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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 January 1981

p/w briefs in one
envelope.

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Dear Michael,

The Prime Minister's Visit to The Hague

There is one matter not covered, because of its sensitive nature, in the briefing being prepared for this visit by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on which Lord Carrington would, nonetheless, wish to offer advice. This is the question of the succession to Dr Luns as Secretary-General of NATO.

Lord Carrington believes that any discussion on this subject in The Hague would be bound to find its way back to Dr Luns and could do us serious harm in our efforts to promote our own candidate. He considers that the next step must be to hear the views and to gain the support of the new American Administration. He will raise the matter with General Haig when he accompanies the Prime Minister to Washington at the end of February, and till then any further action would be unwise.

I am copying this letter to Brian Norbury and to David Wright.

(G G H Walden)

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