



PM Tours Abroad: Dec 80
 Visit to Netherlands:
 Admin

Prime Minister

Agree Annexes A+C?

Paul 27, Yes not

Ref. A04027

MR ALEXANDER

Prime Minister's Visit to The Hague, 6 February

The Prime Minister will be visiting The Hague on 6 February at the invitation of the Netherlands Prime Minister, Mr van Agt. This will be the Prime Minister's first bilateral visit to The Hague. The Dutch currently hold the Presidency of the European Community. This gives particular point to the visit. But the Dutch Prime Minister will also particularly welcome the attention paid to him by Mrs Thatcher by this visit, because of the prospect of Parliamentary elections, which must be held before May.

2. The Dutch, as hosts, will decide the shape of the discussions. They have suggested an hour of talks in the morning, starting at 1100 hours, after which the Prime Minister would have an audience of Queen Beatrix. This would be followed by lunch, to be given by Mr van Agt, followed by further talks. These would end with a joint press conference, after which the Prime Minister will be free to return to London.

3. The agenda for the talks will, so far as it has been possible to establish it, be concentrated mainly upon European Community matters and topics under discussion in political cooperation. It is also recommended that the Prime Minister should raise defence issues, in particular Dutch problems with Theatre Nuclear Forces. This would also provide an opportunity to discuss the new United States Administration's defence policies. Indeed, in his capacity as President of the European Council, Mr van Agt will no doubt be particularly glad to talk to the Prime Minister about the likely approach of President Reagan to a wider range of issues of interest to the European Community, given the prospect of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Washington. On present form she will be the first Community Head of Government to go there; there is no indication yet of plans for Mr van Agt to do so. As for other topics, the Prime Minister will need background briefing on South Africa, the North/South dialogue and possibly Chad, Cambodia and East Timor.

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4. An assessment of both United Kingdom and Dutch objectives is set out in Annexes A and B. A list of proposed briefs is at Annex C: the preparation of these will be coordinated by the Cabinet Office. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the Prime Minister is content with these arrangements. We will arrange for the briefs to reach you by Friday 30 January.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ReA'.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

19 January 1981

United Kingdom Objectives

1. To reaffirm the Government's commitment to Europe; to put across to the Dutch our views on European Community matters, particularly budget restructuring and the CAP, and to seek their support in view of their current tenure of the Presidency; to prepare the way for a smooth transfer of the Presidency to the United Kingdom on 1 July.
2. To demonstrate to the Dutch that their attitudes and concerns are of importance to us, particularly on the major international questions of concern to Europe and under discussion in political cooperation.
3. To emphasize the importance of ensuring the continued cohesion and effectiveness of the NATO alliance; and of maintaining solidarity over the role of nuclear weapons in NATO strategy and over decisions for strengthening Western Defences (including Theatre Nuclear Force Modernisation).

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Probable Dutch Objectives

1. To explain present lines of Dutch thinking on Community matters and to discuss the strategy for carrying forward and developing policies during the consecutive Dutch and British Presidencies. On restructuring, to stress their desire to see agreement reached no later than the June European Council on the broad principles to be followed in the restructuring discussions.
2. To exchange views with the Prime Minister on all the main areas of current international tension.
3. To gain electoral benefit from the visit of the Prime Minister.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, connected letters.

List of Briefs

1. Steering Brief
2. European Community Questions:
 - (i) Community Steering Brief
 - (ii) Restructuring (including CAP reform and 1981 agricultural prices)
 - (iii) 1981 Budget and Other Current Issues
 - (iv) Fisheries
 - (v) External Trade Questions
 - (vi) Political Co-operation
3. Defence and Arms Control (including Theatre Nuclear Forces)
4. East-West Relations (including Afghanistan, Poland and China)
5. Southern Africa
6. South-East Asia (Cambodia and East Timor - background only)
7. Middle East (including Iran/Iraq and Arab/Israel)
8. Chad (background only)
9. North/South Dialogue and Summit
10. The New United States Administration
11. The Netherlands: Internal Political Scene
12. The Netherlands: Internal Economic Scene

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Prime Minister's Visit to The Hague:
6 February

The Prime Minister has seen and approved your minute of 19 January together with its annexes.

MODBA

21 January 1981

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Parliament Street London SW1P 3AG

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Sir Douglas Wass GCB
Permanent Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

16 January 1981

See Robert.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE: 6 FEBRUARY

I have seen a copy of Teddy Youde's letter of 15 January.

