by Agus Nugroho, et al entitled "Sosok Pejuang Bangsa Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani", published in 2009, examines dr. A.K. Gani as a people's fighter, doctor, and entrepreneur. Finally, an article written by Berlian Susetyo, et al entitled "Peran Adnan Kapau Gani dalam Perjuangan Militer Daerah Sumatra Selatan Tahun 1945-1949", published in 2022, examines Gani's contribution to the military field in South Sumatra.

From the previous studies listed above, there has been no research that specifically discusses Gani's personality as a doctor who is good at diplomacy. The study of dr. Adenan Kapau Gani in Indonesia's diplomatic struggle during the period of defending independence will provide a new perspective in seeing and emulating this figure's struggle. It can also enrich the narrative of the history of Indonesia's diplomatic struggle, especially during the period of defending independence. Therefore, the author is interested in discussing further the matters behind dr. Adenan Kapau Gani in diplomacy, early involvement, and his contribution in various diplomacy struggles to defend independence (1946-1949).

Research Method

In this study, the method used is historical. Data collection and analysis were carried out following the stages of historical research which included heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography.⁷ At the heuristic stage, the researcher collected various sources, both primary and secondary. Primary sources are records of events, both oral and written, that are contemporaneous or close to the event. Meanwhile, secondary sources include writings or works that contain primary sources.⁸ In this research, researchers collected various primary and secondary sources related to the involvement of dr. Adenan Kapau Gani in the diplomatic struggle during the defense of Indonesian independence. Researchers tracked primary sources by visiting the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia, the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia, and Delpher.

² Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 15.

³ Jazimah, I. (2016). S.K. Trimurti: *Pejuang Perempuan Indonesia*. *Sejarah Dan Budaya*, 10(1), 47.

⁴ Nalanan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 11.

⁵ Imran, A., Iskandar, M., Leirissa, R. Z., Zuhdi, S., & Tulistyowati, G. A. W. (2012). *Indonesia dalam Arus Sejarah: Perang dan Revolusi*. Jakarta: Ichtiar Baru van Hoeve, 140.

⁶ Nalanan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 102.

⁷ Daliman, A. (2018). *Metode Penelitian Sejarah*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Ombak, 25.

⁸ Pranoto, S. W. (2010). *Teori dan Metodologi Sejarah*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu, 33.

At the criticism stage, external and internal assessments are carried out on the sources that have been collected so that their truth or accuracy is tested.⁹ The third stage is interpretation, where the researcher describes and synthesizes the sources that have been collected and criticized.¹⁰ Interpretation is carried out to obtain unity of meaning and connection between sources that have been previously criticized.¹¹ In the final stage, namely historiography, the researcher presents sources regarding the involvement of dr. Adenan Kapau Gani in the diplomatic struggle to defend Indonesia's independence, which had gone through previous stages in written form.

Result and Discussion

Gani's Skills in Organizing

Responding to the situation of the Indonesian nation, which at that time was experiencing many difficulties due to colonialism and foreign imperialism, Gani was actively involved in various organizations or groups fighting for the people's interests to be able to escape that situation. He has the character of a brave, confident, adaptive, and populist.¹² Gani has well-developed social skills, through his experience in organizing since he studied to become a doctor in Batavia.

While studying, Gani was involved in various youth organizations, such as *Jong Sumatranen Bond* and *Persatuan Pemuda Pelajar Indonesia* (PPPI). He had been the manager of the *Indonesische Club* building and lived there. This building was a place that was often used by youth movements at that time to meet, gather, and exchange opinions regarding the condition of the nation. Through the association in this building, Gani actively held discussions with various youth leaders who also had the same thoughts as him in addressing various events in the Dutch East Indies. In the end, Gani also played an important role in helping organize the *Pemuda II* Congress. Even though he was not a congress committee member, Gani donated some funds which greatly supported the implementation of the congress. Through these youth associations and activities, Gani's thoughts are increasingly developing critically in addressing the condition of his nation. His life in Batavia not only increased his knowledge in the field of medical science, but also shaped him into a politically capable, brave to think and act against all forms of colonialism.¹³

He has the principle of upholding the unity and integrity of the Indonesian nation at every step of his struggle, so the interactions he builds with various kinds of people and interests in the organization cannot be separated from efforts to realize this principle. As a person, Gani never hesitates in making decisions, expressing attitudes, and acting. When he became leader of the Gerindo party, at the party's first meeting in August 1937, through his speech, Gani stated to the public that Gerindo would be cooperative and uphold the principle of gotong royong to fight against anything that violates democracy.¹⁴ The party he led was also open in terms of membership, accepting various non-indigenous groups, including Indo-Europeans, Indo-Chinese, and Indo-Arabs.¹⁵

⁹ Sjamsuddin, H. (2012). *Metodologi Sejarah*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Ombak, 103.

