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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 February 1981

Dear Francis,

Call by the Dutch Ambassador

The Dutch Ambassador, Robbert Fack, called on the Prime Minister this morning to discuss her impending visit to The Netherlands. Apart from a brief discussion about the programme, the arrangements for the Prime Minister's call on Queen Beatrix and the constitutional relationship between the Dutch Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister, the only point of any substance mentioned by the Ambassador concerned the order in which subjects on the agenda should be taken.

The Ambassador said that his authorities were concerned that the agenda was so crowded as to make it unlikely that all the subjects on it would be dealt with. He wondered therefore if the Prime Minister could give an indication of which subjects she would like to take and in what order. The Prime Minister said that she thought the main topics would be:-

- (a) The EEC and its problems, notably the restructuring of the budget;
- (b) The EEC in the world context i.e. political co-operation, East/West relations, the Middle East and defence;
- (c) Relations with the new US Administration; and
- (d) Global economic problems.

The Prime Minister also commented that she would wish at some stage to mention the problems of non-tariff barriers within the EEC e.g. where insurance and civil aviation were concerned.

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In subsequent discussion, the Prime Minister agreed that it would probably make sense for her to take defence subjects and relations with President Reagan at the restricted session of talks before lunch and to deal with Community problems in the plenary session after lunch. Such bilateral problems as there were could be touched on over lunch.

The Ambassador told me on his way out that he thought his Prime Minister might well raise North/South problems at some stage in the discussions. Mr. Fack added that Mr. van Agt was well aware that he and the Prime Minister would not necessarily see eye to eye on the question of aid to the developing world.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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