



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 November, 1981.

I enclose a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Prime Minister of the Netherlands about the European Institute of Public Administration. I should be grateful if you could let me have a note for the Prime Minister's use during the European Council or, still better, a draft reply to Mr. van Agt, by 25 November.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Rum

SUBJECT.



MINISTER-PRESIDENT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 160A/81

The Hague, November 19, 1981

Nr. 315800

cc. Koster sek

opt.

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to draw your attention to a matter in which I have some considerable personal interest. At the meeting of the European Council in Maastricht on March 23, 1981 I had the pleasure of giving the official go-ahead to the European Institute of Public Administration, which should open at the beginning of next year.

The Institute will provide short, practical courses for civil servants working in European institutions and if required in the member states of the Community, with the aim of increasing the efficiency of the institutions, both internally and for the benefit of the member states. It is geared towards the practical problems of administration in Europe and is the only institute of its kind; it will undoubtedly meet a need, and the Netherlands Government has therefore decided to give it its full support and to meet the costs of the infrastructure (7.5 million guilders) and administration on a permanent basis (4 million guilders). If the Institute is to live up to expectations, it will have to have qualified staff from all over Europe. The countries concerned - all the member states of the Community, plus Portugal and Spain - have therefore been asked to meet the costs of academic staff from their countries.

Before I gave the official go-ahead to the scheme on March 23 in the presence of the ambassadors of the countries concerned, a positive response to the initiative had been received from all the countries, who had expressed their readiness in principle to cooperate.

Although there have since been consultations between the management of the Institute and the relevant organisations in the United Kingdom concerning the participation of staff from your country, these have not yet borne fruit. On behalf of the Netherlands Government, and also in a personal capacity, I would appeal to you to put in a word in favour of the Institute.

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To the Rt.Hon.Mrs. Margret Thatcher MP

In view of the great importance I attach to the cooperation of the United Kingdom in the scheme, which I feel will also help to bring the Anglo-Saxon and continental administrative traditions closer together, I would greatly appreciate your personal assistance in this matter.

Kind regards
Yours sincerely,

Andries van Aagt

23 NOV 1981

