

PRIME MINISTER

State Visit of Queen Beatrix

I attach a short brief for your talks with Queen Beatrix after lunch tomorrow. At her request, no record will be taken. Only Mr. Pym and Mr. van den Broek, and possibly Prince Claus, will attend. You will presumably use the White Drawing Room.

I also attach a copy of the brief provided for The Queen on the State Visit. You will wish to glance at this before tonight's State Banquet. I have highlighted the passages which I suggest you should read.

Please note in particular:-

- Flag A: Role of the Dutch Monarchy
- Flag B: The opening years of Queen Beatrix
- Flag C: A personality note on The Queen
- Flag D: A personality note on Prince Claus
- Flag E: A personality note on the new Foreign Minister
- Flag F: Topics for conversation, and topics to be avoided (Princess Irene, the Second World War and Prince Claus, Prince Bernhard)

Beatrix is pronounced Bay-a-trix. She is called "Your Majesty". Prince Claus is called "Your Highness".

I shall let you have separately a draft for your after-lunch remarks.

A.J.C.

16 November, 1982.

*netherlands*

STATE VISIT OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN BEATRIX

OF THE NETHERLANDS

AND

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CLAUS

16-19 NOVEMBER 1982

- (i) Background Brief on the Netherlands and  
UK/Netherlands Relations
- (ii) Personality Notes on the Netherlands Suite
- (iii) Topics for Conversation
- (iv) Guide to Pronunciation and Forms of Address

STATE VISIT OF HM QUEEN BEATRIX AND HRH PRINCE CLAUS:  
16-19 NOVEMBER 1982

BACKGROUND BRIEF ON THE NETHERLANDS AND UK/NETHERLANDS RELATIONS

Introduction

1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth paid a State Visit to the Netherlands in 1958, and Queen Juliana paid a return visit in 1972. There has recently been a considerable two way traffic in informal visits by members of the two Royal Families. Queen Beatrix's three sons have all made private visits to the UK this year (Prince Willem Alexander, the eldest, visited Gatcombe Park at the end of June), as have two of her three sisters (Christina and Margriet). Visits the other way have been made by Prince Philip (for the World Carriage Championships at Het Loo) and Princess Michael (doing research for her book on the Winter Queen of Bohemia), and Princess Anne will be in the Netherlands shortly after the State Visit for the opening of the Dutch branch of the Save the Children Fund.

2. The key facts and figures about the Netherlands and UK/Netherlands relations are set out in the Country Assessment paper at Annex A. Anglo-Dutch relations are extremely close and the Netherlands is our third largest export market.

3. Relevant material on the Dutch Monarchy is in HM Ambassador's despatch of 6 July (Annex B). A summary of the historical links between the two countries is at Annex C.

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4. Apart from the historical, political and commercial links there are many contacts in the industrial, scientific, artistic, medical, sporting and environmental fields.

5. The sporting links are numerous. Several Dutchmen play for British First Division soccer clubs. British showjumpers are frequent visitors to Dutch events. There are many connections in the worlds of sailing and hockey. Even cricket and rugby are becoming more popular in the Netherlands.

6. Over the centuries there has been a vigorous process of cross-fertilisation in the arts, covering literature, music, painting and the theatre. There are many fine Dutch paintings in Britain, including in the Royal Collection. In recent years this process has continued, including academic exchanges at all levels. There is an effective British Council presence in the Netherlands. This widespread symbiosis at grassroots level has been fostered by the high level of tourist exchanges (over 1 million Dutch visitors came to the UK in 1981).

7. The two countries also have shared concerns with regard to the environment, flowing notably from their common interest in the North Sea. Marine pollution and the protection of birds, as well as the cause of world wildlife more generally, are subjects which arouse Dutch as much as British passions. (Prince Philip has succeeded Prince Bernhard as President of the World Wildlife Fund.)

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The Political Scene

8. The system of proportional representation used in Dutch elections, together with the absence of any party large enough to get more than half the seats in the Second Chamber (equivalent to the House of Commons), means that there is no alternative to coalition government.

9. From 1977 to 1981 the Christian Democrats (CDA) and Liberals (VVD) shared power, led by Mr van Agt (CDA). In the May 1981 General Election this Centre/Right combination lost its overall majority. Five months later, after tortuous negotiations, a Centre/Left coalition was formed, again under Mr van Agt, made up of the CDA, Socialists (PVDA) and Democrats '66 (broadly equivalent to the SDP-Liberal Alliance). This proved an unhappy combination: following disagreements over economic policy the Socialists withdrew from the coalition in May 1982, and a new election was held in September. This once again gave the Christian Democrats (44 seats) and Liberals (36 seats) an overall majority of the 150 seats in the Second Chamber. Talks between the two parties have now been in progress for some weeks, and are likely soon to end in agreement on a further Centre/Right coalition.

10. The new coalition will not, however, be led by Mr van Agt, who to general surprise at the age of 51 announced early in October that he had decided not to become a Minister in the new government (partly because he wished to spend more time with his family; partly because of fatigue after 11 consecutive years as a Minister, the last five as Prime Minister).

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11. The new leader of the CDA, and likely Prime Minister in the Cabinet now under discussion, is Mr Ruud Lubbers. Aged only 43, he would if appointed be the youngest ever Prime Minister of the Netherlands.

12. The Dutch Liberals, while formally twinned with the British Liberals, are in fact closer to the Conservatives. The Christian Democrats differ from some of their sister parties in Western Europe in having a genuine left wing; the party is by tradition of the Centre rather than the Right.

#### Defence

13. The British Government attaches importance to continued Dutch support for NATO. There is a Dutch brigade in Germany which comes under the General in Command of the British Army of the Rhine. There is close collaboration between the British and Dutch navies.

14. Ever since the 1979 NATO decision on INF modernisation debate has raged in the Netherlands about whether or not the Dutch should agree to deploy the 48 cruise missiles allotted to them in NATO's plans. With considerable support from the churches, the anti-nuclear 'peace movement', which in the autumn of 1981 attracted 400,000 people to a rally in Amsterdam, has been able to put sufficient pressure on the government to get the key decision postponed. The new coalition is likely to decide its policy on deployment in the light of progress in the current arms control talks at Geneva.

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The Economy

15. 1982 has been a worrying year for the Dutch on the economic front. Inflation has been kept low, but unemployment has risen to over 13%, and the PSBR has moved into double figures. The economic prospects for the next few years are grim: public expenditure will have to be cut drastically, and unemployment is likely to remain as high as growth will be low.

Conclusion

16. Nevertheless the Netherlands remains a very well administered, stable country. Public services are excellent and there is a high standard of care for the environment. Although there are periodic problems of law and order in Amsterdam, Dutch democracy functions well. The Dutch are strongly attached to the European Community and many of them have a firm affection for Britain and the British way of life.

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT PAPER: THE NETHERLANDS

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1. The Netherlands is one of the most industrially and agriculturally advanced countries in the Western world with a GDP per caput (1981) of £4,800. It is the most influential and most active of the smaller EC member states. Its role in international affairs has consistently been greater than the size of its population (14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> million) would warrant. The Netherlands has a long-standing record of staunch support for democracy and human rights. The Dutch are noted for commercial and financial acumen, for taking a pragmatic view of world affairs, and for generosity towards the developing world. The Netherlands was one of the founder members of the EC, the Council of Europe, NATO, the IMF and the OECD.

