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From the Private Secretary

10 November, 1983

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The Netherlands Prime Minister spoke on the telephone to the Prime Minister at 1700 hrs this afternoon.

Mr. Lubbers referred to Mr. Dam's visit to The Hague where the state of INF negotiations had been discussed. Following that visit Mr. Lubbers had had further discussions with his own Ministerial colleagues as a result of which he had spoken to Chancellor Kohl earlier today. His purpose in ringing the Prime Minister was to ask whether it would be worthwhile tabling the "Walk in the Woods" proposal.

The Prime Minister said that this would not be a good move. The essential element of that proposal was that the deployment of Pershings should be delayed. It was vital that the initial deployment went ahead. If Pershings were delayed, the United Kingdom would be alone in deploying missiles at the end of this year. The Soviet Union would have won.

Mr. Lubbers referred to deployment by Italy but the Prime Minister pointed out that Italian deployment would not take place until next year. She reiterated that it was vital that the first tranche of Pershings should be deployed and that, if there were any interim agreement short of the zero option, Pershings and Cruise should be deployed in the same ratio as was envisaged for the total deployment. Adoption of the "Walk in the Woods" proposal would have a devastating effect.

Mr. Lubbers said that he concluded that, if this proposal was tabled, the Prime Minister considered that we should reject it. The Prime Minister replied that no one was likely to table it

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since it was the Americans who were negotiating in Geneva. Mr. Lubbers said that the Soviet Union might table such a proposal. The Prime Minister replied that it would suit their book to do so.

After a brief discussion of other matters, the discussion ended at 1707 hrs.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

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