

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 133/86

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
Subject ec:master  
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CONFIDENTIAL

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OCMIAN 0532  
CONFIDENTIAL  
OO THHAG  
FM FCOLN TO THHAG  
161900Z JUL  
GRS 76

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO [COLLAR]  
TO IMMEDIATE THE HAGUE  
TELNO 282  
OF 161900Z JULY 86

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO DR RUUD LUBBERS, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF  
GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS :  
QUOTE I WAS VERY PLEASED TO LEARN OF YOUR RE-APPOINTMENT  
AS PRIME MINISTER AND THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF YOUR  
TASK IN FORMING YOUR NEW GOVERNMENT. CONGRATULATIONS,  
AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SECOND TERM. UNQUOTE

HOWE

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CONFIDENTIAL

*CSC*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 July 1986

*Agreed & despatched  
CDD 16/7*

*Dear Charles,*

New Netherlands Government

/ You may have seen The Hague telegrams 445-447 (copies enclosed) reporting the formation of the new Netherlands Government.

Sir John Margetson has suggested that the Prime Minister might send a brief message of congratulations on Mr Lubbers' formal re-appointment as Prime Minister, to follow up the message she sent on 22 May following the election results. I enclose a suggested text, which we would propose to send by telegram to The Hague if agreed.

*BK //  
for [unclear]*

*Yours ever,*

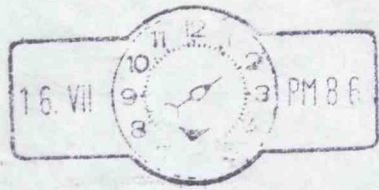
*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR RUUD LUBBERS,  
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS

I was very pleased to learn of your re-appointment as Prime Minister and the successful completion of your task in forming your new Government. Congratulations, and best wishes for your second term.



GRS 385  
COLLAR

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FM THE HAGUE

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 445

OF 141515Z JULY 86

INFO PRIORITY EC POSTS, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

NEW NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

1. NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT WAS SWORN IN TODAY. THE LIBERALS LOSE ONE MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO, WHICH REFLECTS THEIR POOR SHOWING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. VAN DEN BROEK REMAINS AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SURPRISE APPOINTMENT OF VAN EEKELN (PREVIOUSLY STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AS DEFENCE MINISTER.

DETAIL

2. MR LUBBERS ENCOUNTERED NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING HIS WORK AS FORMATEUR. MINISTERS WERE SWORN IN THIS AFTERNOON, 14 JULY (FULL LIST IN MIFT). STATE SECRETARIES WILL BE SWORN IN THIS EVENING (LIST IN MY SECOND IFT).

3. THE BALANCE OF THE NEW COALITION (9 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND 5 LIBERALS) REFLECTS THE POOR SHOWING OF THE LIBERALS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. AS EXPECTED, THE LIBERALS NOW HAVE DEFENCE BUT HAVE LOST DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HOME AFFAIRS - A NET LOSS OF ONE PORTFOLIO. AS EXPECTED, VAN DEN BROEK CONTINUES AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE NEW LEADER OF THE LIBERALS, DE KORTE, MOVES FROM HOME AFFAIRS TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. THE ONE SURPRISE IS THE APPOINTMENT OF VAN EEKELN (STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT) AS MINISTER FOR DEFENCE. HE HAD BEEN WIDELY TIPPED TO GO TO BRUSSELS AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EC: BUT OVER THE WEEKEND ANOTHER LIBERAL REFUSED THE DEFENCE PORTFOLIO WHICH THEN WENT TO VAN EEKELN. HE COMES TO THE JOB WITH MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN THAT FIELD, HAVING BEEN STATE SECRETARY FOR MATERIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FROM 1978-81 AND HAVING SERVED AT NATO WHEN HE WAS A DIPLOMAT. THE REPLACEMENT OF WINSEMIUS AS MINISTER FOR HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT, BY THE YOUNGER EX-LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, NIJPELS, IS THE RESULT OF MUCH MANOEUVRING. WINSEMIUS WANTED ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND REFUSED TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PORTFOLIO. LUBBERS CANNOT BE PLEASED TO HAVE LOST ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF HIS LAST COALITION FOR NIJPELS WHO SHOWED A NOTABLE LACK OF POLITICAL JUDGEMENT DURING HIS UNSUCCESSFUL PERIOD AS LIBERAL PARTY LEADER.

