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PRIME MINISTER SE
PERSONAL MESSAGE

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21 OCT 1982

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TO ROUTINE THE HAGUE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 130 OF 19 OCTOBER

THE RESIGNATION OF THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER

1. WHEN MR VAN AGT STEPS DOWN PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS

DEAR DRIES

I WAS VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR RESIGNATION. WE SHALL MISS YOU VERY MUCH IN OUR EUROPEAN MEETINGS. I WOULD NOT WISH YOUR DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE AFTER ELEVEN YEARS AS A MINISTER TO PASS WITHOUT SAYING HOW MUCH I HAVE VALUED YOUR FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND WISE COUNSEL. WARM GOOD WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

ENDS

MESSAGE FOR THE NEW PRIME MINISTER:

REGINS

DEAR PRIME MINISTER

ISEND YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON ASSUMING THE PREMIERSHIP OF THE NETHERLANDS. I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, AS WELL AS TO MORKING WITH YOU IN FUTURE. WARM REGARDS, MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS

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COPIES SENT TO No. 10 DOWNING STREET

CONFIDENTIAL

File Malhalas )

BF for Tel (56 + 1)

19 October 1982

## THE RESIGNATION OF THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 15 October.

The Prime Minister agrees that, when the time comes, she should send messages to Mr. van Agt and to his successor. Mrs. Thatcher has approved the texts in the draft telegram enclosed with your letter except that, in the message to Mr. van Agt, she would wish a sentence to be inserted after the first sentence, reading:

"We shall miss you very much in our European meetings."

ALU COLES

Roger Bone, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.





BRITISH EMBASSY LANGE VOORHOUT 10 2514 ED THE HAGUE

31 January 1983

A. J. C. 4.

A J Coles Esq 10 Downing Street London

Dear John

Dries van Agt, the last Dutch Prime Minister, who resigned in September, gave a long interview to Vrij Nederland, a leading Dutch newspaper, on 29 January. he said on deployment of Cruise missiles in the Netherlands was consistent with the robust line he took in the election campaign.

- 2. But he was also asked if he missed the international contacts he enjoyed when Prime Minister. He commented in passing that on his resignation he had an extremely pleasant letter (this emphasised three times) from Margaret Thatcher. The letter clearly gave him a great deal of pleasure.
- Asked later what he would do if someone now asked him to return as Prime Minister, he said that he would accept feeling that he was now sufficiently rested! But at the moment there is no sign that the invitation will be forthcoming.

Ims Ever Philip Manspel

Philip Mansfield

cc: A M Wood Esq WED FCO

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