¹⁰ Kuntowijoyo. (2013). *Pengantar Ilmu Sejarah*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Tiara Wacana, 78-79.

¹¹ Sulistiyono, S. T., Amaruli, R. J., & Sarji, S. (2023). Writing 'Anniversary' in Historical Perspective: A Way to Find Identity. *Indonesian Historical Studies*, 7(1), 52.

¹² Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 15.

¹³ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 11-16.

¹⁴ De Sumatra Post. (1937, August 13). *Archipel Wat de Gerindo Wil, Parlementarisme En Staatsexploitatie, Bestrijding van Anti-Democratische Stroomingen*.

¹⁵ Algemeen Handelsblad. (1939, August 3). *Lidmaatschap van Gerindo Voor Niet-Inlanders Opegesteld*.

Gani's high level of initiative and concern for the people around him can be seen clearly in the events of the arrival of Japanese troops to Palembang in 1942. Through Japanese paratroopers, they began carrying out military operations in Palembang, and succeeded in controlling the airport and several military points.¹⁶ This attack by the Japanese military forces caused the city situation to become chaotic and many people were injured. Under these conditions, Gani later emerged as one of the figures who took the initiative to deal with victims of Japanese violence. By establishing a social group called *Penolong Keamanan Oemoem*. Amid a feeling of panic and hatred that was thick at that time, Gani as a doctor who was close to the humanitarian field was able to invite and awaken the people around him, especially medical personnel to be concerned, and work together to take various actions to overcome the impact of the Japanese attack at that time.¹⁷

Towards the end of the Japanese rule, Gani who was skilled in giving speeches, made the Japanese government entrust him with propagating Japanese nationalism to all the people of South Sumatra. As a member of the national movement, Gani used this opportunity in reverse. He took advantage of this opportunity to spread the spirit of Indonesian nationalism directly to all the people of South Sumatra. He packaged this spirit of Indonesian nationalism and voiced it through a series of words in his speeches in various regions of South Sumatra, implicitly calling on the people to rise and fight against colonialism and imperialism of any nation.¹⁸

With this personality, basically since the beginning Gani already has the seeds of diplomacy skills. According to S.L. Roy's main element in diplomacy is negotiation.¹⁹ A person can be said to be proficient in negotiating if he has a calm, self-controlled, creative, ethical, firm, and fair attitude. Negotiators need to appear as good listeners, have patience, persistence, and a variety of knowledge. To be skilled at negotiating, he must have a special ability to respond something by taking into personal sensitivity to feel what is going on precisely.²⁰ A number of these criteria are following Gani's personality which has been described previously. He is a reliable organizer who has qualified social skills. These skills allow him to become proficient as a negotiator, build interactions with various people properly and correctly, be easily understand others and understood by others.²¹

The Beginning of Gani's Involvement in the Diplomatic Struggle

Gani's initial involvement in the diplomatic struggle began when he became the Resident of Palembang in August 1945.²² As the Resident of Palembang at that time, Gani had a difficult task. Amid the newly established government of Palembang apart from Japan, Gani was required to organize various fields, especially in matters relating to people's welfare. He must immediately seek to establish security and order in Palembang society, as well as formulate ways to ensure that economic movements can be fully under the control of the Resident Government. This needs to be done as a precaution, considering

¹⁶ Leeuwarder Courant. (1942, February 16). *Binnenland de Oorlog in Nederlandsch-Indie Valschermtroepen Bezetten Vliegveld van Palembang*.

¹⁷ Said, A. (2007). *Bumi Sriwijaya Bersimbah Darah: Perjuangan Rakyat Semesta Menegakkan Republik Indonesia di Ujung Selatan Sumatera*. Jakarta: Yayasan Krama Yudha, 27-28.

¹⁸ Zed, M. (2003). *Kepialangan, Politik, dan Revolusi: Palembang, 1900-1950*. Jakarta: LP3ES, 268-269.

¹⁹ Prayuda, R., & Sundari, R. (2019). Diplomasi dan Power: Sebuah Kajian Analisis. *Journal of Diplomacy and International Studies*, 2(01), 84.

