

also

Prime Minister



cell 1

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

It is worth seeing Lubbers & van den Broek. They are likely to be our main supporters in the months ahead.

13 March 1991

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Charles,
You can't manage Luxembourg on 14 April, as you have a lunch-time reception here, & arrive just in time for the meeting.
You could do the Sunday night before the EBRD meeting.

contact 14/4

Possible Visit by Dutch Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

As we discussed this morning, Van den Broek's office have been on to us several times in recent days to try to find a date for both Lubbers and Van den Broek together to visit the UK to discuss NATO/European security issues with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. They first proposed a date which fell foul of the Foreign Secretary's intended visit to Moscow (finally confirmed only today). They have now proposed the evening of Sunday 14 April, which is the eve of the EBRD meeting in London and also the FAC in Luxembourg.

You will probably need to be here anyway. Also with several Heads of Council in town.

The Foreign Secretary welcomes in principle this Dutch initiative and thinks a discussion with them of the central NATO/European security dossier would be valuable. He is also very conscious of the pressure on the Prime Minister's diary. With the prospect looming of a Special European Council dinner, another option would be for the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to offer to arrive early in Luxembourg for a meeting with Lubbers and Van den Broek before the dinner. It might even be possible to offer to fly to Luxembourg via The Hague and meet them there. It is anyway clear that Van den Broek himself, for domestic political and personal reasons, would like to be present when Lubbers talks to the Prime Minister, particularly on these defence and security issues.

The greatest constraint on all this is the Prime Minister's diary, and I should be grateful if you could let me know whether any of these options (including 14 April or another date for a meeting here) look at all possible.

Agree to a meeting then, perhaps over supper?

Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice.

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

Sir Charles Powell KCMG
10 Downing Street

CBP
14/3