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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to a visit by Dutch  
Prime Minister in February or March?  
(talks followed by lunch).

London SW1A 2AH

1 December, 1982

A.F.C. 1/12.

few taken,

May I look  
at the diary before we  
dash into any more engagements

Possible Meeting in London with the New Dutch Prime Minister

The Prime Minister will meet Mr Lubbers, the new Prime Minister of the Netherlands at the European Council, 3-4 December. She may like to consider taking the opportunity to invite him to visit London.

Mr Lubbers has little direct experience of international affairs, having served as Minister of Economic Affairs in den Uyl's 1973-77 Government and as his Party's Floor Leader since then. At French initiative, he will be seeing M. Mauroy in Paris on 8 December. The Germans are encouraging him to pay an early visit to Bonn. We should perhaps expose him also to British thinking before too long.

There are in addition two important subjects which it would be timely to discuss with the Dutch early next year: the Community, or more particularly the Budget, and INF stationing. This might point to February or March as the best time for a visit, if one can be fitted in. The European Council will be on 21-22 March and the issue of material preparations for INF deployment will be put before the Dutch Parliament in the Spring.

If the Prime Minister agrees in principle to extend an invitation, it would be helpful to have some possible dates which we could subsequently put to Mr Lubbers' office.

*Yes*  
*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street



1 DEC 1982

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