

Netherlands

VISIT OF MR. LUBBERS: 2 MARCH, 1983

NOTES FOR AFTER-LUNCH SPEECH

WELCOME TO MR. LUBBERS, MR. VAN DEN BROEK AND THEIR OFFICIALS.

WE STILL REMEMBER WITH GREAT PLEASURE THE STATE VISIT LAST

NOVEMBER OF HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS
AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCE CLAUS OF THE NETHERLANDS.

IT WAS AN OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL EVENT AND A
TREMENDOUS DEMONSTRATION OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE
PEOPLE OF THE NETHERLANDS AND BRITAIN.

TODAY, A SPECIAL WELCOME TO MR. LUBBERS ON HIS FIRST OFFICIAL
VISIT TO BRITAIN AS PRIME MINISTER.

TO BE PRIME MINISTER AT 43 IS, IF I MAY SAY SO, NOT
BAD GOING.

WITH COUNTRIES AS CLOSE TO US AS THE NETHERLANDS IT IS NOT
NECESSARY TO REHEARSE THE THINGS THAT BIND US.

/EVERYONE

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOMS KNOWS OF:-

- OUR JOINT RESPECT FOR THE INSTITUTION OF MONARCHY,
- OUR SHARED HISTORY,
- OUR IMPERIAL EXPERIENCE, WHICH HAS GIVEN US BOTH
A SPECIAL VISION OF THE WORLD,
- OUR MARITIME BACKGROUND,
- OUR IMMENSELY STRONG LINKS IN TRADE AND TOURISM,

SOME OF YOU MAY BE LESS AWARE OF THE ROLE PLAYED IN ANGLO/DUTCH

RELATIONS BY THE MAN WITH WHOM THIS STREET AND HOUSE
IS CONNECTED - GEORGE DOWNING.

A MURKY ROLE IT WAS, TOO.

AT THE AGE OF 26 HE WAS CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE STAFF TO
CROMWELL'S FORCES.

SIX YEARS LATER HE WAS MADE AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE
WHERE HE DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS ENERGY TO SPYING ON OUR
/THEN

THEN GREAT TRADING AND NAVAL RIVAL.

IN 1664 HE WAS GIVEN THE LEASE OF THE SITE ON WHICH
THIS HOUSE STANDS.

HE THEN FELL FOUL OF CHARLES II WHO TOOK A GREAT DISLIKE
OF HIM AND SENT HIM BACK TO THE HAGUE.

BUT DUTCH INDIGNATION AGAINST DOWNING, BECAUSE NO
DOUBT OF HIS PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES, WAS SUCH THAT WITHIN
THREE MONTHS HE HAD TO FLEE THE COUNTRY.

HE WAS PROMPTLY ARRESTED FOR DESERTING HIS POST AND
CLAPPED IN THE TOWER FOR SIX WEEKS.

THEY KNEW HOW TO DEAL WITH AMBASSADORIAL SHORTCOMINGS
IN THOSE DAYS.

THOSE DAYS OF RIVALRY AND CONFLICT ARE LONG PAST.

OUR PRESENT AMBASSADOR DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME

/INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS AS GEORGE DOWNING.

HIS TASK IS TO DO ALL HE CAN TO PROMOTE THE
CLOSEST FRIENDSHIP WITH A COUNTRY FOR WHOM BRITAIN
HAS NOTHING BUT RESPECT AND ADMIRATION.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE AN INSTINCTIVE UNDERSTANDING FOR EACH
OTHER.

WE SHARE A PASSION FOR LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY.

WE ARE PRACTICAL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN PRINCIPLE AND
COMMONSENSE.

WE ARE FREE-TRADERS.

WE ARE COMMITTED MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND OF NATO.

FOR ALL THESE REASONS WE FIND PEOPLE OF THE NETHERLANDS THE
EASIEST OF VISITORS.

/WE AGREE

WE AGREE ABOUT MOST THINGS.

WHERE WE DISAGREE WE KNOW THAT OUR HABIT OF
SENSIBLE DISCUSSION CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

(Track).

PRIME MINISTER

①

VISIT OF MR. LUBBERS

I attach some notes for an after-lunch speech.

You will recall that you said that we would meet Dutch wishes as to the form of the talks. They have said that they would like the Foreign Minister, the Netherlands Ambassador and two officials to be present throughout. The Foreign Minister is called Mr. van den Broek. The officials are Mr. Holtslag and Mr de Hoop Scheffer.

On our side there will be Douglas Hurd, Philip Mansfield (our Ambassador in the Hague) and Alan Goodison (FCO). I suggest we meet in the White Drawing Room.

The following agenda is very much in line with Dutch thinking and suits us:-

- (a) Situation in the Netherlands - you may like to ask Mr. Lubbers how he has found his first few months in office.
- (b) East/West Relations. The particular subject here is INF. The briefs show that the Dutch position is rather delicate. You will want to ask Mr. Lubbers, to describe the Dutch attitude towards deployment. You will also want to make plain our position on the non-inclusion of British/French systems.
- (c) European Community. Our need for a Budget solution by June.
- (d) World economic problems and indebtedness.
- (e) Middle East.

A.S.C.

1 March, 1983