

NETHERLANDS

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1982

*John [unclear]*

State Visit of Queen Beatrix

The Prime Minister has agreed to see the Netherlands Ambassador, Mr Huydecoper, at 11 am on Monday, 1 November in advance of the State Visit of Queen Beatrix, 16-19 November. We understand that Mr Huydecoper will not go into detail about the arrangements for the visit. He regards the call as a courtesy only.

I attach the programme for the Visit, a Personality Note on the Ambassador, a short background political brief on the Netherlands, and a recently revised Country Assessment Paper.

It may be helpful to remind you that the discussion with Queen Beatrix after the lunch on 17 November will cover European Community affairs, European-US relations, defence and social issues including inner city problems (my letter of 18 October refers).

The Prime Minister should know that Prince Claus appears to be making good progress with his treatment in a Swiss clinic, and may be back in The Hague quite soon. A decision would then be taken on his participation in the State visit. The Dutch hope he will be fit enough to take part in at least some of the functions.

*Yours sincerely  
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)

Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
No 10 Downing Street

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LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE,  
ST. JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1.

STATE VISIT OF  
THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS  
AND PRINCE CLAUS OF THE NETHERLANDS

16th - 19th November, 1982

C E R E M O N I A L

Second Draft  
(12th October, 1982)

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 16th November, 1982

11.30 a.m.	Arrival at Greenwich	Page
	Alternative Arrival Plan	Page
12.30 p.m.	Arrival, Westminster Pier and State Drive to Buckingham Palace	Page
4.00 p.m.	Visit to Westminster Abbey (leaving Buckingham Palace at 3.55 p.m.)	Page
4.30 p.m.	Presentation at St. James's Palace of an Address of Welcome by the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster	Page
4.40 p.m.	Visit to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother (returning to Buckingham Palace at approximately 5.15 p.m.)	Page
5.30 p.m.	Reception of Professors and Students at Buckingham Palace	Page
8.30 p.m.	State Banquet at Buckingham Palace	Page



Wednesday, 17th November, 1982

9.05 a.m.	Visit to the Netherlands Field of Honour, City of Westminster (Paddington) Cemetery, Mill Hill (leaving Buckingham Palace at 8.40 a.m. and returning to Buckingham Palace at 10.00 a.m.)	Page
10.45 a.m.	Reception of High Commissioners of Commonwealth Countries and Ambassadors accredited to the Court of St. James's at St. James's Palace (leaving Buckingham Palace at 10.35 a.m. and returning to Buckingham Palace at 11.35 a.m.)	Page
12.10 p.m.	Reception at Buckingham Palace for NATO Delegates	Page
1.15 p.m.	Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at 10 Downing Street (leaving Buckingham Palace at 12.55 p.m.)	Page
3.15 p.m.	Visit to the Greater London Council at County Hall	Page
4.15 p.m.	Reception of Members of Netherlands Community at Banqueting House, Whitehall (returning to Buckingham Palace at 5.30 p.m.)	Page
7.40 p.m.	Reception and Banquet at Guildhall (leaving Buckingham Palace at 7.30 p.m. and returning to Buckingham Palace at approximately 10.50 p.m.)	Page



Thursday, 18th November, 1982

10.10 a.m.	Visit to Peterborough (leaving Buckingham Palace at 8.50 a.m.)	Page
1.00 p.m.	Luncheon with Peterborough Development Corporation	Page
2.45 p.m.	Visit to Spalding (returning to Buckingham Palace at 5.25 p.m.)	Page
8.45 p.m.	Banquet given by The Queen of the Netherlands and Prince Claus of the Netherlands at <u>Hampton Court Palace</u> (leaving Buckingham Palace at 7.35 p.m. and returning at approximately 11.45 p.m.)	Page

Friday, 19th November, 1982

9.15 a.m.	Presentation of Bouquet by Worshipful Company of Gardeners at Buckingham Palace	Page
10.00 a.m.	Departure from Buckingham Palace	Page
10.50 a.m.	Departure from Heathrow Airport - London (South)	Page

CONCLUSION OF STATE VISIT

Car Processions



HUYDECOPER, JONKHEER JAN LOUIS REINIER

Mr Jan Huydecoper is a tall, lean, grey-haired, bespectacled man, aged 62. He has a relaxed and assured manner. His English is virtually faultless.

