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(COLLAR)

NEW DUTCH MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

SUMMARY

1. AGREEMENT ON THE ALLOCATION OF 12 OF THE 14 MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE APPOINTED ON 7 NOVEMBER. TWO NEW MINISTERS, AND THE STATE SECRETARY APPOINTMENTS ARE STILL TO BE NAMED. INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE TEAM. RECOMMENDATION FOR MESSAGES.

DETAIL

2. THE NEW DUTCH COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMALLY APPOINTED BY QUEEN BEATRIX ON THE MORNING OF TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER.
3. THE TWO COALITION PARTNERS REACHED AGREEMENT YESTERDAY ON THE ALLOCATION OF TWELVE OF THE FOURTEEN PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT (SEE MIFT). TWO FURTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS (TRANSPORT AND JUSTICE) WILL BE FILLED BY MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (CDA). THESE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY, TOGETHER WITH THE NAMES OF THE STATE SECRETARIES (JUNIOR MINISTERS) IN MINISTRIES.
4. THE ALLOCATION OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IS A CAREFUL BALANCE BETWEEN THE COALITION PARTNERS WITH SEVEN POSTS GOING TO EACH PARTY. THE LABOUR (PVDA) LEADER, KOK, WILL COMBINE THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE. IN ADDITION TO LUBBERS, ONLY TWO OF THE OUTGOING MINISTERIAL TEAM RETAIN THEIR PORTFOLIOS, VAN DEN BROEK AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND BRAKS AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
5. AS WIDELY EXPECTED THE FORMER LEADER OF THE CDA IN THE DUTCH SECOND CHAMBER, DE VRIES BECOMES MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. ANDRIESSEN, THE NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HELD THE SAME POSITION IN THE 1960'S, AND HAS SINCE 1987 BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION.
6. OF THE NEW PVDA MINISTERS, TER BEEK, THE NEW MINISTER OF DEFENCE, IS A FORMER PARTY SPOKESMAN ON DEFENCE IN THE SECOND CHAMBER. HE IS

ON THE MODERATE WING OF THE PARTY AND WELL KNOWN TO US. HE HAS SENSIBLE VIEWS ON DEFENCE ISSUES AND NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT SPEAKING HIS MIND EVEN IF WHAT HE SAYS IS UNPOPULAR IN THE PARTY. HIS APPOINTMENT IS THEREFORE ON THE WHOLE GOOD NEWS, ALTHOUGH HE WILL BE LESS OUTSPOKEN THAN HIS LIBERAL PREDECESSOR BOLKENSTEIN (WHO WILL REVERT TO BEING A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND CHAMBER COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE).

7. ALDERS, THE NEW MINISTER OF ENVIROMENT IS THE YOUNGEST MINISTER SO FAR ANNOUNCED (AGED 36) AND ALSO COMES FROM THE SECOND CHAMBER. HIS APPOINTMENT IS A SURPRISE, BUT HE IS KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO KOK. THE PORTFOLIO IS AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR HIS PARTY, WHICH IS UNDER ATTACK FROM THE LEFT ON ENVIROMENT ISSUES.

8. PRONK AT DEVELOPMENT AID, IS A FORMER PVDA DEVELOPMENT MINISTER. HE WAS MUCH CRITICISED FOR HIS CONDUCT OF THE MINISTRY IN THE 1970'S WHEN HE WAS IDENTIFIED WITH THE PARTY'S LEFT WING AND WAS NOTORIOUS FOR HARD DRINKING. HE IS NOW SAID TO BE WISER AND ON THE WAGON.

9. HEDY D'ANCONA (HEALLT) WAS A STATE SECRETARY FOR WOMENS AFFAIRS IN THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

10. RITZEN IS AN ACADEMIC ECONOMIST WHO HAS SPECIALISED IN THE ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION AND IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE CABINET IN ORDER TO SORT OUT THE LONG STANDING PROBLEMS IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD.

11. MESSAGES TO SOME OF THE NEW MINISTERS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT ON 7 NOVEMBER. THE PRIME MINISTER SENT A MESSAGE TO LUBBERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS SUCCESS. SHE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING A FURTHER ONE ON THE FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF HIS THIRD GOVERNMENT. MR HURD HAS RECENTLY REPLIED TO A LETTER OF CONGRATULATION FROM VAN DEN BROEK, AND AS THE TWO WILL MEET ON 9 NOVEMBER NO FURTHER MESSAGE SEEMS NECESSARY.

12. I RECOMMEND THAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO KOK, THAT MR KING SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO TER BEEK AND THAT BRAKS SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED ON CONTINUING HIS APPOINTMENT AT AGRICULTURE. ADDITIONALLY I RECOMMEND THAT MRS CHALKER SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO PRONK, THAT MR PATTEN SHOULD WRITE TO ALDERS AND THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MR FOWLER WRITING TO DE VRIES.

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13. I SHALL BE MAKING SEPARATE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT BILATERAL
CONTACTS WITH NEW MINISTERS.

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