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FM THE HAGUE

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OF 241000Z JUNE 86

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TELECON BUDD/PAUL OF 23 JUNE: PRIME MINISTER'S AIRPORT OF ARRIVAL,
EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 26-27 JUNE

SUMMARY

1. WE HAVE TRIED HARD AND REPEATEDLY TO GET DUTCH AGREEMENT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO LAND AT VALKENBURG RATHER THAN SCHIPHOL. THE DUTCH HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR THEIR INSISTENCE ON SCHIPHOL AND THEY ARE IN MANY OTHER WAYS TREATING US EXCEPTIONALLY WELL. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT WE ACCEPT THEIR DECISION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD LAND AT SCHIPHOL AND COME QUICKLY BY CAR TO THE HAGUE - A JOURNEY OF SOME 30-35 MINUTES.

DETAIL

2. WE HAVE ON REPEATED OCCASIONS LEFT THE DUTCH IN NO DOUBT OF NO. 10'S VERY STRONG WISH THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD LAND AT VALKENBURG ON BOTH PRACTICAL AND SECURITY GROUNDS. THE DUTCH HAVE HOWEVER STUCK TO THEIR DECISION THAT SCHIPHOL SHOULD BE USED INSTEAD OF VALKENBURG FOR TWO REASONS.

3. FIRST, PRESIDENT MITTERRAND WILL ARRIVE AT VALKENBURG AT 1145, PRECEDED BY CHIRAC AT 1115. AS A HEAD OF STATE, MITTERRAND WILL BE GREETED BY PRINS CLAUS AND THERE WILL BE A GUARD OF HONOUR. WE CANNOT DISPLACE MITTERRAND BECAUSE HE IS A HEAD OF STATE. THE PRIME MINISTER COULD NOT LAND AFTER MITTERRAND AS SHE WOULD BE LATE FOR THE LUNCHEON AT THE PALACE AND WOULD ARRIVE AT THE PALACE AFTER MITTERRAND WHICH WOULD OFFEND PROTOCOL AND BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE DUTCH. SHE COULD ARRIVE AT VALKENBURG BEFORE CHIRAC AND MITTERRAND BUT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE AT 1045 TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR PREPARATIONS FOR THE FRENCH ARRIVAL. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE OF NO ADVANTAGE AS IT WOULD BE MUCH EARLIER THAN THE 1130 ARRIVAL TIME PROPOSED FOR SCHIPHOL.

4. SECONDLY, ACCORDING TO THE MFA, VALKENBURG IS NOT SUITABLE FOR AN AIRCRAFT OF THE WEIGHT OF A VC10. WE HAVE STRONGLY DISPUTED THIS ON THE BASIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION MANUAL. BUT THE DUTCH DO NOT ACCEPT THIS. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL REASON THAT VALKENBURG HAS NO DISEMBARKATION STEPS OF THE SIZE REQUIRED FOR VC10S.

5. WE HAVE, AS INSTRUCTED, AGAIN TAKEN UP WITH THE DUTCH THE POSSIBILITY OF USING A HELICOPTER TO REDUCE THE TRAVELLING TIME FROM SCHIPHOL TO THE HAGUE. THE DUTCH ESTIMATE THAT A HELICOPTER JOURNEY WOULD TAKE 35 MINUTES STARTING UP AND TAKING OFF, 20 MINUTES IN THE AIR, 10 MINUTE BY CAR TO THE NOORDEINDE PALACE FROM YPENBURG WHERE THE HELICOPTER WOULD LAND. THIS COMPARES WITH A JOURNEY BY CAR WHICH COULD BE COMPRESSED TO A MINIMUM OF 30-35 MINUTES

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MINUTES IF NECESSARY. THE DUTCH ESTIMATES FOR THE HELICOPTER JOURNEY SEEM TO ME RATHER GENEROUS AND WE HAVE SAID SO. BUT IN ANY CASE, THERE IS NOT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO METHODS OF TRANSPORT. WE HAVE ALSO, AS INSTRUCTED, PRESSED THE CASE FOR USING A HELICOPTER ON SECURITY GROUNDS, BUT GIVEN THE EXISTING THREAT ASSESMENT THE ARGUMENTS DO NOT SEEM STRONG AND THE DUTCH ARE NOT CONVINCED.

6. WE HAVE MADE A GREAT NUISANCE OF OURSELVES IN ATTEMPTING TO GET DUTCH AGREEMENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER LANDING AT VALKENBURG. KNOWING DUTCH OBSTINACY, CONTINUED BADGERING BY US SO LATE IN THE DAY IS UNLIKELY TO MOVE THEM. I FEAR THAT WE SHOULD MERELY MAKE OURSELVES UNNECESSARILY UNPOPULAR. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE ACCEPT THE DUTCH DECISION AND USE SCHIPHOL. THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE PRIME MINISTER IN SOME 15 MINUTES ADDITIONAL JOURNEY BY MOTOR CAR THAN IF SHE USED VALKENBURG.

7. THE DUTCH HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ARRANGE IMPRESSIVE AND ELABORATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. AT MY HOUSE AND HAVE ALSO MADE SPECIAL PROVISION TO OVERCOME ANY TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND THOSE MEMBERS OF HER STAFF WHO ARE STAYING AT THE DES INDES HOTEL. MR LUBBERS IS COMING TO THE WORKING BREAKFAST WITH THE PRIME MINISTER (I KNOW THAT THE FRENCH WANTED LUBBERS FOR BREAKFAST, BUT WE GOT HIM). I BELIEVE THAT THE DUTCH ARE TREATING US EXCEPTIONALLY WELL. GIVEN ALL THIS, I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD ASK FOR MORE.

B. PLEASE ADVANCE TO PAT NOBLE, CONFERENCE SECTION.

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MINIMAL
WED
PROTOCOL .D
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- P.S.

Spoken to
Mr. Budd

Private Secretary

agreed
CA.

Charles (Powell)

We have tried very
hard on this, but
the Ambassador's
advice - see below -
is very clear. OK
to go to Schiphol?

Colin Budd

24/6

One further development
The Dutch have now
agreed that the
Prime Minister can
leave from Valkenburg.