

GRS 275

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM THE HAGUE 231115Z DEC 80
TO ROUTINE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 344 OF 23 DECEMBER

*From TOU to Mervyn
Prime Minister*

MP 29/12/80

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 180 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. AS WED HAVE BEEN TOLD BY TELEPHONE, MR VAN AGT HAS EMPHASISED TO ME HIS READINESS TO DEVOTE THE WHOLE OF 6 FEBRUARY TO PARTICIPATION IN MRS THATCHER'S PROGRAMME. IT IS THUS PLAIN THAT THE DUTCH ARE TAKING THE VISIT SERIOUSLY.

2. IT IS PLAIN FROM DISCUSSION WITH CONTACTS THAT DUTCH THINKING ON OBJECTIVES FOR THIS VISIT IS STILL AT A VERY EARLY STAGE. IT IS HOWEVER ALREADY CLEAR WHICH SUBJECTS WILL TAKE PRIDE OF PLACE :

(A) COMMUNITY MATTERS - NOTABLY RESTRUCTURING, THE CAP, AGRICULTURAL PRICES, THE 1982 BUDGET AND FISHERIES. ON RESTRUCTURING THE DUTCH WILL BE LIKELY TO STRESS THEIR DESIRE TO SEE AGREEMENT BE REACHED NO LATER THAN THE JUNE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON THE MAIN PRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE RESTRUCTURING PROCESS. YOUR RECENT TALKS WITH VAN DER KLAUW AND LORD BRIDGES'S DISCUSSIONS WITH POSTHUMUS MEYJES HAVE INDICATED PRESENT LINES OF DUTCH THINKING. MR VAN AGT WILL HOPE TO DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR CARRYING FORWARD AND DEVELOPING POLICIES DURING THE TWO PRESIDENCIES.

(B) POLITICAL COOPERATION. MR VAN AGT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON ALL THE MAIN AREAS OF CURRENT TENSION - INCLUDING AFGANISTAN, THE MIDDLE EAST, POLAND AND IRAN - IRAQ.

3. SUBJECTS FALLING OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY / POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK X HAVE CERTAINLY NOT BEEN SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT BY THE DUTCH, BUT AS YET WE KNOW OF NONE WHICH THEY INTEND TO RAISE. MR VAN AGT MAY HOWEVER WISH TO OFFER AN EXPLANATION - AND FAILING THAT SHOULD IN MY VIEW BE ASKED FOR ONE BY THE PRIME MINISTER - OF THE REASONS FOR THE CURRENT STRENGTH OF THE OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE NETHERLANDS, AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO COUNTER-ATTACK MORE BOLDLY. WE MUST NOT LET SLIP THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PLAIN THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE MAINTENANCE OF SOLIDARITY ON THE KEY QUESTIONS NOW FACING THE ALLIANCE.

TAYLOR

MINIMAL

WED

ECD (I)

ECD (E)

*cc No. 10
Mr. Ferguson
Defence J.*

CONFIDENTIAL