

ADVANCE COPY IMMEDIATE

00 MOD (DS 17)

RR UKREP BRUSSELS

GRS 170

RESTRICTED

FM THE HAGUE 161515Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO (DESKBY 161800Z)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 267 OF 16 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE MOD (DS 17)

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING EC POSTS

NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT CRISIS

Handwritten squiggly mark

Hd WED

Hd News

Hd ECX(7) (2)

Hd ECD(1) (2)

Hd Pres Sec

Ps (6)

Ps/LPS (3)

Ps/Pus

Mr Bullard

Mr Fergusson

Mr Haman

RC

Ps/NO 10

DIO.CAB.OFF

DIST
FCO/WH
WED

1. DESPITE A WEEK OF INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS, CULMINATING IN A CABINET MEETING LASTING UNTIL 4 AM TODAY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MAJOR FINANCIAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ELEMENTS IN THEIR DETAILED POLICY PROGRAMME, PARTICULARLY ON MEASURES TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT. THE PROGRAMME WAS TO HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT ON 19 OCTOBER.
2. VAN AGT CALLED ON QUEEN BEATRIX AT 10 AM TODAY TO TENDER HIS OWN RESIGNATION AND THAT OF HIS MINISTERS SEMI COLON HE HAD EARLIER TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS 'OUTGOING'. QUEEN BEATRIX HAS NOT YET FORMALLY ACCEPTED MINISTERS RELINQUISHMENT OF THEIR PORTFOLIOS AND HAS ASKED THEM TO "CONTINUE DOING WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE KINGDOM".
3. THE GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY NOW ACTING IN A CARETAKER CAPACITY, ALTHOUGH FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO RESURRECT THE COALITION SEEM LIKELY. IF THESE FAIL THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW INFORMATEUR.
4. THE MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES ARE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER ONCE THE SITUATION IS CLEARER.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

HERVEY