²⁰ Sumbeiywo, L. (2014). *Menjadi seorang negosiator: Strategi dan taktik*. Swiss: ETH Zurich, 13.

²¹ Beheshtifar, M., & Norozy, T. (2013). Social Skills: A Factor to Employees' Success. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 3(3), 75.

²² Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 35.

that the Palembang region has an important position in trade activities in the Dutch East Indies.²³ This region has high economic potential in terms of geographical location (strategic port connecting Java and Malacca) and natural resources (various plantation and mining products).²⁴ So there is a huge potential for political power struggles involving various parties, especially foreign nations.²⁵

Armed with the skills and experience as an organizer in the previous movement, Gani was able to make several policies that had a positive impact on the Palembang Residency. Following the principle of the Indonesian struggle upheld by the central government, namely diplomacy.²⁶ So to overcome the Japanese who still controlled several resources in Palembang and did not want to give their weapons to the residency government, Gani did not allow traders in Palembang to sell food ingredients to the Japanese military. After doing this, he then entered into negotiations with the Japanese military, that Japanese troops would be allowed to return to get food, if Japan was willing to surrender its weapons. This negotiation was successful, the Japanese troops were willing to give their weapons.²⁷ They finally agreed to cooperate and not interfere in any Republican policies. The takeover of several regional resources that were previously controlled by Japan, could also be quite easy to do.

This situation resulted in the life of Palembang people being relatively stable when the Sekutu Forces arrived, compared to other regions in Indonesia. The movement of the Palembang Government which relatively quick took over all the important resources and facilities from the Japanese troops, made Sekutu's hidden intention to control various resources in the Palembang Residency impossible to materialize. During the transitional period of government before the arrival of Sekutu, the Residency Government had reorganized the management system for plantations, factories, and mines in its territory so that the production process could run well and bring maximum results. Gani, who at that time realized that Sekutu wanted resources in his government area especially oil, then used this as a tool to negotiate with Sekutu through a policy of oil diplomacy. The government, as the holder of concession rights, allowed Sekutu to act as investors in oil installations in Plaju and Sungai Gerong. With this policy, Gani as the resident was able to control the movement of Sekutu and benefit from royalties, as well as a two-proceed sharing system from Sekutu. This agreement also does not interfere with the need for oil for national interests, because this can still be fulfilled through oil installations in the interior of the residency which are not included in the negotiation category, and are fully managed by the government under Permiri's authority.²⁸

Through this diplomacy, Gani as the representative of the government in Palembang, was able to properly emphasize to Sekutu that their presence in Palembang was only to disarm the Japanese army, take care of the Japanese prisoners, and return them to their place of origin. Apart from that, all government authority in Palembang is fully in the hands of residents, and may not be interfered by

²³ Susanti, H. (2023). Trade Constellation of Ethnic Groups of Bumiputera, Arab, Chinese, India, and European in Palembang City of 1945–1950. *Proceedings of the Fifth Sriwijaya University Learning and Education International Conference (SULE-IC 2022)*, Palembang: Universitas Sriwijaya, 308.

²⁴ Jumhari. (2010). *Sejarah Sosial Orang Melayu, Keturunan Arab, dan Cina di Palembang: Dari Masa Kesultanan Palembang Hingga Reformasi*. Padang: BPNST Padang Press, 24-30.

²⁵ Susanti, H. (2023). Trade Constellation of Ethnic Groups of Bumiputera, Arab, Chinese, India, and European in Palembang City of 1945–1950. *Proceedings of the Fifth Sriwijaya University Learning and Education International Conference (SULE-IC 2022)*, Palembang: Universitas Sriwijaya, 308.

²⁶ Nasution, A. (1977). *Sekitar Perang Kemerdekaan Indonesia Jilid 2 Diplomasi atau Bertempur*. Bandung: Disjarah-AD & Penerbit Angkasa, 144.

²⁷ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 240-241.

²⁸ Zed, M. (2003). *Kepialangan, Politik, dan Revolusi: Palembang, 1900-1950*. Jakarta: LP3ES, 359-360.