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4. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY SENT A MESSAGE TO MR LUBBERS CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS ELECTION VICTORY. SHE MIGHT HOWEVER LIKE TO SEND A VERY BRIEF MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION ON HIS BECOMING PRIME MINISTER FOR THE SECOND TIME. YOU WILL WISH TO SEND A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION TO MR VAN DEN BROEK AND I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO MR VAN EEKELLEN. I AM SURE MR WINSEMIUS WOULD APPRECIATE GREATLY A MESSAGE FROM MR WALDERGRAVE.

MARGETSON

EUROPEAN POLITICAL  
WED

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GRS 100

UNCLASSIFIED

FM THE HAGUE

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 446

OF 141545Z JULY 86

INFO PRIORITY EC POSTS, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO

MIPT: NEW NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT

1. THE NEW CABINET IS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (A) PRIME MINISTER<br>AND MINISTER OF<br>GENERAL AFFAIRS         | DRS R F M LUBBERS<br>(CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT:<br>CDA) |
| (B) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER<br>AND MINISTER OF<br>ECONOMIC AFFAIRS | DRS R DE KORTE<br>(LIBERAL: VVD)                  |
| (C) FOREIGN AFFAIRS  | MR H VAN DEN BROEK<br>(CDA)                       |
| (D) FINANCE  | DR H O C R RUDING (CDA)                           |
| (E) DEFENCE  | DR W F VAN EEKELLEN (VVD)                         |
| (F) DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION                                      | DRS P BUKMAN (CDA)                                |
| (G) JUSTICE  | MR F KORTHALS ALTES (VVD)                         |
| (H) HOME AFFAIRS   | DRS C P VAN DIJK (CDA)                            |
| (I) AGRICULTURE AND<br>FISHERIES                                 | IR G J M BRAKS (CDA)                              |
| (J) SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND<br>EMPLOYMENT                             | DRS J DE KONING (CDA)                             |
| (K) TRANSPORT AND<br>WATERWAYS                                   | MEVR DRS N SMIT-KROES<br>(VVD)                    |
| (L) HOUSING, PLANNING<br>AND ENVIRONMENT                         | DRS E H T M NIJPELS<br>(VVD)                      |
| (M) WELFARE, HEALTH<br>AND CULTURE                               | DRS L C BRIN <sup>K</sup> MAN (CDA) *             |
| (N) EDUCATION  | DRS W J DEETMAN (CDA).                            |

2. A NOTE ON VAN DIJK FOLLOWS BY BAG TO FCO ONLY.

MARGETSON  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL  
WED

GRS 160

(COLLAR)

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FM THE HAGUE

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 447

OF 141610Z JULY 86

INFO PRIORITY EC POST, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO

MIPT: NEW NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS STATE SECRETARIES IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS (EUROPEAN AFFAIRS)	P R H M VAN DER LINDEN (CDA)
JUSTICE	MRS V N M KORTE-VAN HEDEL (CDA)
HOME AFFAIRS	MRS D Y W DE GRAAFF-NAUTA (CDA)
EDUCATION	MRS N J GINJAAR-MAAS (VVD)
FINANCE	H E KONING (VVD)
DEFENCE	J VAN HOUWELINGEN (CDA)
HOUSING	G PH BROKX (CDA)
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	A J EVENHUIS (VVD)
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (FOREIGN TRADE)	E HEERMA (CDA)
SOCIAL AFFAIRS	L DE GRAAF (CDA)
HEALTH	D J D DEES (VVD)

2. THE NUMBER OF STATE SECRETARIES HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 16 TO 11. A NUMBER FROM THE LAST GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN REAPPOINTED TO THEIR PREVIOUS POSITIONS. THE NEWCOMERS ARE VAN DER LINDEN (A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN THE LAST PARLIAMENT WHO WAS A SPONSORED VISITOR IN JANUARY), MRS DE GRAAFF-NAUTA (A MEMBER OF THE FRIESLAND PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT), EVENHUIS (PREVIOUSLY CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE), HEERMA (MEMBER OF THE AMSTERDAM CITY COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) AND DEES (LIBERAL MP).

MARGETSON  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL  
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