I have only two ^{minor} comments, both concerning Annex C to the letter (the list of briefs). The first is that, as the Dutch are experiencing severe economic problems with some similarities to our own, I think it would be worth providing a separate brief to the Prime Minister on the internal economic scene in the Netherlands. This would entail splitting the brief at present listed as number 11 in the Annex into two parts, political and economic. My second point is that brief number 9, on the North/South dialogue should include some reference to the IMF/IBRD implications of the main issues, in which the Netherlands have a strong interest. We shall of course be happy to provide an appropriate passage in due course.

Yours ever,
Douglas

DOUGLAS WASS

cc Sir Frank Cooper GCB CMG
Sir Brian Hayes KCB
Sir Peter Carey KCB
Sir Kenneth Clucas KCB
C A Whitmore Esq
M D M Franklin Esq CB CMG
Sir Edward Youde KCMG

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 January 1981

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

L. S. Smith

Dear Robert,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE: 6 FEBRUARY

1. As you know, the Prime Minister will be visiting The Hague on 6 February at the invitation of the Netherlands Prime Minister, Mr van Agt. This will be the Prime Minister's first bilateral visit to The Hague. The Dutch currently hold the Presidency of the European Community but the Dutch Prime Minister will particularly welcome attention paid to him by Mrs Thatcher because of the prospect of Parliamentary elections, which must be held before May.
2. The Dutch, as hosts, will decide the shape of the discussions. They have suggested an hour of talks in the morning, starting at 1100 hours, after which the Prime Minister would have an audience of Queen Beatrix. This would be followed by lunch, to be given by Mr van Agt, followed by further talks. These would end with a joint press conference, after which the Prime Minister will be free to return to London.
3. The agenda for the talks will, so far as we have been able to establish, be limited to European Community matters and topics under discussion in political cooperation. We would recommend that, in addition, the Prime Minister raise defence issues, in particular Dutch problems with Theatre Nuclear Forces. This would also provide an opportunity to discuss the new United States Administration's defence policies. Indeed, Mr van Agt will no doubt be particularly glad to talk to the Prime Minister, in his capacity as President of the European Council, about the likely approach of President Reagan to a wider range of issues of interest to the European Community/the Ten, in the prospect of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Washington. On present form she will be the first Community Head of Government to go there; we know of no plans as yet for Mr van Agt to do so. As for other topics, the Prime Minister will need background briefing on South Africa, the North/South dialogue and possibly Chad, Cambodia and East Timor.

/4.

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/ 4. I attach at Annexes A and B our draft assessment of British and probable Dutch objectives and at Annex C a suggested list of briefs, the preparation of which might best be coordinated by the Cabinet Office unless you would prefer the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to do so.

Yours

Edward Youde

Edward Youde

cc: Sir Douglas Wass GCB
HM TREASURY
Sir Frank Cooper GCB CMG
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sir Brian Hayes KCB
MAFF
Sir Peter Carey KCB
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
Sir Kenneth Clucas KCB
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
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CABINET OFFICE

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ANNEX A

UK OBJECTIVES

1. To put across to the Dutch our views on European Community matters, particularly restructuring, and to seek their support in view of their current tenure of the Presidency; to prepare the way for a smooth transfer of the Presidency to the United Kingdom on 1 July.
2. To demonstrate to the Dutch that their attitudes and concerns are of importance to us, particularly on the major international questions of concern to Europe and under discussion in political cooperation.
3. To emphasize the importance of ensuring the continued cohesion and effectiveness of the NATO alliance; and of maintaining solidarity over decisions for strengthening western defences (including Theatre Nuclear Force Modernisation).



ANNEX B

PROBABLE DUTCH OBJECTIVES

1. To explain present lines of Dutch thinking on Community matters and to discuss the strategy for carrying forward and developing policies during the consecutive Dutch and British Presidencies. On re-structuring, to stress their desire to see agreement reached no later than the June European Council on the broad principles to be followed in the restructuring discussions.
2. To exchange views with the Prime Minister on all the main areas of current international tension.
3. To gain electoral benefit from the visit of the Prime Minister.



ANNEX C

LIST OF BRIEFS

1. Steering Brief
2. European Community questions:
 - (i) Community steering brief
 - (ii) Restructuring (including CAP reform and 1981 agricultural prices)
 - (iii) 1981 Budget
 - (iv) Fisheries
 - (v) External Trade Questions
 - (vi) Political Cooperation
3. Defence and Arms Control (including Theatre Nuclear Forces)
4. East-West relations (including Afghanistan, Poland and China)
5. Southern Africa
6. South-East Asia
7. Middle East (including Iran/Iraq and Arab/Israel)
8. Chad (Background)
9. North/South Dialogue and Summit
10. The new United States Administration
11. The Netherlands: Internal Political and Economic Scene