Sekutu. All resources in the residency area belong to the government, and may not be used or taken by Sekutu without permission and agreement with the Residency Government.²⁹

His skills in building good social communication also brought him to become one of the key figures in Palembang, in facing the economic blockade imposed by the Dutch. He was able to build good relations and connections with Chinese traders in Palembang and Singapore, who were both disadvantaged by the economic blockade policy. At that time, Chinese merchant ships also experienced arrests. About 40 merchant ships and 400 crew members were captured by the Dutch.³⁰ Due to the same difficulties, the residents and several Chinese traders agreed to work together. The Chinese traders became intermediary traders who secretly brought agricultural produce from the residency area to exchange for the needs of the people's struggle in the form of weapons, military equipment, and so on in Singapore. With this Sumatra-Singapore trading activity, the military struggle needs of the divisions of the Southern Sumatra Command can be adequately met compared to military divisions in other regions.³¹ This trade in the Dutch perspective is said to be illegal. But in the context of the Indonesian struggle at that time, this can be said to be valid.³² Considering that this activity was carried out as one of the effective steps to support the stability of the government and the interests of people, amid the Dutch economic blockade which prevented the fulfillment of the necessities of life for the Indonesian people, even though at that time Indonesia had proclaimed itself as an independent and sovereign country.³³

With his policy of prioritizing negotiations with various parties, both local and foreign, Gani was able to control the stability of various elements in the government, including the movement of the Indonesian Republic Army. So Palembang did not become a fighting area at that time. This area has become the center of busy trading activities. Gani was able to bring Palembang to a state of peace during the last six months of his reign.³⁴ He succeeded in becoming one of the important figures in Sumatra. This is proven by several strategic positions in South Sumatra and at the Sumatran level that he has held, starting from Resident of Palembang, coordinator of PNI Sumatra, Young Governor of South Sumatra, organizer and coordinator of TKR Sumatra, Deputy Minister of Defense for Sumatra, to the Military Governor of the Special Military Region of South Sumatra.³⁵ Even Journalist Morisson, one of the foreign journalists who visited various regions in South Sumatra in October 1946 to see the condition of the people there, said that during that trip, he saw that the people of South Sumatra had great attention towards Gani. According to him, Dr. Gani was one of the leaders who was loved by the people of Palembang.³⁶

Gani's Role in the Diplomatic Struggle to Represent Indonesia

His success in leading South Sumatra has brought him to greater roles and responsibilities. On October 2, 1946, he officially became Minister of Welfare during the government of the Syahrir III Cabinet. Gani's role in the diplomatic struggle has expanded in scope since he took up that position. The choice of Gani to be involved in the cabinet cannot be separated from the connection between his figures

²⁹ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 200-201.

³⁰ Abubakar, A., Krisdiana, R., Sukarya, U., Santun, D. I. M., Adiyanto, J., Maliati, R., Wibawa, M. A., & Akbar, A. (2020). *Oedjan Mas di Bumi Sriwijaya*. Jakarta: Bank Indonesia Institute, 169.

³¹ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 74.

³² Yeo, W. (2012). *Palembang in the 1950s: The Making and Unmaking of a Region* [Dissertation]. University of Washington, 40.

³³ Riana, R. (2013). Perkembangan Perminyakan di Sumatera Selatan Tahun 1945-1950. *Criksetra: Jurnal Pendidikan Sejarah*, 2(2), 8.

³⁴ Nasution, A. (1978). *Sekitar Perang Kemerdekaan Indonesia Jilid 4 Periode Linggajati*. Bandung: Disjarah-AD & Penerbit Angkasa, 362.

³⁵ Imran, A., Iskandar, M., Leirissa, R. Z., Zuhdi, S., & Tulistyowati, G. A. W. (2012). *Indonesia dalam Arus Sejarah: Perang dan Revolusi*. Jakarta: Ichtiar Baru van Hoeve, 140.

³⁶ Antara. (1946, October 17). "Dr. A.K. Gani Adalah Salah Seorang Pemimpin Jang Disajangi Rakjat" *Kata Morrison*.

who are known to be proficient in diplomacy, and the mandate given to the Syahrir III Cabinet to carry out negotiations with the Netherlands and cooperation between countries, to seek *de jure* and *de facto* recognition of Indonesian independence.³⁷ Therefore as Minister of Welfare, apart from organizing matters relating to economic development, Gani also has the task of being involved in state negotiation matters.

