

MR. COLES o.r.

top copy on Belgium: visits of
PM M. Martens June 78

Dutch and Belgium Prime Ministers

Please see The Hague telegram no. 019 attached. The Prime Minister could not manage a working dinner on 2 March since she is committed to evening engagements in her constituency. ~~As~~ Mr. Lubbers could not make lunch on either 27 February or 2 March the only possibility (unless we look for another date entirely) is a working breakfast on 2 March. This will give the Prime Minister a very long day, and my view is that it ~~would~~ be better for us to start again and look for a new date.

You will wish to consider, and seek the Prime Minister's view, on the possibility of our now offering either 27 February or 2 March to the Belgian Prime Minister.

Dwb

26 January 1984

GRS 200
CONFIDENTIAL
FM THE HAGUE 251500Z JAN 84
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 019 OF 25 JANUARY
INFO ROUTINE UK REP BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL

YOUR TELNO 7: POSSIBLE VISIT BY DUTCH PRIME MINISTER

1. MR LUBBERS WOULD BE GLAD TO ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION FOR A WORKING VISIT TO LONDON FOR DISCUSSIONS OF MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, PARTICULARLY EUROPEAN COMMUNITY QUESTIONS. AS IS NORMAL DUTCH PRACTICE, HE WOULD LIKE TO BRING MR VAN DEN BROEK WITH HIM.
2. THIS UNFORTUNATELY RULES OUT 27 FEBRUARY BECAUSE OF THE POCO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN PARIS, WHICH VAN DEN BROEK WILL BE ATTENDING. THE PROBLEM WITH 2 MARCH IS THAT THE DUTCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALWAYS MEETS ON FRIDAYS. THEY START AT 10 A MEETING WHICH USUALLY LASTS 6 HOURS WITH A BREAK IN THE MIDDLE.
3. MR LUBBERS HAS THEREFORE ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SUBSTITUTE A WORKING DINNER FOR THE PROPOSED WORKING LUNCH ON 2 MARCH. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, LUBBERS COULD COME FOR A WORKING BREAKFAST ON THAT DAY. HE IS PREPARED TO MAKE AN EARLY START FROM THE HAGUE (HE GAINS AN HOUR ON THE FLIGHT) AND VAN DEN BROEK WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRIVE IN LONDON FROM NEW YORK BY 7 AM. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (VAN AARDENNE) WOULD START THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND LUBBERS WOULD TAKE IT OVER ON HIS RETURN.
4. OF THESE ALTERNATIVE TIMINGS, LUBBERS WOULD PREFER THE FIRST.

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

MANSFIELD

LIMITED
ECD(I)
ECD(E)
WED
PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR C TICKELL
MR HANNAY
MR JENKINS

COPIES TO:-
MR UNWIN - TREASURY
MR ANDREWS - MAFF
MR WILLIAMSON CABINET OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL