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FM THE HAGUE 231930Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 240900Z FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 142 OF 23 APRIL 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE SEOUL (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY) WASHINGTON
BONN BRUSSELS ROME UKDEL NATO AND MODUK (FOR DS17 AND DUS(P))

YOUR TELNO 744 TO WASHINGTON: NETHERLANDS / INF

1. ACCORDING TO VAN DEN BROEK'S PRIVATE SECRETARY:

(A) A DECISION MAY WELL BE PUT TO THE CABINET ON 27 APRIL.

(B) MUCH HOWEVER DEPENDS ON DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

(C) LUBBERS HAS NOW DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY VAN DEN BROEK ON THE LATTER'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA FROM EARLY ON 24 TO LATE ON 26 APRIL.

2. WE GATHER FROM THE US EMBASSY THAT REAGAN'S MESSAGE TO LUBBERS WAS DELIVERED AT NOON TODAY. THE US AMBASSADOR AND LUBBERS EVIDENTLY HAD A SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION. WE ARE PROMISED A FULL ACCOUNT IN BRUSSELS EARLY ON 25 APRIL.

3. THE RIGHT MOMENT FOR ANY MESSAGE TO BE COMMUNICATED WOULD THUS BE EARLY IN THE MORNING OF 27 APRIL (WHEN LUBBERS IF TRUE TO FORM WILL BE IN HIS OFFICE FROM 7AM LONDON TIME). THE PROS AND CONS AND THE CONTENT COULD THUS BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF DISCUSSION DURING THE QUAD MEETING, AND ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS HERE.

4. YOU SAY YOU ARE NOT CLEAR WHAT THE PROPOSED MESSAGE WOULD ADD TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF OUR VIEW. THE POINT OF THE EXERCISE WOULD NOT AS I SEE IT BE TO ADD NEW ELEMENTS TO OUR POSITION - THOUGH ANY MESSAGE COULD CERTAINLY REFER TO DISQUIETING PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BASING 'DUTCH' MISSILES OUTSIDE THE NETHERLANDS. IT WOULD BE RATHER TO CONVEY OUR CONCERN AS A FELLOW BASING COUNTRY AT THE TOP LEVEL. I AM IN NO DOUBT THAT LUBBERS WOULD PAY ATTENTION TO A MESSAGE FROM THE PM AND WOULD USE IT WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. MRS THATCHER HAS NOT, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH LUBBERS FOR SOME TIME, SO IT WOULD ON THE FACE OF IT BE REASONABLE FOR HER TO RAISE IT WITH HIM DIRECTLY. IF SHE WERE TO DO THIS BY TELEPHONE, IT WOULD HELP TO DISTINGUISH HER APPROACH FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN'S WRITTEN MESSAGE.

MANSFIELD

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HD/DEFENCE

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PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

MR WRIGHT

MR JENKINS

MR CARTLEDGE



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