2. Anglo-Netherlands relations are extremely close. This is partly a question of geography and of history, but it finds fullest expression in the flourishing commercial relationship and the common membership of the EC and of NATO. Queen Beatrix pays a State Visit in November 1982.

## SECTION II: BRITISH INTERESTS

3. (i) The Community. The Dutch strongly supported British entry, and have remained generally helpful - eg, in the long battle to achieve a settlement of our budget problem. Their interests on Community matters do not, however, always coincide

/with



with ours; in particular they tend to see the UK as still intrinsically 'un-European' and insular on certain issues.

(ii) Trade. The Netherlands is our third largest market, having taken £3,845 million of UK exports (7.8%) in 1980 though a certain proportion is for entrepot trade.

(iii) Defence. We attach importance to continued Dutch support for NATO, not least because of the key geographical position of the Netherlands and the influence of the Dutch on the other smaller members. The Dutch accepted the 1979 NATO decision on INF modernisation but still have to decide whether or not to allow INF warheads to be stationed on their soil. There is a close relationship between the UK and Netherlands armed forces, particularly the two Navies.

(iv) Energy. The UK and the Netherlands have a number of interests in common because of their status as the two largest sources of natural energy (oil, gas) in the Community. Royal Dutch/Shell Transport and Trading is one of the best known of the oil multinationals. The two countries are also partners, together with the FRG, in URENCO - a tripartite organisation for the development, construction and operation of gas centrifuge enrichment plants.

(v) Investment. UK investment in the Netherlands stood at £585 million (book value, excluding oil, banking and insurance) at the end of 1978, and is believed to have increased substantially since then. There are a number of major Anglo-Dutch companies, of which the best known are Shell and Unilever.

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(vi) British Community. There are some 50,000 UK citizens living in the Netherlands and the number is steadily increasing. They are engaged for the most part in business/commerce but also in a wide variety of other occupations - reflecting the free movement of labour within the Community.

(vii) Tourism. Dutch visitors to the United Kingdom spent £82 million (provisional) in 1981 compared with £106.8 million (revised) in 1980.

### SECTION III: DUTCH INTERESTS IN THE UK

4. (i) European Community. The Dutch continue to value British membership and wish to see her play a positive role within the Community. An important element in this is that the Dutch see the UK as a counterweight to the influence of France and the FRG.

(ii) Trade. The UK is the fourth largest market (7.9%) for Dutch exports, of which it took £3,407 million in 1980 (representing 6% of total UK imports).

(iii) Defence. The majority of the country remains firmly in favour of NATO membership, and therefore has an interest in an effective UK defence posture.

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## SECTION IV: BRITISH OBJECTIVES

5. (i) To maintain and increase our share of the Dutch market.

(ii) To dissuade the Dutch from any move (such as unilateral action over the stationing of INF missiles or nuclear disarmament) which would reduce their effectiveness as a member of NATO.

(iii) To seek Dutch support on questions of particular importance to us within the EC, especially over the Budget, while taking account of Dutch susceptibilities as a smaller member of the Community.

## SECTION V: MEANS IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVES

6. (i) British Missions. We maintain an Embassy at the seat of government in The Hague, with a UK based staff of 32 and a locally engaged staff of 24 and a Consulate-General in Amsterdam, the national capital, with a UK based staff of 3 and a locally engaged staff of 13. The Consul-General in Amsterdam is also formally accredited to the Netherlands Antilles but does not in fact cover them.

(ii) Export promotion. The Embassy's principal activities in terms of man hours are work relating to Community and NATO policies and export promotion.

(iii) Visits. Ministers frequently meet their Dutch opposite numbers on EC, NATO and other occasions. There are also many bilateral meetings. Contacts between officials are even more extensive.

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(iv) Access to decision makers. Embassy staff have full and frequent access to members of the Dutch Cabinet, Government machine, Parliament, business community and media.

(v) British Council. The British Council are active and effective in a country where English is very widely spoken and British culture and traditions frequently emulated.

#### SECTION VI: THREATS TO AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH INTERESTS

7. Public and indeed official opinion in the Netherlands is not yet fully convinced of the strength of the British commitment to the Community. It is important that we should demonstrate forcibly and at every level our determination to play that part in the Community which the Dutch (and others) expect of us and which HM Government have repeatedly stated is their objective.

8. Opposition to nuclear weapons and to a lesser extent to NATO in general has recently been on the increase in the Netherlands. The consequences for the effectiveness of the Dutch contribution to NATO are obvious. The remedy lies in the hands of the Dutch themselves, although we should continue to remind them of the seriousness with which HMG and other NATO allies would regard unilateral action, eg, to postpone further a decision on the stationing of INF weapons or to drop NATO nuclear tasks.

9. Contacts with the Dutch are particularly easy. For a variety of reasons they are unusually Anglophile.



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SUMMARY

## THE DUTCH MONARCHY

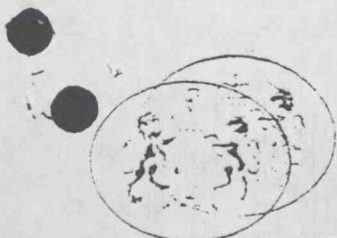
1. Brief history of the House of Orange since the 16th Century. Constitutional rule established in 1848 by William III under Thorbecke's new Constitution (paras.1-7).
2. Queen Wilhemina's contribution to the position of the Dutch Crown enhanced by Queen Juliana (paras. 8-9).
3. The role of the Dutch Monarchy today. Delicate task during formation of each new Coalition Government (paras.10-17).
4. The opening years of the reign of Queen Beatrix. Sure touch in constitutional matters enhanced by lively temperament and independent mind (paras.18-22).
5. Good prospect for the future of the Dutch Monarchy, despite some republic sentiment centred in Amsterdam, because of its deep identification with the history of the Netherlands and its embodiment of the main qualities admired by the Dutch people (paras.23-27).

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BRITISH EMBASSY.

THE HAGUE.

6 July 1982



The Right Honourable  
Francis Pym MC MP  
etc. etc. etc.

Sir,

THE DUTCH MONARCHY

1. The original lands of the House of Orange, of which Queen Beatrix is the present scion, were in Northern Provençe. The Lords of Orange, vassals of the Holy Roman Empire from the 12th Century, early styled themselves princes. The connection with the Netherlands began in the 16th Century, when the House of Orange made a marital alliance with the German house of Nassau. Since then it has played a central role in many aspects of the history of the Netherlands. In 1662 Sir William Temple, my predecessor in The Hague, said about the House of Orange that "the Monarchy must be ever acknowledged to have had a most essential part ..... during the whole growth and progress of the State: so has it ever preserved a very strong root ..... in the general and popular affections." His judgement was sound and the second part of his statement is no less true today than when it was written. In view of the State Visit which Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus will pay to the United Kingdom in November, this despatch looks briefly at the history of the Monarchy in the Netherlands; explains the present constitutional position and role of the Crown; and assesses




the opening period of the reign of Queen Beatrix and the prospects for the future.