Gani was included in the composition of the delegation specially formed by the cabinet to conduct negotiations with the Netherlands along with several names, like Syahrir, Amir Syarifuddin, Moh.Rum, Leimena, Susanto, Sudarsono and Ali Budiardjo.³⁸ He has been the country's representative several times in negotiations with the Netherlands and international conferences. While serving as

Minister of Welfare, Gani's diplomatic activities began with negotiations between the Netherlands and Indonesia mediated by the British in Jakarta. In the negotiations that took place during the month of October, the Indonesian side was represented by Syahrir as chairman and A.K. Gani as one of the members, the Netherlands was represented by Schermerhorn, and the UK was represented by Lord Killearn.³⁹

Through these negotiations, an agreement was produced between the Republicans and the Netherlands to hold a ceasefire and form an Indonesian-Dutch civil affairs committee that would handle it. Gani in this case was appointed as one of Indonesia's representatives on the committee, together with Amir Syarifuddin. Based on carrying out their duties, Gani and other committee members then made visits to various regions in Indonesia to deal with various civil matters related to the ceasefire and the withdrawal of British troops. Gani's involvement became more intense in follow-up meetings which also discussed matters related to the ceasefire up to the Linggajati negotiations on 11-15 November 1946. In the Linggajati negotiations, Gani was also a member of the Indonesian delegation with Leimena, Moh. Rum, A.K. Pringgodigdo, Susanto Tirtoprojo, Sudarsono, Ali Budiardjo, Amir Syarifuddin, and Syahrir as chairman. Gani and other figures from the Indonesian-Dutch delegation, in these negotiations worked together to draft a text to be agreed.⁴⁰

The manuscript was successfully initialed on November 15. And then brought to each parliament for mutual agreement. Due to the pros and cons, the results of these negotiations took a long time to be officially ratified. Both on the Dutch and Republican Governments, there parties were dissatisfied with the points in the text of the agreement. These pros and cons further bring about differences in interpretation between the Indonesian and Dutch parties regarding the Linggajati manuscript. The Dutch wanted a one-sided interpretation of Linggajati, while the Republic wanted Linggajati as written, which fully recognized the *de facto* independence of the Republic.⁴¹ After first attempting internal negotiations between the Netherlands and the Republic, as well as negotiations between the Indonesian-Dutch Governments, the results of these negotiations could only be officially ratified by the Indonesian-Dutch parties on March 25, 1947.⁴²

³⁷ Hoesein, R. (2010). *Terobosan Sukarno dalam Perundingan Linggarjati*. Jakarta: Penerbit Buku Kompas, 147-148.

³⁸ Toer, P. A., Toer, K. S., & Kamil, E. (1999). *Kronik Revolusi Indonesia Jilid II (1946)*. Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, 437.

³⁹ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 39-40.

⁴⁰ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 103-105.

⁴¹ De Heerenveensche Koerier. (1947, May 14). *Dr. Gani Over de Economische Onderhandeligen, Naar Arbitrage?*.

⁴² Sari, D. I., Syah, I., & Basri, M. (2014). Tinjauan Historis Implementasi Isi Perjanjian Linggarjati Indonesia dan Belanda Tahun 1946-1947. *Pesagi: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Penelitian Sejarah*, 2(4).2-3.



Fig.1. Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani as a representative from Indonesia and P. Boer as a representative from the Dutch respectively are signing the Linggajati Agreement Text in Jakarta.
Source: Indonesian Press Photo Service, SIKN ANRI.

Unfortunately, this agreement was signed when its full implementation could no longer be expected. The Dutch did not show any intention to cooperate in implementing this agreement.⁴³ The differences in interpretation of the Linggajati Agreement cannot be ended. This led to the Dutch betraying the results of the negotiations. They carried out many activities that did not respect the peace agreement in the Linggajati negotiations. According to Said, from the start the Dutch did not show any intention to cooperate and stop the fighting instead, they intensified their various provocations which triggered fighting again with the Indonesian people in several areas.⁴⁴ Like in Palembang, the Dutch carried out the kidnapping and shooting of national fighters which sparked the anger of the struggle figures in Palembang. This anger also erupted through the battle between the Dutch and the military government of Palembang, on 1-5 January 1947.⁴⁵ In this battle, the fighters succeeded in putting up fierce resistance which resulted large losses in the Dutch troops.⁴⁶ However, considering that among the people of Palembang there also many victims and quite a lot of losses as a result of this battle. So on January 5, the central government carried out negotiating efforts to realize a ceasefire agreement between the two. In these negotiations, Gani was sent by the central government to get involved.

As one of the figures who still has great influence in South Sumatra, Gani is considered by the government to be the right person to become his representative to stop the fighting. The ceasefire negotiations brokered by Gani were tough. But in the end, it could also result in a ceasefire agreement between the local government of Palembang and the Netherlands.⁴⁷ After the end of Syahrir III's cabinet, Gani continued to occupy the same position as Minister of Welfare until the next cabinet, namely the cabinets of Amir Syarifuddin I and II (3 July 1947-May 1948).⁴⁸

⁴³ Van Der Kroef, J. M. (1953). Dutch Policy and the Linggadjati Agreement, 1946-1947. *The Historian*, 15(2), 187.

