

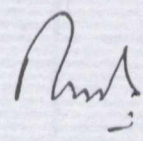
PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO THE HAGUE

I attach further material for tomorrow as follows:-

- (a) a personality note on Queen Beatrix;
- (b) a despatch on the abdication of Queen Juliana and the accession of Queen Beatrix last spring;
- (c) some notes for your remarks at lunch: you need only speak for three or four minutes;
- (d) a list of those from whom the Dutch participants at lunch will be chosen. As you will see Dr Zijlstra is among them. I understand, incidentally, that he is due to retire in May.

I hope you are agreed that we should not take a gift with us. The exchange of gifts on a brief Community visit of this kind seems quite unnecessary. In the unlikely event that Mr van Agt gives you something substantial, we can reciprocate later.



5 February, 1981

QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS

Born 31 January 1938, the eldest child of HRH Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard. Succeeded to the throne when Queen Juliana abdicated on 30 April 1980.

In Canada during the Royal Family's exile after the German invasion, she returned to the Netherlands in 1945. Studied at Leiden University and obtained a degree in Law in 1961.

Has travelled widely outside Europe, including the Soviet Union (1973) and China (1977).

Fond of riding, sailing, swimming, skiing and motoring. Shows less active interest in cultural matters. But she is particularly interested in everything to do with young people and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Silver Youth Centres Foundation. Takes an active interest in social welfare.

Married in March 1966 to Klaus von Amsberg (now Prince Claus). Despite harsh criticism of this marriage with a German while memories of the occupation were still fresh, the conduct of Prince Claus and the birth of a son, Prince Willem Alexander, in April 1967, enhanced the popularity of the Princess and her Consort and the controversy has now been largely forgotten. Two more sons were born to her in 1968 and 1969.

The Queen has a strong will and is less diffident than her mother, but her rather more regal manner, though partly due to her stature, may nevertheless mask some shyness. The long period of waiting to succeed to the throne was difficult, but she is fast settling into her new role which she performs with great presence and dignity. There has been some speculation

/that,

that, as Queen, she will wish to play a more active role in the life of the Netherlands than her mother did although the scope for this is limited in view of the requirements of the constitutional monarchy.

Queen Beatrix works hard and takes a keen interest in national and international affairs. She is said to want to modernise court procedures, though she has kept on many of her mother's court officials.

Her husband, Prince Claus, continues to work as an adviser to the Minister for Development and Cooperation and is thus still directly linked to the government's policies.

She received Lord and Lady Carrington in December 1980.

Speaks good English.

C

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE: NOTES FOR SPEECH AT LUNCH

1. Many thanks for friendly welcome. Delighted to be able to return to the Netherlands. Agreeable memories of visit in 1976. Can understand the view of Sir William Temple (Ambassador at The Hague 1668-70: ''Observations upon the United Province'') that ''the State of the United Provinces hath made them the envy of some ... and the wonder of all their neighbours''.

2. Especially glad to come back as Prime Minister, at time when so much scope for mutually useful co-operation between our countries. The bilateral relationship clearly stronger than ever. Basis of strong historical ties. Partners in EC and allies in NATO. Trade at record levels. Natural bond of understanding and sympathy between the populations of the two countries. Commitment of HMG to the Community and its development in both the economic and political spheres.

[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] Conjunction of Netherlands and UK Presidencies of EC, at vital stage of Community's development, gives us chance to work together for progress towards a stronger and healthier Community, as well as to co-operate actively on a number of issues of especial interest to both countries. Sure you will join with me in hoping that all concerned will take full advantage of these opportunities in the months ahead.

D

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE:

DUTCH PARTICIPANTS AT LUNCH

The Dutch participants will include some or all of the following:-

Mr van Agt

Mr van der Klaauw

Mr van der Mei, State Secretary MFA

Mr Reinink, Political Director

Mr Posthumus Meyjes, Director General European Integration

Mr Nieman, Director European Integration

Mr Bot, Assistant to Reinink

Mr Bertens, Director Press and News

Mr Fack, Netherlands Ambassador in London

Mr van de Graaf, PPS to van Agt

Mr Holtslag

Representative of geographical department

Representative of Rijksvoorlichtingsdienst (State Information
Service)

Dr Jelle Zijlstra, President of Netherlands Bank

Mr Alphons P J M M Stee, Minister of Finance

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STEE, ALPHONS P J M M van der (CDA)

Minister of Finance since March 1980.

Born 1928. Studied law at Catholic University, Nijmegen. A tax consultant 1956-71. Chairman, Arnhem Branch, Catholic People's Party (KVP) 1959-65. National Chairman of the KVP 1968-71. Elected to the First (upper) Chamber in 1971. State Secretary for Finance in the Biesheuvel and den Uyl Cabinets 1971-73.