### The Historical Background

2. Although the roots of the Dutch Monarchy go back to the sixteenth century, it was only in 1815 that the title of King was first bestowed on the then ruler, following the liberation of the Netherlands from Napoleon. The founder of the dynasty (and of the State) was William the Silent or, as he is sometimes called, The Father of the Fatherland. As Prince William of Orange, he led the long revolt against Spanish rule in the Netherlands which resulted in the foundation in 1579 of the Dutch Republic; his rule as Stadholder (the equivalent of a hereditary Presidency) ended with his murder in 1584 by a Catholic fanatic. His achievement is aptly commemorated in the tribute of Professor G M Trevelyan to "the wisest, gentlest and bravest man who ever led a nation". His powers were of course extensive.

3. His descendants continued to hold office as Stadholder. They were only out of power from 1650-72 and 1702-47, when Regents (these were the leading local citizens of the major towns rather than members of the House of Orange) ruled alone, and from 1795-1813, during the French occupation of the Netherlands. Moreover when William of Orange became William III of England in 1688 the Dutch and the British shared a Monarchy for 14 years. The period might have been longer, if he had not died without issue.

4. In 1813, liberated from Napoleon, the Republic regained its



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independence and William I, son of the previous Stadholder, became first Sovereign Prince and two years later King of the Netherlands. (At this point and up to 1839 The Netherlands included present day Belgium.) The line of succession of the present House of Orange runs direct from him. The 1815 constitution gave the new King considerable power, which on the whole he used admirably; contemporary and later commentators have described him as an enlightened despot. But though liberal in general intention, he considered himself superior to the States General equivalent of the House of Commons. He did not regard his Ministers as his constitutional advisers and refused to delegate power. When the Belgian movement for independence first made itself felt in 1830 he showed little understanding of its grievances or aims and was consequently forced to accept the secession of Belgium in 1839. Disappointed by this failure, he abdicated in 1840 and was succeeded by his son, William II, who had distinguished himself at the Battle of Waterloo on the British side.

5. The secession of Belgium made necessary a new constitution. The changes this introduced were another significant factor in William I's decision to abdicate. Under the new system, Cabinet Ministers were regarded not simply as the King's lieutenants, but were also held responsible to the States General. Nevertheless William II consistently sought to follow the practice of his father. The style of government thus remained conservative, with the King relying mainly for advice on a relatively small circle

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of courtiers and bureaucrats.


6. The advent of genuine constitutional government had to await the arrival of the Dutch statesman Thorbecke, who in a series of publications and lectures between 1839 and 1844 pressed hard for full ministerial responsibility and for greatly increased electoral franchise. In 1848, William II became a sudden convert to these ideas. Concerned at the revolutionary atmosphere elsewhere in Europe, he gave Thorbecke the opportunity to draft a new Constitution. As a result the King was elevated above party and political divisions to become a symbol of national unity. The main lines of Thorbecke's model stand today.

7. William II died in 1849 and was succeeded by his son William III. For some time the latter tried to push back the new limits to the power of the Monarch. Matters came to a head in 1866-8 when, against the wishes of a majority in Parliament, he doggedly attempted to retain his trusted Conservative Cabinet, twice dissolving Parliament to get representatives more responsive to his wishes. Eventually he gave in and the Cabinet was dismissed. This was a turning point. Since that time the Crown has refrained from overt interference in politics, and the Monarchy as an institution has gained immeasurably from being above the political battle.

8. Queen Wilhelmina, who reigned from 1890-1948, observed her position under the Constitution, but managed nonetheless to exercise from time to time substantial influence on policy. In 1918, for instance, she refused a request by the Cabinet that

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she dismiss the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, General Snijders. She remained throughout her long reign a strong personality. As Sir P Nichols recorded in his despatch of 11 September 1948, her popularity increased greatly when during the Second World War the Queen in exile in London proved to be the binding force which held the Dutch nation together in the most difficult period it had had to face since the Eighty Years War.

9. Queen Juliana succeeded her mother on the latter's abdication in 1948. As was stressed in Sir J Taylor's despatch of 14 May 1980, Queen Juliana presided over a time of unparalleled political and social change in the Netherlands. Nor was her reign unmarked by controversies involving both her personally and members of her family. But despite these difficulties she remained greatly loved and was able, when she abdicated after her seventieth birthday, to pass on to her daughter, Queen Beatrix, a throne firmly established as a symbol of the national identity of the Netherlands.

#### The Role of the Monarch

10. The constitutional role of the Dutch Monarch is in many ways similar to that of our own Sovereign. Queen Beatrix is the Head of State, but can only act on the advice of Ministers which she is constitutionally bound to follow. However, the Crown has other sources of advice, particularly where the formation of new governments is involved. These are the Presidents of the First and Second Chambers, the leaders of all the Parliamentary Parties

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and prominent political figures from the past eg former Prime Ministers or Party Chairmen. Other important advisers are the Director of the Queen's Cabinet Private Office (the equivalent of our Private Secretary to the Queen), who is responsible for collating the views and recommendations received from the political figures mentioned above, and the Vice-President of the Council of State (currently Mr W Scholten, Christian Democrat Minister of Defence in the first van Agt Cabinet 1977/81). The Council of State as such has no formal responsibility for advising the Crown during the process of forming a government. But a tradition has become established in recent years that the Vice President (Queen Beatrix is herself the President), as the senior official figure in a high level consultative body should be asked for his views. The Council of State as a whole is available to offer advice on other constitutional or legislative issues. Its non-judicial functions, which can be broadly compared to those of the Privy Council in the UK, were described in detail by the late Sir Richard Sykes in his despatch of 7 March 1979.

11. Nowadays the Prime Minister is normally received by Queen Beatrix once a week in order to discuss in some detail current problems and the Government's intentions. In addition, because as a matter of political arithmetic Dutch Governments have to be coalitions and the Prime Minister cannot be expected to explain the particular views of his coalition partners, the Queen receives

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individual Ministers at monthly intervals for a similar discussion covering their departmental responsibilities. Recently, Queen Beatrix has revived a custom established by Queen Juliana, but then allowed to lapse, of receiving informally members of the First and Second Chambers at Huis ten Bosch, her palace in The Hague. This enables her to keep in touch with a wide range of political opinion in the Netherlands. This practice is appreciated by members of the two Houses who felt that latterly they had been rather neglected.

12. The principal difference between the exercise of the constitutional prerogatives of the Monarchy in the Netherlands and present practice in the UK derives from the fact that, under the present system of proportional representation, governments in the Netherlands are invariably coalitions. In these circumstances the process of forming a government is long drawn out and involves the Sovereign closely. When the Government falls the Queen accepts the resignation of the Prime Minister and his colleagues. She asks them to continue in office as a caretaker administration which must avoid controversial policy decisions until an election is called. As the period can be lengthy, 6 months or even more, before a new Government is formed, the caretaker Prime Minister has on occasion asked the Queen for permission to take more far-reaching decisions.

13. When the formation period is complete and the new Government

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set up, the Prime Minister is supposed to take retrospective responsibility for all the decisions made by the caretaker administration. In practice this does not always happen. I am told that van Agt was not prepared to take full responsibility for all the decisions taken after the fall of the CDA/VVD Government in 1981. This is an awkward grey area because the Queen, for obvious reasons, does not want to be put in the position of holding the residual responsibility in this situation. This is no doubt one of the reasons why the Queen and many Dutch politicians would like, so far without result, to shorten drastically the formation period.