⁴⁴ Said, A. (2007). *Bumi Sriwijaya Bersimbah Darah: Perjuangan Rakyat Semesta Menegakkan Republik Indonesia di Ujung Selatan Sumatera*. Jakarta: Yayasan Krama Yudha, 137-140.

⁴⁵ Ravico, & Susetyo, B. (2020). Merekonstruksi Sejarah Sub Komandemen Sumatera Selatan: Studi Historis terhadap Koleksi Museum Subkoss Garuda Sriwijaya. *Tamaddun: Jurnal Kebudayaan Dan Sastra Islam*, 20(1), 3.

⁴⁶ Toer, P. A., Toer, K. S., & Kamil, E. (2001). *Kronik Revolusi Indonesia Jilid III (1947)*. Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, 3.

⁴⁷ Said, A. (2007). *Bumi Sriwijaya Bersimbah Darah: Perjuangan Rakyat Semesta Menegakkan Republik Indonesia di Ujung Selatan Sumatera*. Jakarta: Yayasan Krama Yudha, 217.

⁴⁸ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 44.

Coinciding with Gani continuing his role as Minister of Welfare during the cabinet of Amir Sjarifuddin I, at the same time the Dutch officially declared that they no longer respected the results of the Linggajati negotiations by carrying out Military Aggression on July 21, 1947. In overcoming this military aggression, Gani who at that time also held concurrent positions as Deputy Prime Minister with Prime Minister Amir Syarifuddin planned a defense with several principles including mobilizing all the people's power to face the Dutch troops, and attracting the sympathy of countries in the world by increasing efforts to struggle diplomacy. The diplomatic efforts that Indonesia has been building so far have shown results, good relations with India made the Prime Minister react when he heard of the Dutch attack on Indonesia by bringing this issue to the UN Security Council meeting with Australia. The security council finally decided to seek a ceasefire and peace between Indonesia and the Netherlands.⁴⁹ For this reason, a UN committee was formed whose task to help resolve the conflict between Indonesia and the Netherlands, namely *Panitia Jasa-Jasa Baik* which later became the Committee of Good Office or *Komisi Tiga Negara* (America, Belgium, and Australia).⁵⁰ Before the arrival of *Panitia Jasa-Jasa Baik* to Indonesia, Gani sent a wire to the security council to describe the actual situation in Indonesia. This wire was sent by Gani as a firm response to the Dutch's unilateral statement about the Van Mook line which claimed power in several areas, reducing the territory of the Republic to only one-third of the island of Java, including Banten, Yogyakarta, Magelang, Surakarta, and Malang. In the wire, Gani said that:

*“Dutch troops occupied the big cities and the main roads between the cities. The area around the towns, the area bordering the main road, remained under Republican control. Contact on-site with the Republican Army is continuing with its headquarters, and the Republican Civil Government is still functioning as intended. As soon as the Dutch succeeded in occupying several towns and main roads, they announced that the entire area was on the same demarcation line and was included on the map as "Terra Nederlandica". Then followed by a cleaning operation that cannot be turned off. It is not surprising at all when there is a fierce battle that is difficult to stop. The movement of the Dutch troops was a penetration, not an occupation. The opinion of the Dutch was unacceptable, that the penetration area was an area that was already controlled”.*⁵¹

Gani who during the First Dutch Military Aggression was in Jakarta, was one of the spearheads in connecting the Republican Government in Yogyakarta and the Dutch Government in Jakarta, especially in efforts to realize a ceasefire including welcoming the arrival of *Panitia Jasa-Jasa Baik*. He accompanied representatives of this committee who arrived in Jakarta on October 27 to Yogyakarta on October 29, to meet Bung Karno, Hatta, Prime Minister Amir Syarifuddin, and other national figures. The meeting between *Panitia Jasa-Jasa Baik* and national figures in Yogyakarta was to plan re-negotiations between Indonesia and the Netherlands which were finally agreed to be held on the Renville Ship which would be anchored three miles from Tanjung Priok Beach. In the Renville negotiations, Gani was not directly involved because he was assigned to carry out other diplomatic duties, namely leading the Indonesian delegation in fulfilling the invitation of the UN Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, to attend the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment which was held on November 21-March 24, 1948 in Havana, Cuba.⁵²

The departure of Gani and the other Indonesian delegation to Havana was carried out without the knowledge of the Dutch government in Indonesia. This was done to avoid conflict because at that time the Dutch still had not recognized Indonesia as an independent nation and were still making efforts to take

⁴⁹ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 123-126.