He began his career in banking during the Second World War and entered the Foreign Service in 1946. He has served mostly overseas: in Ottawa, Bonn, Jakarta, Washington, Rome and London - twice, from 1952-56 as a Second and later First Secretary and from 1970-73 as Minister Plenipotentiary. It was during his second term in London that he was made a KCVO when Queen Juliana paid a State Visit in 1972. He became an Ambassador in 1973 as Head of Delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (in Helsinki and Geneva). He was Ambassador in Moscow from 1974-77 and in Lisbon from 1978-80. Since 1980 he has been Inspector of the Foreign Service.

He is reported to be a sound, dignified and agreeable colleague. He has a reputation as a staunch anti-Communist and his political views are said to be well to the right.

The Ambassador's full title is Jonkheer J L R Huydecoper van Nigtevecht and his wife is a baroness in her own right. They are clear, however, that they do not wish to use these full titles in London. They have a son and two daughters who are all married.



## NETHERLANDS INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE

1. Following a last minute surge, the Socialists (PvdA) emerged as the largest party with 47 seats after the General Election on 8 September. The Christian Democrats (CDA) lost three seats and now have 45. The Liberals (VVD) won ten extra seats and now hold 36. In accordance with constitutional conventions Queen Beatrix appointed a Socialist informatieur (van Kemenade) to try to form a new coalition. He failed because the PvdA disagree fundamentally with the CDA and VVD over both economic and defence policy.
  
2. On 19 October the new informatieur, Scholten (CDA), announced that he had submitted a draft coalition agreement to the CDA and VVD parliamentary parties. The text of these proposals contained few surprises. The principal novelty was a proposal for a 'breathing space', to begin on 1 January and to last for 'a few months', to allow for thorough discussion of the economic situation between the Government and Unions/Employers. During this period there would be a freeze on incomes and prices.
  
3. On INF, the two parties have agreed only to prepare for stationing, with the final decision to depend on the outcome of the Geneva talks. When he met Mr Hurd on 13 October, Mr van den Broek, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was pessimistic about getting a majority<sup>(not strictly necessary)</sup> in the Second Chamber: there is still the problem of the minority loyalist group (within the CDA) opposed to a positive decision; and a decision to deploy would provoke large demonstrations. But for the time being the issue has been shelved because of the agreement to prepare sites.
  
4. CDA and VVD working parties reached agreement on 12 October on a four year programme of public expenditure cuts designed to

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bring down the PSBR from its current 13% to 7%. The VVD has now accepted the CDA's budget for 1983 (announced on 21 September) which contained economies totalling 13 billion guilders. The two parties have furthered agreed to additional cuts of 7 billion guilders in each of the three years thereafter.

5. The CDA and VVD should form a Government, led by the CDA's new leader, Dr Ruud Lubbers, by 5 November.



## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT PAPER: THE NETHERLANDS

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1. The Netherlands is one of the most industrially and agriculturally advanced countries in the Western world with a GDP per caput (1981) of £4,800. It is the most influential and most active of the smaller EC member states. Its role in international affairs has consistently been greater than the size of its population (14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> million) would warrant. The Netherlands has a long-standing record of staunch support for democracy and human rights. The Dutch are noted for commercial and financial acumen, for taking a pragmatic view of world affairs, and for generosity towards the developing world. The Netherlands was one of the founder members of the EC, the Council of Europe, NATO, the IMF and the OECD.

2. Anglo-Netherlands relations are extremely close. This is partly a question of geography and of history, but it finds fullest expression in the flourishing commercial relationship and the common membership of the EC and of NATO. Queen Beatrix pays a State Visit in November 1982.

## SECTION II: BRITISH INTERESTS

3. (i) The Community. The Dutch strongly supported British entry, and have remained generally helpful - eg, in the long battle to achieve a settlement of our budget problem. Their interests on Community matters do not, however, always coincide

/with





with ours; in particular they tend to see the UK as still intrinsically 'un-European' and insular on certain issues.

(ii) Trade. The Netherlands is our third largest market, having taken £3,845 million of UK exports (7.8%) in 1980 though a certain proportion is for entrepot trade.

(iii) Defence. We attach importance to continued Dutch support for NATO, not least because of the key geographical position of the Netherlands and the influence of the Dutch on the other smaller members. The Dutch accepted the 1979 NATO decision on INF modernisation but still have to decide whether or not to allow INF warheads to be stationed on their soil. There is a close relationship between the UK and Netherlands armed forces, particularly the two Navies.