14. The process of forming a new Government is the one occasion when the Crown can legitimately become involved in political decision-making in the Netherlands. In the Dutch system of forming a Government it has become the practice in recent years for the Crown to appoint both informateurs and formateurs. (The difference is a significant one in Dutch politics. An informateur (or informateurs) is appointed to investigate and report on the possibilities of a Government being formed. In the modern Netherlands this has come to mean as broadly-based a coalition as is possible in the circumstances. The formateur is the party leader charged in the light of the advice of the informateur with forming the Government and leading it as Prime Minister during the following period.)

15. The Director of the Queen's Cabinet, for the last 50 years



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Miss de Graaf, is influential in advising on the choice of informateur. Following general elections or the fall of a Government, the leaders of the Parliamentary parties nowadays submit their views in writing. This they often release to the press. But in addition they give oral advice to the Crown which is not given to the press and which can indeed significantly modify the written advice. The task of collating all the views expressed falls to the Queen's Cabinet. It presents an analysis showing which informateurs are likely to be the most generally acceptable and the Queen who keeps in close touch with her Cabinet during these soundings then takes her decision and makes the appointments. The Queen will normally accept their advice, even when this means the appointment of new informateurs, as it sometimes does, and starting the whole process again.

16. The Crown is also involved in making other senior appointments. The most important are the Queen's Commissioners (one for each of the 11 Provinces, where they represent the central Government, head the provincial administration and perform the ceremonial functions equivalent to those undertaken by Lord Lieutenants in England), and the Burgomasters (Mayors) of the larger towns and cities who are key figures in local Government. Appointments to both offices are made by the Crown on the recommendation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In theory the latter assess beforehand the merits of the candidates and submit one agreed name for

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the Crown's approval. In practice this does not always happen and the opportunity exists, particularly as regards Queen's Commissioners, for the Crown to influence the final choice. The advice of Miss de Graaf is important in such cases.

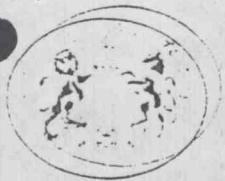
17. The role of the Monarch in the appointment of Netherlands Ambassadors and in the reception of those representing foreign States closely resembles practice at the Court of St. James. Ambassadors accredited at The Hague present their Letters of Credence to and are received in final audience by the Monarch. There are regular opportunities for them to meet both the Queen and other members of the Royal Family every year.

The Reign of Queen Beatrix: the opening years

18. Queen Beatrix has hardly put a foot wrong since her accession. In his despatch on the celebrations Sir J. Taylor reported on the speculation that the monarchy would change with the new Queen. In all major respects it has so far remained much the same. Queen Beatrix has deliberately sought to work herself gradually into the job though she has an open mind and would like to innovate. The Royal Family have taken up residence in The Hague, in the newly restored Huis ten Bosch, thus bringing the Queen into more direct touch with the political life of the nation. But the other major traditions so far remain intact, with only one significant innovation: to the normal New Year reception for the Diplomatic Corps there has been added a second reception, later

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the same day, for a cross-section of Dutch citizens covering all sectors of society.

19. Queen Beatrix has also performed with a sure touch her constitutional responsibilities as regards the formation of Governments. In the light of the results of the

elections of May 1981 Queen Beatrix was known to be anxious to bring about a new coalition as quickly as possible.

She also believed rather more strongly than the outgoing

Prime Minister, van Agt, who only became resigned to the

prospect after many attempts to evade it - that it was

important for the PvdA (Socialist) to be a member of the

new coalition for fear that its exclusion would cause the

party to become more extreme. It is widely believed that

on one occasion during the negotiations, the appointment on

20 August of de Gaay Fortman as informateur, the Queen's

decision was contrary to the advice she had been given by

van Agt. This was the one and only occasion during the

formation negotiations when some eyebrows were raised.

Even then, there was no significant criticism in

the press of her action, and no serious observer

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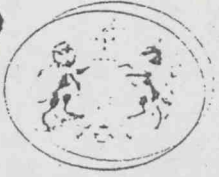




suggested that she had overstepped her role as constitutional Monarch. She can thus be said to have earned her spurs, in this her first major political test. The fact that this Government only survived eight months is a reflection of changes in the political situation not on her judgement.

20. In general Queen Beatrix has already given evidence of the strength of her will and character. Closer perhaps in type to her grandmother than to her mother, she plainly knows her own mind and by all reports does not hesitate to speak it. Less evidently vulnerable than Queen Juliana, there has not yet been time for her to inspire the widespread affection in which her mother was held. But she has an engaging sense of humour, is seen to be extremely conscientious and is widely respected for her intelligence, charm and strong sense of dignity and occasion. She has the further advantage that her husband, having in the eyes of most of her subjects overcome the handicap of his German origins, is widely applauded for the way in which he fills his difficult background role and for his mastery of the Dutch language.

21. In addition to a substantial programme of visits at home, Queen Beatrix made State Visits to Belgium and Luxembourg in 1981. This year she made similar visits to the Federal Republic and to the United States where she addressed a joint session of Congress. In both countries she surprised her hosts by the freshness and candour of her remarks, scripted and unscripted. In Germany she made a number of pointed comments on the theme of the need to



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avoid past mistakes; and in the USA she did not hesitate to underline for her hosts the strength of Dutch feelings about the importance of arms control. At a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington she impressed her listeners by answering questions with an openness which disarmed many of the potential critics of Dutch policies, particularly on defence.

22. Not the least of the reasons why Queen Beatrix and her advisers have been so keen to arrange an early visit to Britain is the fact that it will in their view add to the esteem in which she (and thus by extension the institution of the Monarchy) is held by her subjects. The omens are thus set fair for November; and Queen Beatrix herself has made no secret of the importance she attaches to this visit. It is interesting that during her recent informal visit to the United States, all three of her sons went separately to Britain for different activities.

#### Future Prospects

23. I will end with a brief assessment of the place of the Monarchy in the life of the Netherlands and of the prospects for the future. It has often been remarked that for the Dutch the House of Orange is not so much a Monarchy as a hereditary presidency. As such it has adapted to changing circumstances. On her return to the Netherlands after the War, Queen Wilhelmina instituted a regime of extreme simplicity to accord with the

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Briefing for visit 16-19/4/82

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desperate situation of most of her people. She also made radical changes in her entourage, appointing many who had distinguished themselves in the Resistance to the Germans. The Dutch are democratic and egalitarian, but they also enjoy tradition. Thus the Dutch Monarchy has not dispensed with ceremonial. Indeed Queen Beatrix has reinstated much of the colour in the revived ceremony for Presentation of Credentials, which was abolished by her mother. And honours for the Dutch who distinguish themselves in different fields remain centred round the ancient Order of Orange Nassau. (It is not however the practice to hold Investitures in the Netherlands. With rare exceptions eg in the case of members of the Royal Household or for particularly distinguished service, awards are presented by the relevant Minister or official superior on the Sovereign's behalf.)

24. There is an active republican tradition in this country, centred in Amsterdam. Given the unruly history of that city and the social and economic problems with which Amsterdam has to contend, it would be surprising if republican sentiment did not manifest itself from time to time. In recent years the police have had to put down major disturbances both during Queen Beatrix's wedding to Prince Claus in 1966 and during her Investiture as Queen in 1980. (Constitutional practice required both ceremonies to be held in Amsterdam as the capital of the Netherlands.) Paradoxically there is also a tendency for the Protestant North

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to show keener monarchist feeling than the Catholic South. This tendency is in part a legacy of the tradition of William the Silent, whose support came almost exclusively from the North. (It should be stressed that the Monarch is not constitutionally required to be a Protestant. But the House of Orange has been so since the days of William the Silent. Any change would arouse intense controversy, although of professing Christians in the Netherlands today more are Catholic than Protestant. Princess Irene's conversion to Catholicism is a case in point.)