⁵⁰ Toer, P. A., Toer, K. S., & Kamil, E. (2001). *Kronik Revolusi Indonesia Jilid III (1947)*. Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, 384.

⁵¹ Kahin, G. M. (2003). *Nationalism and Revolution in Indonesia*. New York: Southeast Asia Program Publications, 218-219.

⁵² Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 127-129.

over power from the Indonesian government.⁵³ In this departure, Gani also received the task of full powers as Minister of Welfare to make negotiations and agreements with various parties abroad.⁵⁴

On his way to Havana, Gani stopped in Singapore, Amsterdam, and New York. During his stopover, Gani conducted interviews with local media to describe the current conditions in Indonesia from a Republican perspective, so that people abroad could know what was happening in Indonesia. In his interview with the Singaporean press, when he was asked regarding the Indonesian economy, whether he had any objections to Dutch capital and technicians, Gani answered firmly that the Indonesian people were fighting against Dutch politics, not against their personalities. He explained that he even had a good friend who was Dutch.⁵⁵ With this statement, Gani was indirectly able to clearly illustrate to other nations that Indonesia is open to cooperating with any nation in various fields, of course with an equal position. What the Indonesian people are fighting against and don't want is the practice of colonialism and imperialism.

In his meeting with Dutch media at Schiphol Airport on November 14, Gani explained the Republic's true position in fighting for independence.⁵⁶ Gani said that the Indonesian people demanded their political rights and were optimistic about the struggle to realize that.⁵⁷ This statement strengthens his previous argument in an interview with the media in Singapore. He firmly told other nations in the world, that all this time there was nothing else that the Republic wanted and fought for, other than recognition of independence and sovereignty as a country. Gani and other members of the Indonesian delegation arrived in Havana on November 20. He had the opportunity to make a speech representing Indonesia on November 28. In his speech, Gani discussed the Dutch aggression on July 21 which resulted in economic development not being able to run smoothly.⁵⁸ Gani said that:

*“Since July 20, the republic has been the victim of an aggression that has turned a rich region into a desert. If the Dutch want to occupy more territory, the scorched earth policy will continue”.*⁵⁹

Gani's loud and brave statement at that conference, then received protests from the Dutch Delegation who considered that Gani had misused the conference invitation for political purposes and that his statement was a distortion of facts. In response to Dutch protests, Chair of the conference decided that due to the technical-economic nature of the conference, the delegates should refrain from making political statements, and asked the republican delegates to withdraw certain parts of their speeches. Dr. Gani then withdrew his words in his speech by stating that it was difficult to differentiate between economic and political problems in Indonesia.⁶⁰ Even so, Gani's speech succeeded in attracting attention and received appreciation from other conference participants.⁶¹

⁵³ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 45-46.

⁵⁴ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 131-132.

⁵⁵ Nieuwe Courant. (1947, November 12). *Interview Met Dr. Gani*.

⁵⁶ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 46.

⁵⁷ Het Dagblad. (1947, November 17). *Dr. Gani in Nederland, Goede Kans op Bereiken van Overeenstemming, Republiek Gaarne Bereid Nederland Concessies te Geven op Economisch Gebied, V.N. Hebben Ons De Jure Erkend*.

⁵⁸ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 46.

⁵⁹ De Locomotief. (1947, November 29). *Felle Aanval van Gani*.

⁶⁰ De Locomotief. (1947, December 1). *De Rede van Gani*.

⁶¹ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 47.



Fig.2. Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani with the Egypt, Turkey, and Pakistan Delegations at the United Nations Conference in Havana.

Source: Dr. A.K. Gani: *Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*, 1990.

