

PRIME MINISTER

Visit of the Netherlands Prime Minister - 2 March

You are due to have talks with Mr. Lubbers at 1130
following ^{ed} ~~ing~~ by lunch.

The Dutch have told us that their Constitutional position is such that it would suit them best if their Foreign Minister was present throughout the talks.

If you are prepared to meet them on this, would you prefer to have:

(a) talks with just Foreign Ministers and Private Secretaries present?

or

(b) talks with a limited number of officials present as well in the Cabinet Room?

*As they wish.
I will talk to Lubbers
over lunch.
me*

A.S.C.

23 February 1983



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 February 1983

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We spoke about the arrangements for this visit. You told me that, owing to the Constitutional position in the Netherlands, it would suit the Dutch best if their Foreign Minister was present throughout the talks. This is perfectly acceptable to the Prime Minister and she would of course be glad if Mr. Pym were present too. The only remaining point for decision is whether the talks should be à quatre or whether officials should be present. We shall meet the Dutch wish on this. Could you establish whether they would like officials to attend? (I hope that if they opt for official attendance we could restrict numbers to some two or three officials per side).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.