25. The criticism is also sometimes heard that too much money is spent on the refurbishment of Royal Palaces: the restoration of Huis Ten Bosch is believed to have cost at least £7 million; and work is still continuing on the Nordeinde Palace in order to provide badly needed office accommodation for the Queen's Household. Earlier grumbling over what was believed to be the extent of the Queen's private fortune has died away following the agreement reached with Queen Juliana in 1977 that in return for a sizeable increase in the Civil List, the Queen's private income should be liable to income tax.

26. In sum, the extent of anti-monarchical feeling is not significant nationally. The majority of the population remains "Koningsgezind" (loyal to the Crown) if not demonstratively and overwhelmingly so as in the UK. Thus the Crown is securely embedded in the affection of the nation. This is in part because it is so deeply identified with the history of the Netherlands

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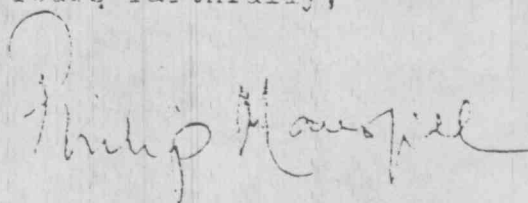


and in part because successive sovereigns have so clearly embodied those qualities to which the majority of Dutchmen aspire: diligence, sobriety, tolerance, moderation and the seeking of consensus. Queen Beatrix will I believe more than worthily continue to uphold this tradition. For her, as for her predecessors, the motto of the House of Orange "Je Maintiendrai" will be the star by which she will seek to be guided.

27. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives in Bonn, Brussels, Paris and Washington.

I am  
Sir

Yours faithfully,



Philip Mansfield

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The historical relationship between the Netherlands and Britain

The relationship between the two countries goes back to the Middle Ages, when circumstances of geography, history and, above all, trade had already led to regular and fairly extensive exchanges between the two peoples. They fished in the same seas; and the Flemish cloth trade, based on such international centres as Bruges, depended on wool imported from England. In 1285 the Dutch conferred certain immunities upon those subjects of Edward I (eg sailors and merchants) who chose to settle in the Low Countries, in exchange for fishing rights off the English coast. Meanwhile Flemish settlers had come to England even before the Norman Conquest, and in the late Middle Ages weavers from the Low Countries were accorded royal protection and certain economic privileges in London and other large cities. During the Hundred Years War between England and France (1338-1453), Dutch men and ships fought alongside the English with the object of keeping the French out of Flanders and protecting the wool trade with England.

The political relationship became closer in the 16th century, when Queen Elizabeth I formed an alliance against Spain with the seven northern provinces of the Low Countries, which eventually became the Netherlands of today. A shared attachment to Protestantism was an important reason for this alliance. But statements made at the time (1585) both by Lord Burghley and the Queen herself make it clear that it was not seen simply as a case of 'my enemy's enemy is my friend' and that it was based on already existing ties of sympathy and friendship. Queen Elizabeth spoke of the Dutch as our "most ancient and familiar neighbours", and Lord Burghley, when asked for his advice, had commented "the one cannot live well without the friendship of the other".

During the 16th century many Dutchmen fled to England to escape religious persecution. In the next century this traffic was more the other way round, with the Pilgrim Fathers moving first to Amsterdam before undertaking their long journey to the New World. Throughout this period merchants and craftsmen moved freely from one country to the other. English soldiers served in the Dutch armies, subsequently marrying and settling down in the Netherlands. While Dutch engineers and other skilled workmen (eg metal workers, drainage experts) found profitable employment in England, notably in East Anglia. Links grew up between Dutch and English universities. The great Dutch scholar, Erasmus, visited Cambridge in 1510, and was friendly with Cranmer, Colet and Sir Thomas More. In 1548 Erasmus' paraphrases of the New Testament were placed in every English Church.

The late 16th century was a critical time in the political development of the Low Countries. The revolt against Spain had broken out in 1568, when the appointment by Philip II of the repressive Duke of Alva as Governor General of the Netherlands set a match to long-existing tensions. However, by 1579 the southern,

/predominantly

predominantly Catholic, provinces, which later became the modern Belgium, had formed the Union of Artois, which aimed to achieve reconciliation with Spain, whereas the seven Northern provinces, united together in the Union of Utrecht, were pledged to continue their opposition to Spanish rule. These 7 United Provinces, of which Holland was by far the most influential, had been strongly marked by the radical doctrines of John Calvin and were consequently fiercely opposed to Catholic Spain. Prince William of Orange (William the Silent), the elected Stadtholder of Holland and Zeeland and Commander of the Dutch army, was the focus of this resistance. His objective, however, was not to claim sovereignty for himself but to find a new overlord to replace Philip II, who would be more sympathetic to the traditions of independence and limited self-government to which the Low Countries had become accustomed. He wished also to keep the northern and southern provinces united. Sovereignty over the Netherlands was accordingly offered first to the Duke of Anjou, who was a disaster, and thereafter to Henry III of France and Elizabeth I of England, both of whom refused. For a brief spell, 1586-87, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, was Governor-General, but he proved no better able than had the Duke of Anjou to resist the temptations of trying to impose absolute monarchy. During this period Spain succeeded in reclaiming the southern, Catholic, provinces while the Protestant north became virtually an independent country, with its seat of government (the States-General) based in The Hague. In the years following 1587 both France and England recognised the States-General as an independent State, though Spain did not formally follow suit until 1648. At the same time the peculiarly Dutch system of government evolved, run jointly by the States-General, dominated by Holland, on the one hand and the House of Orange on the other.

The 17th century (1609-1713) is generally seen as the golden age of the Netherlands. The Dutch navy, built up by the remarkable administrator, Johan de Witt, was the largest in the world; at the end of the 17th century it was roughly twice the size of the British navy and nearly ten times that of the French. And the flourishing Dutch East India Company founded colonies in Ceylon, Sumatra and the Cape of Good Hope. The prosperity of the country was based on methods of finance and commerce far in advance of their time, a system which had enjoyed the benefit of laws made by merchants for merchants, and which had not been subjected to extraneous political constraints. Sciences and arts flourished, particularly painting, and Dutch influence on English art and architecture of this period was marked. Dutchmen worked for the Stuart courts (Van Dyck, Lely, Rubens, Grinling Gibbons) and influenced architects like Sir Christopher Wren. Many buildings, specially in East Anglia, are built in the Dutch style (eg the Customs House in Kings Lynn) and Dutchmen designed large country houses such as Audley End, Burghley House and Chatsworth.