Through this conference, Gani and other members of the Indonesian delegation successfully introduced Indonesia's name and strengthened the Republic's presence in international forums. They were even able to build cooperation between Indonesia and America through an agreement with Matthew Fox to form the Indonesian-American Corporation as a promoting, purchasing, and selling agency for the Indonesian Republic Government in the United States. This corporation was formed to be able to connect Indonesian parties with financiers, industrialists, publishers, newspapermen, and radioman.⁶²

The plan is that after attending the Havana conference, Gani will remain abroad for some time to build economic cooperation with various countries. However, this did not happen because Gani was asked to return to Indonesia by President Soekarno.⁶³ In July 1948, Gani was sent by the central government to review the economic situation in Sumatra. Coinciding Gani carried out these duties, the Dutch also carried out military aggression for the second time. In the chaos caused by this aggression, Gani who at that time was no longer serving as Minister of Welfare, was then appointed through deliberations between regional government leaders and the local military as well as a decision from the central government, to become the Military Governor of South Sumatra and lead the people there in guerrilla warfare.⁶⁴ After going through various battles, a ceasefire was implemented with the UN Security Council Resolution on January 24 and 28 which asked the Netherlands and Indonesia to stop their military attacks. As Military Governor, Gani acted as head of the Indonesian delegation in ceasefire negotiations with the Dutch in South Sumatra, assisted by Lt. Col. Ibnu Sutowo and Mr. Hazairin as his deputy, and Patih Raden Mohammad Ali Amin as secretary. A ceasefire was then agreed and Dutch troops were successfully withdrawn from South Sumatra.⁶⁵ The struggle for independence through diplomacy carried out by Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani shows us how committed the Indonesian fighters were at that time, to continue prioritizing a struggle based on humanity amidst emotional feelings that had to be contained. Although

⁶² Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 135-137.

⁶³ Het Dagblad. (1948, May 14). *Dr. Gani Moest Naar Huis Komen*.

⁶⁴ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 47.

⁶⁵ Nalenan, R., & Gani, I. (1990). *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil dan Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 91-93.

not all of the diplomatic efforts that Gani was involved in produced concrete results, these diplomatic efforts were important steps in the history of the struggle to defend independence. Gani's courage and determination in diplomacy to fight for the rights of the nation and state is something that should be appreciated. Considering that all the diplomatic struggles carried out during the defense of independence also had a big influence in building Indonesia's image in the eyes of the international world.⁶⁶ Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani is one of the many medical figures in the nation's history who devoted themselves to the struggle for Indonesian independence.⁶⁷ For his services, Adenan Kapau Gani was later awarded the title of National Hero of Indonesia based on Presidential Decree of the Republic of Indonesia Number: 068/TK/2007 (Susetyo et al., 2022: 80).⁶⁸

Conclusion

Adenan Kapau Gani was one of the republican doctors who entered politics to fight for Indonesian independence. He was trusted by the Indonesian government to represent the Republic in various interests related to diplomatic struggles, especially during the period of defending independence. Gani is considered by the government as one of the right person for the task, because he

has skills in negotiating and building cooperation. One of the main factors that build up Gani's skills was his experience in organizing since he studied to become a doctor in Batavia. Through the organization, Gani has well-developed social skills and good political knowledge. He became a brave, confident, adaptive, and populist. These skills and characters ultimately allow him to build interactions with various people appropriately, easily understand and be understood by others, and appear as a reliable diplomat.

Gani's involvement in the diplomatic struggle began when he became the Resident of Palembang. He was involved in several negotiations with Japan and Sekutu, to create stability, security, and prosperity in Palembang society. Despite being in a difficult position due to the age of the newly established government, during his reign Gani was able to initiate various effective policies and defend communication with various parties, so at that time the Palembang Residency area could be in a more stable condition, compared to other regions.

Gani's role in the diplomatic struggle expanded when he became Minister of Welfare during the Syahrir III Cabinet, Amir Syarifuddin I, and Amir Syarifuddin II Cabinets. He was assigned several times as an Indonesian delegation to represent the central government in various negotiations. During October 1946, Gani was involved in several negotiations between Indonesia and the Netherlands brokered by the British in Jakarta, culminating in the Linggajati negotiations. Gani has also led the Indonesian delegation to the United Nations Trade and Employment Conference. At this conference, Gani was able to introduce Indonesia to the world and establish good relations with several countries.

⁶⁶ Sukma, R. (1995). The Evolution of Indonesia's Foreign Policy: An Indonesian View. *Asian Survey*, 35(3), 307.

⁶⁷ Nugroho, A., Misman, M., Wiyadi, S. S., & Pristiwaningsih, E. (2009). *Sosok Pejuang Bangsa: Dr. Adenan Kapau Gani*. Jakarta: Museum Sumpah Pemuda, 49.

⁶⁸ Susetyo, B., Gani, P., & Wahayuni, M. (2022). Peran Adnan Kapau Gani dalam Perjuangan Militer Daerah Sumatera Selatan Tahun 1945-1949. *Historia Madania*, 6(1), 80.

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