

CCPC
①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

13 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Yes no

Agree
to start Cabinet at
0900 at that day?

June European Council

CDP.
13/1

As you know, we have been able to persuade the Dutch Presidency to implement the proposal that, as a general rule, there should be only two European Councils a year. The Dutch have cancelled the proposed European Council in March. Their European Council will be held in The Hague on 26-27 June.

The Dutch Embassy have approached us on instructions to say that they realise that it is very difficult for the Prime Minister to leave London on a Thursday morning because of Cabinet. The June European Council, however, will open with a lunch given by Queen Beatrix. Queen Beatrix and the Dutch Government hope very much that it might be possible for the Prime Minister to be present at the lunch.

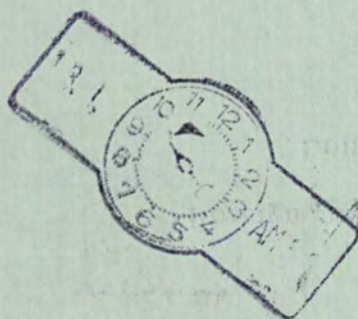
We have told the Dutch Embassy that, obviously, it would be much easier for the Prime Minister if Queen Beatrix were to offer a dinner for the heads of government. The Dutch, however, want to stick to the normal format of a working dinner for the heads of government.

The Foreign Secretary does not think we shall be able to persuade the Dutch to change their plans. He recommends that the Prime Minister consider exceptionally holding Cabinet earlier on 26 June, say at 9.00, so that she could travel to The Hague in time for the lunch - her plan, you will recall (your letter of 23 April, enclosed) when similar arrangements were envisaged for the, now cancelled, March European Council. There is no doubt the Dutch would appreciate such a gesture, given that we have insisted on holding our own European Council on 5 December - the St Nicholas festival which for the Dutch is a bigger family celebration than Christmas.

I am copying this letter to David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary



121 AM
12:15