It was in the 17th century that the royal houses of the two countries were linked in marriage. Three successive stadtholders married British princesses (William II of Orange married Mary Stuart, daughter of Charles I (1641); William III married Mary, daughter of James II (1677); William IV married Anne, daughter of George II (1734)) and it is through these unions that the two monarchs of today

/both



both trace their ancestry back to William the Rich of Nassau (1487-1559). The timing of the marriage between William II (grandson of William the Silent) and Mary Stuart was, in a sense, unfortunate, since the outbreak of the Civil War in England (1642-51) meant that the House of Orange was inevitably caught up in the domestic quarrels of England. But the 3 wars which took place between Britain and Holland during this century were due not so much to dynastic broils as to sheer mercantile rivalry. Ironically it was their similarities, not their differences, which brought the 2 countries into conflict.

The first Anglo-Dutch War (1652-54) was occasioned by the 1651 Navigation Act, which forbade the use of Dutch shippers as middlemen by English traders whether in Europe or further afield. At the end of that war, in which England had the advantage, an Act of Seclusion was imposed on Holland by the Cromwell government excluding the Prince of Orange in perpetuity from the position of stadtholder. This act was rescinded in 1660 with the restoration of Charles II. In the Second War (1664-67) the Dutch came out best, and in June 1667 the brilliant Dutch commander, Michael de Ruyter forced his way up the Medway as far as Chatham, destroyed six large English warships and sailed off with a flagship, the Royal Charles, in tow. The Peace of Breda, which ended that war, allowed the English to keep New Amsterdam (ie New York), which they had captured in 1664, and the Dutch to retain Surinam, which they had taken from the English. The Third War (1672-74) was a multilateral affair involving all the major powers and triggered off this time by Louis XIV's territorial ambitions in the Low Countries. At first Charles II joined forces with France, but the new young Stadtholder, Prince William III, succeeded in time in isolating France and concluding a separate peace with England. He consolidated this policy by marrying Charles II's niece, Mary, in 1677 and in 1688, James II having shown himself as incapable of ensuring Protestant succession in England, William and Mary were invited, jointly, to accept the British throne. They ruled both England and the Netherlands from 1689 until William's death in 1702.

Despite these wars, remarkably little mutual bitterness had been felt by the 2 peoples, probably because the battles were waged at sea and so did not cause devastation on land. There was some resentment in England of the Dutch influence at Court but in the long run England, the more powerful partner, benefited most from this 13 year union. British interests were given priority and in the conflict with France the British concentrated on the sea battle while the Dutch fought more on land, which resulted in the relative neglect of the Dutch navy. At the same time the British benefited enormously from Dutch financial expertise. Modern banking methods were introduced to London; the Bank of England was established with capital from Amsterdam and modelled on the Amsterdam bourse set up nearly a century earlier. The first Chairman of Lloyds was a Dutchman.

The 18th century saw a gradual decline of Dutch power, which was overtaken by the rapid growth in trading capacity of France and especially Britain. The Anglo-Dutch alliance was complicated by the rivalry between the Whigs and the Tories, with the former favouring the Dutch alliance and the Hanoverian cause and the latter

/leaning

leaning towards the French and the Pretender. Towards the end of the century conflict arose again, through Dutch support given to the rebel colonies in the American War of Independence (1775-83). This resulted in the 4th - and last - Anglo-Dutch war (1780-84), in which the long-neglected Dutch navy lost out to the much more powerful British fleet.

In 1795 the Netherlands were caught up in the Napoleonic Wars and fell under French influence. Then in 1814, when the French Empire crumbled, the Dutch turned once again to the House of Orange, and Prince William V returned from exile in England to become King William I, the first hereditary constitutional monarch of the united Netherlands.

Throughout the 19th century the Dutch kept out of great power politics, and they remained neutral in World War I (1914-18). That neutrality was rudely shattered in 1940, when Hitler bombed Rotterdam and occupied the Netherlands as part of his campaign against France and Britain. Once again the Dutch monarch sought refuge in London, where Queen Wilhelmina, the grandmother of Queen Beatrix, formed a government in exile, and once again the Dutch people showed their stubborn capacity to resist aggression. The common cause made during World War II between the two peoples and the two royal houses cemented and renewed bonds of friendship which had existed in one form or another for many centuries. Since that war Britain and the Netherlands have become partners in the wider alliances of NATO and the European Community. The Dutch were the staunchest advocates of British entry into the EC, and remain wholly committed to the principles of its foundation.

Similar ideals of freedom and tolerance; similar experiences of trading and seafaring; a similar cast of mind which favours pragmatism and deeds above theory and talk, form the bedrock of the relationship between the Netherlands and Britain. It is perhaps this similarity of outlook which accounts for the fact that in a recent opinion poll which asked the British people which foreign people they most liked the Dutch came out well above everyone else.

VISIT TO THE UK OF HM QUEEN BEATRIX AND HRH PRINCE CLAUS:  
16-19 NOVEMBER 1982

PERSONALITY NOTES ON THE NETHERLANDS SUITE

1. HM Queen Beatrix
2. HRH Prince Claus
- 3.
4. HE Madame C Bischoff van Heemskerck
5. HE Monsieur P J H Jonkman
6. HE Vice-Admiral E Roest (Retired)
7. HE Jonkheer J L R Huydecoper
8. Madame Huydecoper
9. Mademoiselle F M de Graaff
10. Monsieur P W Osieck
11. Lieutenant-Colonel P A Blussé van Oud-Alblas
12. Madame H G Goudswaard
13. Major A Oudwater
14. Colonel E Spierenburg

## HM QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS

Born 31 January 1938, the eldest child of HRH Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard. Succeeded to the throne when Queen Juliana abdicated on 30 April 1980.

In Canada during the Royal Family's exile after the German invasion, she returned to the Netherlands in 1945. Studied at Leiden University and obtained a degree in Law in 1961.

Has travelled widely outside Europe, including the Soviet Union (1973) and China (1977).

Paid official visits to Luxembourg and Belgium in 1981 and State Visits to West Germany and the USA in 1982.

Works hard and takes a keen interest in national and international affairs, particularly social problems involving young people. Fond of sailing, swimming, skiing and riding.

Married in March 1966 to Klaus von Amsberg as he then was (now Prince Claus). Despite harsh criticism of this marriage with a German while memories of the occupation were still fresh, the conduct of Prince Claus and the birth of a son, Prince Willem Alexander, in April 1967, enhanced the popularity of the Princess and her Consort and the controversy has now been largely forgotten. Two more sons were born to her in 1968 and 1969.

The Queen has a strong will and is less diffident than her mother. She is poised and intelligent, though her manner may nevertheless mask some shyness. The long period of waiting to succeed to the throne was difficult, but she has settled quickly into her role, which she performs with skill and dignity. She plays an active role in the life of the Netherlands, within the constraints of a constitutional monarchy, particularly in

connection with the formation of a new coalition government.  
She has enhanced the popularity of the Monarchy since She  
came to the Throne.

HRE PRINCE CLAUS OF THE NETHERLANDS

Born Hanover 1926, as Freiherr von Amsberg. Attended schools in Mecklenburg and Tanzania. Called up for military service in 1944, and in March 1945 was posted to Italy with the 90th Panzer Division, but saw no action. Taken prisoner of war by the Americans in May 1945. Though a former member of the Hitler Jugend, he was cleared by the Allied De-nazification Commission.

Attended the University of Hamburg in 1948 and studied law and political science. Appointed to the German Foreign Service in April 1957, and served in Santo Domingo and Abidjan. From 1963-66 he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn as deputy head of a division of the Economic Policy and Development Department. Remains deeply interested in African affairs and in the economic problems of developing countries generally. He is Special Adviser to the Minister for Development Cooperation and Chairman of the Dutch equivalent of the organisation in charge of Voluntary Service Overseas.

