

Netherlands

MOPTA JEN

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FM THE HAGUE 231715Z JAN 81
TO ROUTINE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 24 OF 23 JANUARY

YOUR TELS NUMBERS 9 AND 10: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. I HAVE NOW HAD A USEFUL MEETING WITH VAN AGT (COPY OF RECORD BY BAG). ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS HE BELIEVED THAT A GOVERNMENT LEAD WAS NECESSARY TO COUNTER THE PRESENT ANTI-NUCLEAR CAMPAIGN. BUT THE DISSENTERS IN THE CDA MADE THE SITUATION EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. HE WOULD THUS WAIT UNTIL AFTER EITHER THE PARTY COUNCIL HAD CONFIRMED HIS SELECTION AS LEADER LATER THIS MONTH OR UNTIL AFTER THE PARTY CONGRESS HAD RATIFIED IT IN FEBRUARY. HE WAS DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING TO ENABLE THE NETHERLANDS TO CONTINUE TO BE A FULLY COOPERATING MEMBER OF NATO. (COMMENT: IN SO FAR AS IT GOES, THIS ADMISSION BY VAN AGT THAT HE INTENDS TO TAKE ACTION IS ENCOURAGING. I VERY MUCH HOPE HOWEVER THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO INDUCE IN HIM A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY AND A GREATER AWARENESS OF REALITIES).

2. ON THE COMMUNITY, WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED HERR GENSCHER'S RECENT SPEECH AND CALL FOR A GREATER SENSE OF PURPOSE IN THE COMMUNITY. MR VAN AGT HOPED THAT THE IMAGE OF THE COMMUNITY COULD BE IMPROVED AND THAT ALL COULD GET AWAY FROM CONSTANT BICKERING OVER DETAILS. HE HOPED IN PARTICULAR THAT FOLLOWING THE RESOLUTION OF THE UK BUDGET PROBLEM, THE UK WOULD BE ABLE TO GET CLOSER TOGETHER WITH GERMANY. A PARIS-BONN AXIS WAS WORRYING AND UK INFLUENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE HIMSELF WOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE THAT UK MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL AND HOPED THAT THE NETHERLANDS AND UK PRESIDENCIES WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE THINGS AHEAD IN WAYS THAT WOULD HELP TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY BETTER APPRECIATED IN BRITAIN.

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3. MR VAN AGT ENDED BY ASKING ME TO STRESS HOW MUCH HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MRS THATCHER HERE. (WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE CABINET MEETING NORMALLY HELD IN THE HAGUE ON FRIDAYS HAS, EXCEPTIONALLY, BEEN PUT OFF IN ORDER TO ALLOW VAN AGT TO PLAY THE FULLEST PART IN THE PROGRAMME). HE WISHED TO SUGGEST SOME MINOR ALTERATIONS TO THE PROGRAMME AND WOULD BE ASKING HIS OFFICE TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY.

4. THE PROGRAMME NOW PROPOSED (DETAILS IN MY IFT) DOES NOT DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THAT IN MY TEL NO 4 EXCEPT THAT THE AUDIENCE WITH QUEEN BEATRIX HAS BEEN ADVANCED AND SOME MINOR CHANGES OF TIMING MADE.

5. SEE MY I.F.T.

TAYLOR

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]
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