In November 1973 he became Minister of Agriculture in place of Mr Brouwer, who had resigned through ill-health. Because of his relative lack of agricultural experience, he was not the first choice of the farming community. But he learned this job quickly and played a prominent part in Community discussions, often crossing swords with British Ministers of Agriculture, though retaining good personal relations with them.

He was made Finance Minister in March 1980, successor to M Andriessen who resigned over opposition to his proposal for big cuts in public expenditure.

He has a sociable manner and is a competent negotiator.

Married with three sons and a daughter.

Speaks good English.

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ZIJLSTRA, DR JELLE (CDA)

President, Netherlands Bank since 1967. *Retires in May 1981*

Born 1918. Studied economics at Rotterdam University. Professor of Economics, Free University of Amsterdam, 1948-52 and 1963-66. ARP Minister for Economic Affairs 1952-59 and Minister of Finance 1959-63.

Declined Ministerial Office after the 1963 elections, but became Prime Minister of a caretaker government from November 1966 to February 1967, during which time he took firm measures to control the Dutch economy. Prepared the ground for the formation of a government after the General Elections but refused to head it himself and, despite considerable pressure, withdrew finally from politics in May 1967.

Widely respected, and the man most often spoken of as the ideal Christian Democrat Prime Minister. But he remains adamant in his refusal to return to the political era.

He has an outgoing character, always ready to speak freely about his views and problems. A small rather birdlike man with a ready laugh, he enjoys social life and is quick to make friends. He is nevertheless one of the most influential men on the economic/financial scene.

Married with five children.

Speaks perfect English.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
THE HAGUE.

14 May, 1980

The Lord Carrington KCMG MC
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
LONDON SW1

My Lord,

THE ABDICATION OF QUEEN JULIANA AND THE ACCESSION OF
QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS

1. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited the Netherlands on a Special Mission from Her Majesty The Queen to attend the ceremony of investiture of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in Amsterdam on 30 April, a day blessed by fine "royal" weather, but marred by violent demonstrations in the city.

The ceremonies on 30 April

2. In 1948, when Queen Wilhelmina abdicated in favour of her daughter Queen Juliana, the final announcement of the date of the abdication was also made at short notice, only three and a half months in advance. In 1980.

Queen Juliana surprised even her closest advisers by announcing in a television broadcast on 30 January that she

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would abdicate on her seventy-first birthday, 30 April.

Because Princess Beatrix decided to have the investiture on the same day as the abdication, this allowed just three months for the preparations, with the added complication of a State Visit by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain in the interim.

3. The Netherlands authorities followed established Protocol. As before, no invitations would be extended to Special Missions, but any such Special Missions would be welcome. On your instructions, I informed the Netherlands Government on 29 February that Her Majesty The Queen had appointed His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to represent Her on Special Mission at Queen Beatrix' investiture. The Dutch authorities and the Court were delighted by this appointment and, as I was privileged to witness, the new Queen was particularly appreciative of His Royal Highness' presence. Just as in 1948 all arrangements for the accommodation, entertainment and - a new element - security of the Royal Visitors and other Special Missions were in the hands of the Netherlands authorities. So numerous were the Special Missions that the Amstel Hotel, a mere part of which had sufficed to accommodate the visitors in 1948, had to be /supplemented

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supplemented by hotel rooms elsewhere. But, except for the Japanese who were here on a longer visit, the Royal Visitors and their suites all stayed at the Amstel. The Netherlands authorities attached Vice-Admiral H E Rambonet, ADC to the Queen, to the Prince of Wales' suite for the period of his stay in the Netherlands.

4. Prince Charles with his Private Secretary, the Honourable Edward Adeane, also appointed a member of the Special Mission, arrived at Schiphol Airport on the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 April and stayed until noon on 1 May when the party returned by air to London from the Royal Netherlands Air Force base at Ypenburg outside The Hague. His Royal Highness was accompanied by his Equerry, Captain Anthony Asquith, his personal police officer and his valet. I had the honour to join His Royal Highness as a member of the Special Mission.

