

PRIME MINISTER

Visit of Queen Beatrix : Your Speech at Lunch

I thought that we should check with the Dutch about the speeches. They are not expecting you to speak for more than three or four minutes. Queen Beatrix may say a few words in reply.

I attach a copy of the speech which the Queen is making at the State Banquet tonight. I also attach a speaking note provided by the FCO.

I do not like the latter very much so I attach a short draft which you may care to use.

A.F.C.

16 November 1982

SPEECH BY THE QUEEN AT THE STATE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF
QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS ON TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness,

We are delighted to welcome you to our home at the start of your State Visit to Britain. We have previously had the great pleasure of welcoming your mother, and before that your grandmother during the war; so we hope that you will enjoy your time here now as much as we have enjoyed our visits to the Netherlands. Indeed, I want to take this opportunity of thanking you and your family for the wonderful hospitality you have always shown to my family in your country.

On this happy occasion it is right to begin by emphasising how closely our histories are connected. We both have great trading and maritime traditions and our two peoples have done business together from the early Middle Ages.

In the sixteenth century this country, led by my namesake, helped the Dutch in their struggle for independence, with both nations, even at that early stage, showing a love of freedom and independence and a determination to attain and preserve them.

I am sorry to say that relations deteriorated in the seventeenth century! England had then combined with Scotland and perhaps it was canny Scots business sense that realised that Dutch commercial success was blighting Britain's progress. Three wars were fought, but the impasse was neatly resolved when William of Orange married Queen Mary.

Unfortunately that marriage was without issue and the union dissolved. Perhaps, however, Your Majesty and I need not be too dismayed that Queen Mary did not have a child; for if she had, we should not be meeting today as the Heads of State of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom!

The closeness of our countries is not just due to history for the Netherlands have contributed greatly to the economic and cultural life of Britain. The Bank of England was established with Dutch finance and modelled on the Bank of Amsterdam. Dutch architects designed many of our great buildings and the works of Dutch painters occupy a special place in many British collections. On a lighter plane, what Englishman has not grown Dutch bulbs, not tasted Dutch cheese and is not an expert on the problem of filling holes in dykes? Above all, the lives of our peoples are intertwined. You have only to look at the number of Anglo-Dutch marriages and the large British community in the Netherlands - some inhabitants of Lincolnshire even live in 'Holland'! There is a natural affinity between us, which is apparent in the depth and ease of our political relationship, and is being further strengthened today by the identity of our economic interests, with the Netherlands now our third largest trading partner and a joint interest in developing the resources of the North Sea.

There are no bilateral differences between us and we are allies and partners across the board. Both our nations have successfully brought their colonies to independence and now strive to help less developed countries to achieve prosperity and maintain that independence. We both attach great importance to NATO and to the European Community and the Atlantic Alliance has proved its worth over the past third of a century in the preservation of peace in Europe. The uncertainties of the 1980s make it all the more important that our two peoples should cling to and promote the principle on which that Alliance is based - that free peoples should remain free. We are therefore looking forward to receiving here tomorrow the North Atlantic Assembly delegates now meeting

in London and I am so glad Your Majesty and Prince Claus will be joining us in welcoming them. In the European Community we also seek to promote an ideal, but again a very practical one - European cooperation to the benefit of our peoples. If this is to be achieved, it is only too evident that our national economies need the added strength of corporate membership.

Your Majesty, you know this country well and your concern for the problems and tensions of modern life are illustrated by your programme, during which you will be discussing the problems of the inner city with the Greater London Council and seeing how we are combining the old with the new when you open the Queensgate Centre in Peterborough. A most pleasurable moment for us will be on Thursday evening when we shall come as your guests to Hampton Court Palace, which King William III and Queen Mary restored so beautifully through the genius of Christopher Wren.

Your Majesty, the friendship between our two countries is something which we in Britain greatly treasure. I have sought to show tonight why it has endured so well and I am confident that your visit will make it stronger than ever. I raise my glass to your health, and to that of the Prince ^{Claus} of the Netherlands, and to the continued prosperity and happiness of our friends, the people of the Netherlands.

now Deputy,

It is a special honor, privilege and pleasure to
and His Majesty, Prince Claus
welcome you to No 10, Downing Street today.

Your State Visit to Britain is the height of occasion.
Our country, like yours, has many friends across the world. But I
do not exaggerate when I say that there is no country with which there
are no people with whom ^{we} the British people feel more at ease than
the people of the Netherlands.

There are many reasons:-

- in both countries the monarchy is loved and revered
- our history has touched at many points
- we are partners in Nato and the European Community
- we are both maritime nations
- our trade is immense
- your tourists are numerous and generous

but there is something more - a kind of instinctive
understanding. One way of putting it is that we understand and can let
each other's jokes, ^{no bad} ~~quite a good~~ test for relations between any
two countries. Which is not to say that I am about to test
~~demonstrate the best of experiment.~~ I do not need to test
the thesis now.

May I simply salute the friendship between our
two countries and ask you all or part to join me in
a letter to
Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands
and His Royal Highness Prince Claus of the Netherlands.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 November 1982

John Taylor,

*WOL 17
h.a.*

State Visit of Queen Beatrix: The Prime Minister's Lunch on
17 November

/ You asked John Holmes for a Speaking Note, which I now enclose, for the Prime Minister's use after this lunch. The Dutch are happy for the Prime Minister to say a few words but are not expecting her to speak for more than three or four minutes. Queen Beatrix may say a few words in reply. We have made no reference to Prince Claus's illness, but the Prime Minister may like to say something appropriate in conversation.

/ I also enclose a copy of the speech The Queen is to give at the State Banquet tonight. A set of the confidential briefs for the State Visit is being sent to you separately.

The Prime Minister may wish to propose a toast to Her Majesty The Queen of The Netherlands and to His Royal Highness Prince Claus of The Netherlands.

*Yours ever,
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



STATE VISIT OF QUEEN BEATRIX:
THE PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH IN HONOUR OF QUEEN BEATRIX, 17 NOVEMBER

SPEAKING NOTE

Relations unusually close, for geographical and historical reasons: eg Links through trade: - Netherlands is our third largest overseas market; and through tourism - Dutch visitors spent £82 million in the UK in 1981 (less than in 1980 and hope you will rectify decline this year!)

Cooperation in many areas - notably and topically over Thames Barrier, which you sailed passed yesterday. Barrier became operable for emergencies just this month. Built by a consortium of three British and Dutch companies. Dutch presence invaluable in view of wide experience of working on water environment, particularly flood defence.

Welcome your interest in inner city problems - visit to GLC - and urban renewal - visit to Peterborough. Opening of Queensgate Centre there will leave permanent mark of your association with achievement of which we are proud.

Relationship remarkably stable for centuries including unique joint monarchy of William and Mary. Now underpinned by common membership of NATO and European Community, the twin pillars of foreign policy in both countries.