Married Princess Beatrix in March 1966 and was created Prince of the Netherlands. His age, membership of the Hitler Youth, service with the German Wehrmacht, and middle-class background caused popular disquiet. There were smoke bombs and disturbances at the wedding in Amsterdam. Prince Claus however behaved with great tact and discretion and gradually succeeded in winning the confidence of the Dutch, whose language he now speaks almost without accent. The birth of his first son, Prince Willem Alexander, greatly helped this acceptance. Most Dutchmen will admit that, from their point of view, he

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has scarcely put a foot wrong since his marriage.

Dresses well and has a certain Germanic formality which sometimes makes him look bored, but he is also a good mixer with a ready smile. Fond of classical music and likes sport, including golf, tennis and water skiing. A good amateur photographer. Has recently suffered from depression, perhaps brought on by overwork, which has required medical treatment in hospital.

HANS VAN DEN BROEK

Minister of Foreign Affairs (since 4 November)

Born in Paris, December 1936.

Spent the war years at school in London, where his father worked for Radio Oranje (after the war the father became Director of the <sup>wereldomroep - Dutch equivalent of the</sup> BBC World Service). Studied law at Utrecht University. 1965-8 practised as solicitor in Rotterdam. 1969-76 Company Secretary and Accounts Manager with Enka (manufacturers of artificial fibres) in Arnhem.

Was elected to the second chamber in 1976 for the Christian Democrats (CDA). Became State Secretary for Foreign Affairs in 1981, responsible for EC Affairs.

He is pragmatic and on the right of the CDA. A strong supporter of NATO, and of INF deployment in the Netherlands, though as Foreign Minister he will feel bound to speak with some caution on the subject in public, given the delicacy of the question for the new coalition. He is relatively inexperienced but he is said to be looked on with favour by Lubbers, the new Prime Minister.

A pleasant and friendly man, who speaks excellent English and is generally anglophile. Respected by his officials. He is married with two children.



HE MADAME C BISCHOFF VAN HEEMSKERCK

Mistress of the Robes (since 1 October 1980).

Born in The Hague on 18 March 1921.

After leaving school she worked for some time as a secretary for the Netherlands War Office.

During the War she married and had one son from this marriage. Her husband was killed during the War.

In 1946 she married the Grand Officer to Her Majesty The Queen, Brigadier W F K Bischoff van Heemskerck. She has a son and a daughter from this marriage. (The daughter, Suzanne Bischoff, is a Member of the First Chamber and leading light in the Democrats '66 party).

She is interested in music, literature, flower arranging, gardening and horse-riding, among other things.

JONKMAN, MR PIETER JAN HANS

Grandmaster of the Royal Household since January 1982.

Born 1925 in Indonesia. Studied law, Leiden. 1955 Foreign Service. Served in Paris, Pretoria, Leopoldville, Buenos Aires, Brussels, Beirut, Jakarta. 1980-81 Grand Officer of the Royal Household with special duties. Rather self-effacing, somewhat cautious.

Married with three children.

HE VICE-ADMIRAL E ROEST (RETIRED)

Adjutant-General and Chief of the Military House (since 1975)

Born at Blerick, Limburg in 1921.

Trained as midshipman at the Royal Naval College, Den Helder, from 1938-40. From 1941-45 was a political prisoner in German concentration camps. Completed naval training in the UK in 1945.

N.B. Distinguished naval career from 1945-75, ending career as Commander-in-Chief Navy.

Speaks excellent English. Was a communications specialist during his naval career. Is the author of the Dutch equivalent of "Make a Signal". Enjoys playing with toy trains. A famous raconteur.

HUYDECOPER, VAN NIGTEVECHT, JHR JAN LOUIS REINIER

Netherlands Ambassador to Britain since 1982

Born 1922 in Utrecht. Studied law at Leiden. Rotterdam Bank 1942-44; Ministry of Finance 1945-46; joined Foreign Service 1946; Ottawa 1947-48; Berlin and Bonn 1949-52; London 1952-56; Jakarta 1956-59; Washington 1959-62; Rome 1962-66; Ministry 1966-70; Minister in London 1970-73; Geneva 1973-74; Ambassador to USSR 1974-77; Ambassador to Portugal 1978-80.

Competent and widely respected. A man of strong views, which he does not hesitate to express.

Married. Speaks excellent English.

MADAME HUYDECOPER

Born Vorden, 1921.

Married in July 1944.

Two sons and one daughter, all grown up. Three grandchildren.

Studied biology for three years at Leiden University.

She speaks English virtually as a native, having lived in the UK as a child, and is extremely anglophile. Her children went to school in England. She is very knowledgeable about music, the theatre, and (especially) English literature.

MADemoiselle F M DE GRAFF, DBE

Director of the Queen's Cabinet since 1968.

Born 1919. Studied at Leiden and Amsterdam Universities.

An able and influential civil servant, she has been with the Queen's Cabinet since 1950. Appointed DBE during State Visit to Britain, 1972.

In her present position she is responsible for briefing the Queen on foreign affairs in particular. But she is reputed to exercise a powerful influence behind the scenes.

Small in stature but strong of intellect, she is always well-dressed and lively in company.

Unmarried.

Speaks good English.

MONSIEUR P W OSIECK

Master of Ceremonies (since 1 May 1974)

Born Zurich, in 1924. Educated in Switzerland. In 1944 travelled to Britain and volunteered for the Royal Netherlands Navy. Trained as an officer at Enys House, and received commission as Sub-Lieutenant on 1 September 1945.

Served in the navy in various capacities until 1974. From 1969-70 was first officer of HNLM Cruiser de Ruyter. 1970-73 ADC to Queen Juliana. 1973-4 Naval Commander of Amsterdam.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P A BLUSSE VAN OUD-ALBLAS

Master of the Household

Born in Amersfoort, 1929.

From 1951-53 attended the Military Academy in Breda, and then joined the Boreel Hussar Regiment. Various posts in the cavalry until February 1974, when he was appointed Equerry to Queen Juliana. Promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in 1976.



MADAME H G GOUDSWAARD

Lady in Waiting (since 1978)

Born in The Hague in 1926.

1945-50 studied art history at the University of Leiden and architecture at the University of Delft.

1952 married Dr J M Goudswaard. Three adult children, one female and two male.

A member of the Executive Committee of the Netherlands Red Cross, of the Governing Board of the Netherlands Society for Industry and Commerce, and of the Advisory Board of the AMRO Bank.

MAJOR A OUDWATER

Aide-de-Camp (since 1980)

Born in Baarn in 1942.

1962-66	Royal Military Academy, Breda
1966-70	With 41 Tank Battalion in the FRG
1971-75	With 101 Tank Battalion
1975-80	With 41 Tank Battalion

COLONEL E SPIERENBURG

Chief of Security (since 1971)

Born in Utrecht in 1929. Married, with four daughters.

1951-53	Netherlands Police Academy
1953-56	Member of the Hague Police
1956	Joined the State Police.