5. The Constitution of the Netherlands demands that the ceremony of inauguration of a new monarch take place in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, in recognition of the city's status as capital. Since Amsterdam is also the largest city in the country, this of course makes sense in that it

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guarantees the largest possible public involvement. But it carries risks too: the security problems in Amsterdam were immense. Not only did the Dutch authorities have to protect their Royal Family and the distinguished foreign visitors from terrorist attack; the city had for months been subject to violent clashes between the police and well-organised groups of squatters and their supporters, who threatened to do all they could to disrupt the ceremonies, and in the event very nearly succeeded. Consequently a large area of the city centre, including the Palace and the Nieuwe Kerk, were closed to all vehicles and access to the zone was allowed only to people who could prove a specific need to be there, including residents. Such drastic measures caused the voices of disappointed hoteliers and restaurateurs to be added to those of the political objectors to the day's events. Perhaps because of these problems, the ceremonies, which had been spread over several days when Queen Juliana acceded, were compressed into 24 hours. The new Queen did not emulate her mother's Royal tour of the city on the day of her accession; as events turned out that was just as well. The degree of popular enthusiasm was in any case noticeably

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less marked than is suggested by films of the acclaim which greeted Queen Juliana's accession: but security precautions would have made a demonstration of the peoples' feelings difficult.

6. I enclose a copy of the programme prepared for the Prince of Wales, a list of Special Missions attending the ceremonies, and a copy of the programme of the installation ceremony itself. I need not duplicate here the information in the programme, but give rather some account of the main events in a crowded day.

7. The Dutch are notorious for taking months when governments have to be changed after elections: in 1977 it took them seven months. By contrast, the "Troonswisseling" is as smooth as the transition from one British government to another. On the morning of 30 April Queen Juliana abdicated in a simple but emotion-filled ceremony at the Royal Palace during which she and her daughter both made short speeches and then signed the Act of Abdication in the presence of Prince Bernhard, Prince Claus, the Cabinet, the Vice-President of the Cabinet, the Vice-President of the Council of State, a delegation from the Netherlands Antilles,

/the



the Queen's Commissioner for North Holland, the Mayor of Amsterdam and the Director of the Queen's own Cabinet. Thereupon the Queen of over thirty-one years became again Princess Juliana, and her daughter automatically acceded to the throne. Shortly afterwards they appeared together on the balcony of the Palace with their husbands to permit the outgoing Queen to present the new Queen to the people and then retire. Both made speeches, but against a great deal of noise some of it representing protest. During Princess Juliana's speech a smoke bomb went off in the crowd: the police were quick to arrest the perpetrator but the incident was a foretaste of things to come. This part of the day's proceedings did not involve foreign Special Missions. Queen Juliana had taken her leave of the Missions at a dinner the previous evening.

8. Immediately after she had formally acceded to the throne, the new Queen received the Special Missions in the Royal Palace on the Dam. Some leaders of Special Missions presented Letters of Credence, but it had been decided that such a formality would not be necessary in the case of the Prince of Wales.

/9.



9. After luncheon (given in the nearby Sonesta Hotel by the Netherlands Foreign Minister, Dr Christoph van der Klaauw) the Special Missions joined the members of the two houses of parliament, the States-General, sitting in joint session in the Nieuwe Kerk for the inauguration and oath-taking ceremony. It is often said that the Netherlands is a republic with a hereditary president. That paradox is embodied in this secular ceremony where a monarch is formally installed in a church under the chairmanship of the President of the First Chamber - a coronation without a crown, monarchy with no hint of divine right.

10. As Sir Philip Nichols recalled in his despatch of 11 September 1948, the roots of this paradox lie in the fact that the Crown was dedicated once and for all in 1815 to King William I and his lawful descendants. Subsequent embarrassments over whether Protestant or Catholic clergy should perform future dedications - even the question whether a religious representative should do so at all - are avoided. The Dutch custom of holding an investiture of a monarch rather than a coronation appears, however, to be common to other foreign monarchs also.

/11.



11. After the singing of the National Anthem, Queen Beatrix, poised and resplendent in a cream silk dress and an ermine-trimmed train and looking much less nervous than she had in the morning, made a moving speech. I enclose a translation. At the end of her speech she took the oath laid down in the Constitution.

12. Mr Thurlings, President of the First Chamber, replied to the Queen on behalf of the States-General. (A French translation of his speech is enclosed.) Then each member of parliament present followed him in making a Solemn Declaration of homage and loyalty, some with an oath, others with a promise. (Five members of the Second Chamber who objected to making such a declaration stayed away altogether.) At the end of this process Queen Beatrix was proclaimed inaugurated, the proclamation was repeated to the crowds outside, and the Royal procession left the church to return to the Palace.

