

GRS 400

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Netherlands

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FM THE HAGUE 091530Z SEP 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 223 OF 09 SEPTEMBER

INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS, NATO POSTS

NETHERLANDS GENERAL ELECTION

1. FOLLOWING A LAST-MINUTE SURGE THE SOCIALISTS (PVDA) HAVE EMERGED FROM THE GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER AS THE LARGEST PARTY IN PARLIAMENT. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CDA) AND THE LIBERALS (VVD) HOWEVER NOW HOLD BETWEEN THEM 81 OF THE 150 SEATS IN THE SECOND CHAMBER.

2. THE STRENGTHS OF THE PARTIES IN THE NEW SECOND CHAMBER (PREVIOUS TOTALS IN BRACKETS) WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

LABOUR PARTY (PVDA)	47	(44)
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CDA)	45	(48)
LIBERALS (VVD)	<u>36</u>	(26)
DEMOCRATS'66 (D'66)	6	(17)
PACIFIST SOCIALIST PARTY	3	(3)
POLITICAL SOCIALIST PARTY	3	(3)
COMMUNISTS	3	(3)
RADICALS	2	(3)
REFORMED POLITICAL FEDERATION	2	(2)
CALVINIST POLITICAL UNION	1	(1)
CENTRE PARTY (CP)	1	(0)
EVANGICAL PEOPLES PARTY	1	(0)

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS QUEEN BEATRIX IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO INVITE THE SOCIALISTS TO TRY FIRST TO FORM A NEW COALITION. THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT THE PVDA WILL FAIL. THEIR HOSTILITY TOWARDS TNF STATIONING (PARA 2 OF MY TELNO 215) REMAINS UNCOMPROMISING. THERE IS THUS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF THE PVDA AND THE CDA REACHING AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT. SINCE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PVDA AND THE VVD ON ECONOMIC AND DEFENCE POLICY ARE ALSO FUNDAMENTAL, THE PVDA WILL BE UNLIKELY TO FIND SUFFICIENT COALITION PARTNERS ON ANY TERMS IT COULD ACCEPT. DEN UYL WILL WISH TO SPIN OUT THE PROCESS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN THE HOPE THAT SOMETHING WILL TURN UP. BUT IN DUE COURSE THE WAY SHOULD BECOME CLEAR FOR THE CDA AND THE VVD TO FORM A NEW COALITION, LED ONCE AGAIN BY VAN AGT.

4. DEMOCRATS'66, THE FOURTH LARGEST PARTY, WHOSE POLICIES CAN IN GENERAL BE COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE SDP HAS LOST TWO-THIRDS OF ITS PREVIOUS STRENGTH IN THE SECOND CHAMBER AND IS NOW REDUCED TO RELATIVE INSIGNIFICANCE. ITS BARGAINING POWER HAS BEEN CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED. THE CDA AND VVD WILL BE UNDER NO PRESSURE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO SECURE ITS PARTICIPATION IN ANY NEW COALITION. SINCE NATURAL ORIENTATION OF D'66 IS CENTRE/LEFT IT MAY WELL NOW DECIDE TO GO INTO OPPOSITION.

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5. A CDA/VVD COALITION COULD IN MATHEMATICAL TERMS PROBABLY MUSTER THE VOTES TO SECURE APPROVAL IN THE SECOND CHAMBER ON TNF STATIONING. SUPPORT FROM THE SMALL RIGHT WING PARTIES WOULD MORE OR LESS CANCEL OUT DEFECTIONS BY CDA 'LOYALISTS' IE NUCLEAR UNILATERALISTS. BUT IT REMAINS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT ANY DUTCH GOVERNMENT WILL SHOW THE RESOLUTION REQUIRED TO MAKE DEPLOYMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS A REALITY. THE BEST HOPE REMAINS AN AGREED POLICY ON DEFENCE BEFORE ANY NEW GOVERNMENT IS PUT TOGETHER LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE (PARA 6 OF MY TUR).

6. IN THE LIGHT OF THE CDA'S RESULTS AT THE ELECTIONS I DO NOT RECOMMEND A MESSAGE AT THIS STAGE TO VAN AGT.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

MANSFIELD

FCO/WHITEHALL

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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