



cc: BELGIUM: Visit of  
Mr Martens June  
NETHERLANDS: UK/ Dutch  
relations Sept 80

## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 February, 1984

European Inward Visits

I promised to try to let you have the Prime Minister's decisions today on the various European inward visits which have been proposed.

The Prime Minister is prepared to give Mr. Lubbers a working breakfast on 2 March. Timings are to some extent flexible. But she envisages it beginning at 0815 and continuing until 0930 or, if Mr. Lubbers prefers, 1000.

This would leave 27 February free for a working lunch with Chancellor Kohl. I have seen no account from Bonn of the response to the Prime Minister's recent message to Chancellor Kohl. I should be grateful if you could confirm that this has been delivered. Although the message said that Private Secretaries would be in touch about a date for a meeting with Chancellor Kohl, I would have no objection to the Embassy offering 27 February at the appropriate moment. I shall take it that they will be doing so unless you advise me to the contrary.

You also wrote on 20 January about a possible visit by the Belgian Prime Minister. Mrs. Thatcher's diary is now extremely full and the only way in which she could accommodate Mr. Martens before the European Council is by giving him a working lunch on 2 March, i.e. on the same day on which she is giving Mr. Lubbers a working breakfast. I think this would amount to an extensive demand on the Prime Minister's time and do not propose to take it any further unless you wish to press very strongly.

A. J. COLES

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

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PRIME MINISTER

EUROPEAN INWARD VISITS

You have already agreed in principle to offer Chancellor Kohl, and Mr. Lubbers a short working visit before the European Council. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would also like you to invite the Belgian Prime Minister for such a visit.

Mr. Lubbers

We offered Mr. Lubbers a working lunch on either 27 February or 2 March. He cannot do either. But he asks whether you could manage a working breakfast on Friday, 2 March. He is prepared to fly over early with Mr. Van den Broek and would then have to get back for the Dutch Cabinet meeting.

Caroline tells me that 2 March falls in a lightish week and that the weekend (3/4 March) is practically free. Would you be prepared to give Mr. Lubbers a working breakfast from say 0815 to 0930 hrs?

*Yes - but it seems ridiculous to come over for that. Sunday? not*

Chancellor Kohl

We could then offer Chancellor Kohl a working lunch on 27 February.

Mr. Martens

This is more problematic. We can only manage a working lunch on 2 March (the same day that you give Mr. Lubbers a working breakfast). The argument is that an invitation to Mr. Martens is long outstanding and that it will be useful to see him before the European Council. But I do not press this strongly. Do you want to give him lunch on 2 March?

*Is he sending one? not*

31 January, 1984

*A.S.C. 31/1*

MR. COLES o.r.

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.

*DWS*

26 January 1984

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FM THE HAGUE 251500Z JAN 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 019 OF 25 JANUARY

INFO ROUTINE UK REP BRUSSELS

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.

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