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DESKBY 311300Z LISBON

FM WASHINGTON 310335Z MAY 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1699 OF 30 MAY

AND TO IMMEDIATE LISBON (FOR FALL)

INFO PRIORITY THE HAGUE, UKDEL NATO, ROUTINE OTHER NATO POSTS,
MOSCOW.

MIPT : SUPER RESTRICTED SESSION OF NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL
MEETING - DEPLOYMENT OF INF IN HOLLAND

1. VAN DEN BROEK (NETHERLANDS) SPOKE TODAY IN THE GENERAL DEBATE
ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS ABOUT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT
POSITION ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF INF. HE SAID DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE
WAS STILL ACTIVE AND THE SITUATION WAS VERY COMPLICATED AND DELICATE.
TO BE FRANK, IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE DUTCH CABINET WOULD
SURVIVE. THE DUTCH RESERVATION ENTERED AT THE TIME OF THE DUAL
TRACK DECISION HAD LEFT ROOM FOR AMBIGUITY. NOW A CLEAR-CUT YES
WOULD NOT OBTAIN A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT AND A CLEAR-CUT NO
WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE DUTCH CABINET. WHAT NEXT? THERE
WAS A CLEAR FEELING IN THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR
DECISION MUST NOT DAMAGE THE ALLIANCE OR THE PROSPECTS FOR ARMS
CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. "LET US HOPE FOR THE BEST, IN THE FIRST
PLACE FOR THE ALLIANCE". THE NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT GO ENTIRELY
ANTI-NUCLEAR: THEY WERE EVEN NOW PERFORMING SIX NUCLEAR TASKS
AND IF THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF A CERTAIN LEVEL OF INF THE
NETHERLANDS WOULD BE READY TO PARTICIPATE PROPORTIONATELY. THE
NETHERLANDS WERE NOT ANTI-NUCLEAR BUT WERE WRESTLING WITH THE
QUESTION OF HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO ARMS CONTROL.

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PLANNING STAFF

SIR J BULLARD

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