VISIT TO THE UK OF HM QUEEN BEATRIX AND HRH PRINCE CLAUS:  
16-19 NOVEMBER 1982

(A) TOPICS FOR CONVERSATION

1. The strength and extent of the links between the two nations are such that almost any subject of conversation is suitable. Queen Beatrix, moreover, has a wide range of interests, including current affairs and sculpture. She is a keen sportswoman (sailing, swimming, skiing and riding); and is particularly interested in the social problems of young people. During her State Visits to the FRG and the USA earlier this year she displayed wide knowledge of and interest in the local as well as the international political scene.

Prince Claus's Health

2. An expression of concern is clearly in order, in view of Prince Claus's recent withdrawal from the public scene for treatment for depression. The subject needs, however, to be raised with care, since the problem appears to be one of some gravity: Queen Beatrix told Mr Speaker in early October that it was more serious that reports in the Dutch press had suggested.

Queen Beatrix's State Visits to the FRG and USA

3. The FRG is the Netherlands' biggest trading partner. Queen Beatrix was very glad to be able to make a State Visit to Britain comparatively early in Her Reign. The visit to the USA was to mark 200 years of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries and was followed by a longer more informal visit when She visited many parts of the States. Both the visits to FRG and the States were successful.

/Netherlands

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Netherlands Membership of the UN Security Council

4. Congratulations would be appropriate. The Netherlands has just secured a seat (for two years) on the Council, for the first time for over fifteen years.

Mr Speaker's Visit to the Netherlands

5. The Speaker paid a formal visit to the Netherlands in early October, including a call on Queen Beatrix. He was very well looked after by his hosts, and much enjoyed the visit.

Government formation in the Netherlands

6. Queen Beatrix has been much involved in recent weeks with the formation of the new Netherlands government. She may well wish to talk about her role.

Opposition to Nuclear Weapons

7. The Netherlands 'peace movement' is in the van in Western Europe in opposing NATO's reliance on nuclear weapons. Queen Beatrix may be interested in the recent report on this subject by a Church of England Working Party.

Civil Disturbances/Racial Problems

8. The two countries have some of these problems in common. In mid-October Amsterdam suffered its worst rioting for several years when the police took action against the city's squatters. Several Dutch local authorities have shown close interest in the lessons being learned from Brixton/Toxteth.

/Cuts

- 3 -

Cuts in Government Expenditure

9. The Dutch are now experiencing severe problems in this area. Over the last two years the Government has increasingly lost control of its financing deficit, and substantial cuts in expenditure now look inevitable. This is likely to lead to some degree of erosion of the principal features of the welfare state in the Netherlands, and thus to be highly controversial.

Unemployment

10. Queen Beatrix is very concerned about the high level of unemployment and its social implications. She takes a close interest in her Government's efforts, so far not very successful, to alleviate it.

Alliance/Democrats '66

11. Queen Beatrix may express interest in the fortunes of the Alliance (one of her friends from her student days at Leiden University is Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, Parliamentary floorleader of the Dutch political party Democrats '66, which has links with both the Liberals and the SDP. Democrats '66 lost ground in the General Election last September, falling from 17 to 6 seats - out of 150 - in the Second Chamber).

(B) TOPICS TO BE AVOIDED

Princess Irene

12. Her divorce (from Prince Hugo of Bourbon Parma) became final in May 1981, but has not yet been recognised by the Vatican (she has been a Catholic since 1964). She is now living quietly in the Netherlands with her children, near Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard.

Prince Claus: Background

13. Care needs to be taken in referring to the Second World War. Prince Claus was a member of the Hitler Youth, and of the Wehrmacht - though he is now generally well regarded by most Dutchmen. Many Dutch still have an ambivalent attitude to the Germans because of the Occupation.

Prince Bernhard

14. He now lies low, while continuing to exercise certain functions in bodies involved with wildlife/nature protection and commemoration of the World War II Resistance movement. There is still great sensitivity in the Netherlands about his fall from grace (The Lockheed Affair).

VISIT TO THE UK OF HM QUEEN BEATRIX AND HRH PRINCE CLAUS:

16-19 NOVEMBER 1982

GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION  
AND FORMS OF ADDRESS



FULL NAME	PRONUNCIATION	ABBREVIATED FORM OF NAME FOR USE IN CONVERSATION	STANDARD OF ENGLISH
Her Majesty Queen Beatrix	Bay-a-trix (short middle 'a')	Your Majesty	Excellent
His Royal Highness Prince Claus	as in 'mouse'	Your Highness	Very good
(Foreign Minister)			
Her Excellency Mevrouw [=Mrs] C Bischoff van Heemskerck  (Mistress of the Robes)	Me- (as in 'summer') -vrouw (as in German 'frau')  Bischoff (Bisch as in 'Bish') van (to rhyme with 'won')  Heems- (Haims) -Kerck (short 'e' and 'r' rolled slightly)	Mevrouw Bischoff	Very good
His Excellency Mynheer [=Mr] P J H Jonkman  (Grand Master)	My- (as in 'summer') -nheer (as in 'near')  Jonk- (Yonk) -man (to rhyme with 'one')	Mynheer Jonkman	Very good

<p>His Excellency Vice-Admiral E Roest  (Adjutant-General)</p>	<p>R (rolled slightly) oe (oo) st</p>	<p>Admiral Roest</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>His Excellency Jonkheer [=Baronet] J L R Huydecoper  (Netherlands Ambassador)</p>	<p>Jonk- (Yonk) -heer (hear)  Huy- (how) decoper (as in English)</p>	<p>Jonkheer Huydecoper/  Your Excellency</p>	<p>Excellent</p>
<p>Mevrouw Huydecoper</p>	<p>Me- (as in 'summer') -vrouw (as in German 'frau')  Huydecoper (see above)</p>	<p>Mevrouw Huydecoper</p>	<p>Excellent</p>
<p>Mevrouw F M de Graaf  (Director of the Queen's Cabinet)</p>	<p>Me- (as in 'summer') -vrouw (as in German 'frau')  de G- (guttural) -raaf (rahf)</p>	<p>Mevrouw de Graaf</p>	<p>Excellent</p>
<p>Mynheer P W Osieck  (Master of Ceremonies)</p>	<p>My- (as in 'summer') -nheer (near)  O- -Sieck (seek)</p>	<p>Mynheer Osieck</p>	<p>Good</p>

<p>Lieutenant-Colonel P A Blussé van Oud-Alblas  (Master of the Household)</p>	<p>- 3 -  Blu- (as in 'French 'bleu') -ssé (as in 'say') van (to rhyme with 'one') Oud (as in 'out') Al- (short 'a') blas (short 'a')</p>	<p>Colonel Blussé</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>Mevrouw H.G. Goudswaard  (Lady in Waiting)</p>	<p>Mevrouw (see above) G- (guttural) -oud- ('out') -swaard (svahrt)</p>	<p>Mevrouw Goudswaard</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>Major A Oudwater (Aide-de-Camp)</p>	<p>Oud- ('out') -water (vahter)</p>	<p>Major Oudwater</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>Colonel E Spierenburg  (Chief of Security)</p>	<p>Spier- (Speer) -ren- -bur- -g (guttural)</p>	<p>Colonel Spierenburg</p>	<p>Good</p>

Footnote

It will not be taken amiss if 'Mr' is used for 'Mynheer' and 'Jonkheer' and Mrs for 'Mevrouw', but use of these correct titles will give particular pleasure.

(NB that in English the Director of the Queen's Cabinet is 'Miss' not 'Mrs' de Graaf)