



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 February 1983

AJC

Dear John,

Visit of the Netherlands Prime Minister, 2 March

I promised in my letter of 25 February ^{in Meeting Folder} to let you have some speech notes for the Prime Minister to use at the lunch in honour of the Netherlands Prime Minister on 2 March. I now enclose some thoughts.

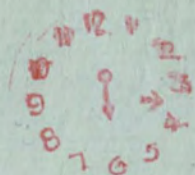
Yours ever

John Hines

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

BB FEB 1963



VISIT-OF THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER: SPEECH NOTES

Delighted to welcome you to London on your first official trip to Britain as Prime Minister.

The youngest PM in Dutch history.

Common ground in our lives. My birthplace at Grantham just a few miles from Holland. The Lincolnshire Holland. A region of Britain which has such close links with the Netherlands that it took its name from the province where Mr Lubbers was born.

Anglo-Dutch relations in excellent repair. Strength and closeness symbolized by Queen Beatrix's very successful State Visit last November. The Anglo-Dutch link pervades the whole of the commercial life of the two countries. Netherlands our third largest trading partner. Indeed, believe it might even be possible to live all one's life off Anglo-Dutch products, which provide everything from rocket fuel to bananas, soap powder to the latest in computer technology.

An outstanding example of Anglo-Dutch cooperation: the Thames Barrier, recently operational, already (with February's high tides) showing its value. Outstanding but not surprising, the Dutch have been helping the English with their water problems since the 17th century.

Francis Bacon once commented that a wise man will make more opportunities than he finds. That is why I believe we should not be dismayed by the prospect of

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difficulties ahead. Britain and the Netherlands facing the same challenges but facing them with shared values and shared confidence in those values. Both economies undergoing restructuring - that is being made to look for new opportunities. Both believe that individual enterprise backed up by the State, if necessary is the best way out of present difficulties. Both believe in free trade. Both committed members of the European Community. EC has brought our countries closer together: at the Guildhall Queen Beatrix remarked that the North Sea must now be regarded merely as one of Europe's inland seas. Both deeply committed to NATO and principles it embodies. 1983 an important year for defence, too. Need to leave Russians in no doubt our commitment to balance - of weapons if need be, in abandoning them if we can. Grateful your visit and glad Mr van den Broek could come too. Useful discussions.

Confident that Britain and the Netherlands, through their friendship, common heritage and shared values will continue to make a striking contribution to ensuring Europe and the West safer and more prosperous in the 1980s.