



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 August, 1982

VISIT BY THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 3 August. The Prime Minister very much regrets that she is not able to receive Mr van Agt at the end of August or during the first week of September. She has examined her other commitments at that time most carefully but finds that it is not possible for her, much though she would have liked to, to see the Netherlands Prime Minister at that time. I should be grateful if, when responding to Mr van Agt's Private Secretary, the Embassy in the Hague could make a particular point of expressing Mrs Thatcher's personal regret that she is not able to meet Mr van Agt's wishes on this occasion. The explanation is solely that the Prime Minister has a number of long-standing engagements which it is not possible for her to change.

ALL COPIES

F N Richards, Esq,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Prime Minister

Van Agt wants to come to Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London because he believes this London SW1A 2AH

will help him in the Dutch
election on 8 September. but it is
very difficult from the point of view
of your diary. 31 August is your only
possible day and you will probably need
it for a series of meetings, having been away
from No. 10 for 3 weeks.

3 August 1982

Dear John,

Regret?

A.S.C. 3/8

Very much
regret
mf

Visit by Netherlands Prime Minister

1973 - 29/7

I enclose a telegram from The Hague which describes a
conversation with the Dutch Prime Minister's Private Secretary
suggesting a possible one day visit in the last week of August
or the first week of September. The Ambassador explains why
Mr van Agt attaches importance to such a visit. I should be
grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would be willing to
receive Mr van Agt.

Yours ever.

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

GRS 290

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FM THE HAGUE 291425Z JUL 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 193 OF 29 JULY

POSSIBLE VISIT TO LONDON BY DUTCH PRIME MINISTER

1. VAN AGT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, ON INSTRUCTIONS, SPOKE TO US TODAY ON THE FOLLOWING LINES.

2. AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN JUNE THERE WAS SOME INFORMAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTION IN THE NETHERLANDS DUE TO BE HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER. THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONTINUATION OF VAN AGT AS PRIME MINISTER IN AS STRONG A POSITION AS POSSIBLE WAS THE BEST WAY OF FACILITATING A POSITIVE DECISION ON INF STATIONING IN THE NETHERLANDS.

3. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT VISIT (MY TELNO 185) WAS ONE RESULT OF THIS UNDERSTANDING. VAN AGT WOULD NOW LIKE TO BUILD FURTHER ON THIS BY MAKING A RETURN VISIT TO LONDON FOR A MEETING WITH MRS THATCHER IN THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST OR THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. A VISIT WITHIN THE DAY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT, BUT VAN AGT WOULD LIKE THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED TO BE AS SUBSTANTIAL AS POSSIBLE, EG. INF, COMMUNITY QUESTIONS, MIDDLE EAST AND FOR THERE TO BE PUBLICITY. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS WOULD MATERIALLY ASSIST HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

4. WE HAVE SAID THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER MRS. THATCHER WILL BE ON HOLIDAY DURING THIS PERIOD. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT VAN AGT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO A VISIT TO LONDON IN HIS EFFORTS TO HANDLE THE VERY DIFFICULT ISSUE OF CRUISE MISSILES IN THIS COUNTRY. THE SEPTEMBER ELECTION WILL CLEARLY BE CRUCIAL SO I HOPE THAT, IF AT ALL FEASIBLE, THE PRIME MINISTER MAY BE PREPARED TO INVITE VAN AGT TO LONDON DURING THE PERIOD HE HAS ASKED FOR.

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

MANSFIELD

LIMITED
WED
NED
ACDD
PS
PS/MR HURD

PS/PUS
MR WRIGHT
MR GOODISON

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