(iv) Energy. The UK and the Netherlands have a number of interests in common because of their status as the two largest sources of natural energy (oil, gas) in the Community. Royal Dutch/Shell Transport and Trading is one of the best known of the oil multinationals. The two countries are also partners, together with the FRG, in URENCO - a tripartite organisation for the development, construction and operation of gas centrifuge enrichment plants.

(v) Investment. UK investment in the Netherlands stood at £585 million (book value, excluding oil, banking and insurance) at the end of 1978, and is believed to have increased substantially since then. There are a number of major Anglo-Dutch companies, of which the best known are Shell and Unilever.

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(vi) British Community. There are some 50,000 UK citizens living in the Netherlands and the number is steadily increasing. They are engaged for the most part in business/commerce but also in a wide variety of other occupations - reflecting the free movement of labour within the Community.

(vii) Tourism. Dutch visitors to the United Kingdom spent £82 million (provisional) in 1981 compared with £106.8 million (revised) in 1980.

#### SECTION III: DUTCH INTERESTS IN THE UK

4. (i) European Community. The Dutch continue to value British membership and wish to see her play a positive role within the Community. An important element in this is that the Dutch see the UK as a counterweight to the influence of France and the FRG.

(ii) Trade. The UK is the fourth largest market (7.9%) for Dutch exports, of which it took £3,407 million in 1980 (representing 6% of total UK imports).

(iii) Defence. The majority of the country remains firmly in favour of NATO membership, and therefore has an interest in an effective UK defence posture.

/SECTION IV:





## SECTION IV: BRITISH OBJECTIVES

5. (i) To maintain and increase our share of the Dutch market.

(ii) To dissuade the Dutch from any move (such as unilateral action over the stationing of INF missiles or nuclear disarmament) which would reduce their effectiveness as a member of NATO.

(iii) To seek Dutch support on questions of particular importance to us within the EC, especially over the Budget, while taking account of Dutch susceptibilities as a smaller member of the Community.

## SECTION V: MEANS IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVES\*

6. (i) British Missions. We maintain an Embassy at the seat of government in The Hague, with a UK based staff of 32 and a locally engaged staff of 24 and a Consulate-General in Amsterdam, the national capital, with a UK based staff of 3 and a locally engaged staff of 13. The Consul-General in Amsterdam is also formally accredited to the Netherlands Antilles but does not in fact cover them.

(ii) Export promotion. The Embassy's principal activities in terms of man hours are work relating to Community and NATO policies and export promotion.

(iii) Visits. Ministers frequently meet their Dutch opposite numbers on EC, NATO and other occasions. There are also many bilateral meetings. Contacts between officials are even more extensive.

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(iv) Access to decision makers. Embassy staff have full and frequent access to members of the Dutch Cabinet, Government machine, Parliament, business community and media.

(v) British Council. The British Council are active and effective in a country where English is very widely spoken and British culture and traditions frequently emulated.

#### SECTION VI: THREATS TO AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH INTERESTS

7. Public and indeed official opinion in the Netherlands is not yet fully convinced of the strength of the British commitment to the Community. It is important that we should demonstrate forcibly and at every level our determination to play that part in the Community which the Dutch (and others) expect of us and which HM Government have repeatedly stated is their objective.

8. Opposition to nuclear weapons and to a lesser extent to NATO in general has recently been on the increase in the Netherlands. The consequences for the effectiveness of the Dutch contribution to NATO are obvious. The remedy lies in the hands of the Dutch themselves, although we should continue to remind them of the seriousness with which HMG and other NATO allies would regard unilateral action, eg, to postpone further a decision on the stationing of INF weapons or to drop NATO nuclear tasks.

9. Contacts with the Dutch are particularly easy. For a variety of reasons they are unusually Anglophile.

24 JUL 1982

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B/F

PRIME MINISTER

The new Dutch Ambassador has asked whether he could see you before Queen Beatrix visits the UK. May we give him **30** minutes?

Yes *mt*

A.J.C.

Caroline

Please arrange.

A.J.C. 18/10

11.45 on TUE 26 OCT  
Narcia at KEO.  
arranging meeting

15 October 1982

Brief. C/18/10.

NON 11.50 on Mon 1 Nov.

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