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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 June, 1984

Netherlands and INF

The Prime Minister had a brief telephone conversation with the Dutch Prime Minister, Mr. Lubbers, at 7.45 this morning.

The Prime Minister spoke very much along the lines of the note attached to your letter of 31 May to John Coles. She said that we welcomed Mr. Van den Broek's statement to the North Atlantic Council on 30 May. It was, in our view, crucial to avoid giving any encouragement to the Soviet Union in their aim of splitting the United States from Europe. It was particularly important to avoid any such impression at a time when the leaders of the Western Alliance were celebrating the anniversary of D-Day. She hoped that the Dutch Government would reconfirm the fundamental principle of the dual track decision.

The Prime Minister made clear that she was aware of the political difficulties for Mr. Lubbers in seeking to achieve this objective, and aware also of his firm support for the Alliance.

Mr. Lubbers responded by saying that his Cabinet had not, as yet, reached any decision about the basing of Cruise missiles in the Netherlands, although he intended to obtain a decision that day, if at all possible. He could not predict the outcome, but he was none the less grateful to the Prime Minister for letting him know of her concern.

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

DAVID BARCLAY

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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