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FM THE HAGUE 310700Z MAY 84

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 310800Z FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 197, OF 31 MAY

INFO TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 310800Z UKDEL NATO

IMMEDIATE DESKBY 311200Z WASHINGTON (FOR SEC OF STATES PARTY)

IMMEDIATE MODUK (FOR DS17)

PRIORITY BONN AND BRUSSELS

MY TEL NO 195 AND YOUR TEL NO 994 TO WASHINGTON : NETHERLANDS/INF

SUMMARY

1. THE LATEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT LUBBERS MAY ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE CDA PLAN (MY TUR) OR SOMETHING CLOSE TO IT THROUGH THE CABINET ON 1 JUNE. HE IS LIKELY TO FACE CONTINUED LIBERAL (VVD) RESISTANCE. THE PRIME MINISTER MAY WISH TO CONTACT HIM BEFORE THE NETHERLANDS CABINET MEETS TOMORROW.

DETAIL

2. THE VVD LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN TALKING TO THE PRESS. THE CDA, UNDER LUBBERS FIRM INSTRUCTIONS, ARE BEING MUCH MORE CIRCUMSPECT. BUT ON 30 MAY THERE WERE THREE DEVELOPMENTS :

(A) ACCORDING TO THE US EMBASSY VAN DEN BROEK TOLD SHULTZ ON 29 MAY THAT HE EXPECTED A DECISION TO BE REACHED ON FRIDAY.

(B) EVENHUIS, DEPUTY VVD FLOORLEADER IN THE SECOND CHAMBER, TOLD US THAT HIS PARTY THOUGHT A CRUCIAL DISCUSSION ON INF VERY MUCH ON THE CARDS FOR THE 1 JUNE CABINET.

(C) VAN EENENNAAM, IN THE ABSENCE OF JACBOVITS AND VOS AT THE NAC VAN DEN BROEK'S SENIOR ADVISER ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS, TOLD HEAD OF CHANCERY YESTERDAY EVENING THAT HE HAD SPENT MOST OF THE DAY WORKING ON THE INF FILE WITH LUBBERS, WHO HAD LECTURED HIM STERNLY ON THE NEED TO AVOID LEAKS. HE EXPECTED THIS WORK TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT 31 MAY (A DUTCH HOLIDAY). THERE WERE STILL "SOME SMAGS" STILL TO BE IRONED OUT, BUT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT LUBBERS WOULD HAVE FIRM PROPOSALS TO PUT TO CABINET ON 1 JUNE. VAN EENENNAAM WOULD NOT BE DRAWN FURTHER, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT LUBBERS WOULD NOT IN HIS VIEW BE PUT OFF IF VAN DEN BROEK RETURNED FROM THE NAC WITH A FLEA IN HIS EAR.

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3. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOW A MINORITY IN THE VVD FRACTIE WHICH BELIEVES THAT THE CDA PLAN IS THE BEST THAT CAN BE OBTAINED, THE VVD LEADERSHIP AND VAN AARDENNE ARE APPARENTLY CONTINUING TO HOLD OUT FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS. IT THUS SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT LUBBERS WILL BE ABLE TO WIN THE VVD ROUND SUFFICIENTLY UNLESS HE MAKES SOME CONCESSIONS. ALTHOUGH LEADING INDUSTRIALISTS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN URGING THE VVD NOT TO PRECIPITATE A CABINET CRISIS (AND AN ELECTION) OVER INF, WITH THE RISK OF LETTING THE SOCIALISTS INTO POWER, NIJPELS IS UNWORRIED BY THE PROSPECT OF A SPELL IN OPPOSITION, WHICH HE EXPECTS WOULD BE SHORT.

4. FACED WITH THIS UNCERTAIN SITUATION, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT THE BEST TIMING FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE. ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR WAITING TILL NEXT WEEK, THUS ALLOWING A PAUSE FOR REFLECTION AFTER THE NAC, THERE IS NOW A RISK THAT NEXT WEEK WILL BE TOO LATE. ON BALANCE I WOULD THEREFORE FAVOUR A MESSAGE BY TELEPHONE EITHER LATE ON 31 MAY OR EARLY ON 1 JUNE (WHEN CABINET WILL START AT 10 AM LONDON TIME).

5. SUCH A MESSAGE COULD FOCUS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONCERN ABOUT SOME ELEMENTS IN THE CDA PLAN REPORTED IN MY TUR (THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN THE PRESS HERE). I WOULD RECOMMEND PARTICULAR STRESS ON THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS THE CDA PLAN WOULD HAVE ON THE SOVIET APPROACH TO THE ARMS CONTROL DIALOGUE AND ON THE ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES IT WOULD MAKE FOR THE OTHER DEPLOYING COUNTRIES.

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO GOZNEY (DEFENCE DEPARTMENT)

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