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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

To note.

A-F.C. 16/2

15 February, 1983

John Taylor

INF: Dutch Views on Third Party Systems

Following reports on the Netherlands Prime Minister's visit to Bonn at the end of January, the Prime Minister expressed concern about the attitude Mr Lubbers was taking over the inclusion of French and British systems in the INF talks.

We have now taken this up with the Dutch at senior official level. They told us that Mr Lubbers had been misreported. What he had said, according to our Dutch contacts, was that, while no system should be automatically excluded from arms control arrangements for all time, and while the Alliance should eventually in the longer term look for a comprehensive arms control framework embracing all nuclear systems, the circumstances and the time were not now right for the inclusion of French and British forces. The INF negotiations in Geneva were certainly not the right forum.

The Dutch representative at the NATO Special Consultative Group meeting yesterday put these points formally on the record. We have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this version of Lubbers' remarks. Nevertheless, Lubbers is not altogether firm on the point and probably is not thoroughly briefed on all aspects of the INF negotiations. We think therefore that it would be useful if the Prime Minister were able to go over the ground thoroughly with him during his visit at the beginning of next month. We will be submitting briefing accordingly on this and other INF points.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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From the Private Secretary

21 February 1983

INF: DUTCH VIEWS ON THIRD PARTY SYSTEMS

Thank you for your letter of 15 February about the Dutch attitude to the inclusion of French and British systems in the INF talks. The Prime Minister has noted that the Netherlands Prime Minister has been misreported on this point. She will certainly wish to go over the ground with him during his visit early in March.

A. J. COLES

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