13. Outside in the meantime violence had flared. The somewhat anarchist elements in Amsterdam who had been threatening to disrupt the day's proceedings in order to demonstrate their view that the money spent on the Queen's inauguration would have been better spent on housing, did

/their



their best to make their threats a reality. A demonstration by squatters groups, duly licensed by the police but reinforced by anarchist elements who can only be described as well-equipped and trained thugs, tried to force its way into the square before the Palace. Diverted by the police, the demonstrators proceeded to indulge in a running battle with the police, lasting until late into night, in which well over 100 people were hurt, including many policemen, and much damage done. Those involved in the ceremony in the Nieuwe Kerk saw nothing of all this.

14. In the evening the new Queen gave dinner to the Royal Special Missions while other missions, accredited diplomats, Dutch dignitaries and others were entertained elsewhere in Amsterdam, before all descended on the port of Amsterdam to watch a display of fireworks, a part of the programme which was nearly cancelled because of the violence elsewhere in the city.

15. The arrangements throughout went very smoothly, unaffected by the "alternative" events the rest of the city was experiencing.

/16.



16. Before he left the Netherlands from Ypenburg Air Force base on Thursday 1 May, His Royal Highness kindly agreed to visit the Chancery in The Hague to enable me to present to him the members of the Embassy staff, and also my house where the wives of the staff had the opportunity to be presented. I am very grateful to him for devoting his morning to this, which all in the Embassy greatly appreciated.

The New Queen

17. Queen Beatrix has a reputation as a woman of strong will who is not afraid to speak her mind. She is also widely thought to have some sympathy for left-wing political thinking, and there has for some time been speculation that the monarchy will change with her at the head of the royal house. But Queen Beatrix let it be known in a long television interview before her accession that she did not plan to make any dramatic changes. She would work herself gradually into the job, fully conscious of the legacy of her mother and grandmother, to whom she has publicly attributed the credit for the way in which the monarchy in the Netherlands has survived the upheavals of war and social change which the Netherlands has experienced in the last 80 years. From my own experience, I am able to report

/that



that the new Queen has within the first few days of her reign proved her popularity and her friendly approach to to her people.

18. Superficially there is no doubt that the monarchy will present a different appearance. The new Queen will inherit a staff newly re-organised at her mother's wish in a manner more suited to the 1980s. And the style will be new. Apart from the relative youth of the new Queen and her consort, there will be one fairly immediate change in that they will soon restore to The Hague the reality of its status as "the Residence" when they move to the Palace 'Huis ten Bos' and re-open another palace in the centre of The Hague as the offices of the Royal Household. This will bring the Queen into much closer touch with the political life of the nation and - people hope - will add a new spirit and purpose to life in The Hague, if the new Royal Couple open their doors in the way that Queen Juliana, living far away, never could.

18. These moves are expected within the next year or so, possibly in time for the aftermath of the next general elections, which are due to take place no later than May 1981. It is in this period that the monarchy is most

/closely



closely associated with the political process - and therefore exposed to criticism. It is worth recalling that Queen Juliana, on the principal events in whose reign I am reporting in a separate despatch, was frequently criticised, not least in 1977, for an involvement in the political process which seemed to some to be too deep. For the monarch has not only to select senior politicians, to canvass opinion and advise on the most likely composition of a government (the "informateurs") but also to select a potential Prime Minister from two or more candidates who may appear to have an almost equal claim to the post. Queen Beatrix' contribution to the formation of the next government will therefore provide the first significant measure of the extent to which she proposes to alter the rôle of the monarchy in the framework of its constitutional prerogatives.

I am My Lord
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jock Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Jock Taylor

Encs.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE6 FEBRUARY 1981

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
13. NUCLEAR ENERGY PROBLEMS

*Brief AMVG (SA) 1-13
preserved in CAB 133/511.*

*This set therefore
destroyed.*

*R. Poorman
7 Jun 11*

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 February 1981

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister's Visit to The Hague: 6 February

As you know, on her arrival in The Hague, the Prime Minister will first have an audience with Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands. Likely topics for discussion have already been covered in the briefing for this visit. I now attach in addition a personality note on Queen Beatrix and a Despatch of 14 May 1980 from H M Ambassador at The Hague on the Abdication of Queen Juliana and the Accession of Queen Beatrix.

*Attachments
in folder/
annexed/
to file*

I have been asked to point out that the Prime Minister will not be expected to curtsy when presented to Queen Beatrix; a slight inclination of the head is customary. If a foreign visitor wishes to curtsy, Queen Beatrix accepts this as the custom of the country from which the visitor comes, but She prefers such attentions to be omitted.

/ The Prime Minister may be expected to make a short
/ informal speech at lunch and I attach notes on which she
/ may care to draw. I also attach a list of those on the
/ Dutch side from whom the guests at lunch will be drawn,
and enclose personality notes on the Finance Minister, Mr
van der Stee, and on Mr Zijlstra.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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