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bc Caroline  
Lyddell  
Brc

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

18 January 1984

Anglo/Dutch Exchanges on the  
European Community

Thank you for your letter of 16 January.

The Prime Minister will be glad to offer Mr. Lubbers a small working lunch on either 27 February or 2 March. This would provide some two hours for discussion of matters of mutual interest.

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Could you kindly let me know whether either of these dates is convenient to Mr. Lubbers.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), Ivor Llewelyn (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. DOLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*You could do a small  
working lunch for Mr. Lubbers  
on either 27 Feb or 2 March?*

*Agree?*

*Yes*

16 January 1984

*Dear John,*

*A.S.C. 12/11*

Anglo/Dutch Exchanges on the European Community

Our Ambassador in The Hague has reported a recent conversation he had with Mr Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, in which the latter proposed that he should slip over to London for a quiet talk with the Prime Minister. He suggested that the best timing would be after President Mitterrand's State Visit to the Netherlands on 6/8 February.

The Secretary of State is well aware of the demands which are being placed on the Prime Minister at this time and is reluctant to add to her burden. He considers nevertheless that there is a strong case for responding positively to Mr Lubbers' suggestion. The Dutch have given us very firm support in the post-Stuttgart negotiations on reform of the CAP, on budgetary discipline and on such issues as the internal market, a free market for insurance and the liberalisation of transport. It is important to consolidate and confirm that support in the run-up to the March European Council. A visit by Mr Lubbers would also give us a chance to press the Dutch to move closer to our position on budgetary imbalances on which they had been a lot less helpful than on the other issues. Sir Geoffrey also considers that the visit could correct the tendency about which Mr Lubbers spoke to our Ambassador for the Community to polarise against us around the nucleus of the original Six. Historically the Dutch have always seen themselves as a link between the founder members of the Community and the UK and it is not out of the question that they could play a useful role in the next stage of the negotiation in reconciling the Six to a budgetary system which fits the need of an enlarged Community of Twelve. Finally Sir Geoffrey thinks there may be value in a discussion of defence questions.

If the Prime Minister accepts the Secretary of State's proposal, I should be grateful for alternative dates to put to Sir Philip Mansfield. If the Prime Minister wished

/to offer





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to offer Mr Lubbers a meal, this would be an agreeable gesture.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), Ivor Llewelyn (MAFF) and Richard Hatfield (Sir R Armstrong's office).

*Yours ever,*

*Robert Dickson*

pp (R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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