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Netherlands

RW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 January, 1983

VISIT OF NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 7 January. I note that Mr Lubbers has opted for 2 March as the date for his visit.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would see no difficulty in an invitation being extended to the Netherlands Foreign Minister as well.

I suggest that the talks should begin at 1130 hrs on 2 March and continue until lunchtime.

I agree that it would be useful to ask Mr Lubbers' Office whether he would like to meet any other senior Ministers.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), John Rhodes (Department of Trade), Robert Lowson (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. L. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

When will the talks begin -
can we say 11.30?

A.S.C. $\frac{7}{1}$

- ① OK for March 2d
- ② O.K. for talks
to start at
11.30.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 January 1983

John

Visit of Netherlands Prime Minister

Following your letter to me of 16 December, Mr Lubbers was offered the choice of a visit (talks, followed by lunch) on either 2 or 4 March. His office has informed the Embassy at The Hague that he would prefer 2 March.

The Embassy have also reported that Mr Lubbers hopes that the invitation can be extended to include Mr van den Broek, the Netherlands Foreign Minister. It is, apparently, the normal constitutional practice for the Dutch Foreign Minister to accompany the Prime Minister on overseas trips and it would create an awkwardness for the Dutch if we exclude him. Mr Pym therefore hopes it will be possible for the Prime Minister to agree to the Dutch request. Although Mr Pym will be in the United States on 2 March, Mr Hurd would be available to take part in the talks.

Would you let me know the time at which the Prime Minister would like the talks to start?

As this is Mr Lubbers' first official visit to London it may be useful to ask him whether he would like us to arrange a full day's programme. If the Prime Minister agrees, we will ask his office whether, if they are available, he would like to meet any other senior Ministers.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

John
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles, Esq
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57 JAN 1987

