

PRIME MINISTER

Your Visit to Netherlands and Germany

As you know, there are no speeches but you will be expected to make a few remarks at the dinner on Monday night. We are told that Mr. Lubbers will speak for few minutes and that he may include one or two serious points i.e.

- (a) On INF, He will probably stress that the Netherlands will continue to take great care to avoid any action which could undermine the Geneva negotiations,
- (b) He may also talk about economic and social policy, including the pressing need for world recovery and the future of the European Community.

We shall have an hour or so before the dinner when you can think what you want to say. But I attach a few thoughts.

A. J. C.

16 September 1983

NOTES FOR AFTER DINNER SPEECH

Venue of dinner very appropriate. A member of the Van Wassenaar family which for centuries owned this splendid building, was Ambassador to the Court of St. James in early 18th century. Believe your present Ambassador is married to a member of the family.

My own present home - No.10 - built by Sir George Downing who served as British Ambassador to the Dutch Republic. I know that your countrymen hated him. Your great historian Pieter Geyl said: "words of condemnation flowed naturally from his pen whenever he wrote about them".

Anglo-Dutch relations very different today. Symbolised by splendid state visit of Queen Beatrix last November.

We look to you with the respect due to an old and valued ally. During that brief period in the 1660s when our similar interests brought us into conflict, Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary: "In all things, wisdom, courage, force and success, the Dutch have the best of us". I am not saying that I agree with him but I am glad that we are now on the same side.

Today discussed the European Community. Debate about British membership is over. I am strongly committed to the Community as a vital area of stability and democracy. But we have got to put problems behind us and that means fundamental decisions at Athens.

We also discussed the very important INF negotiations. Convinced of the necessity for all members of NATO to stick to the double decision.

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FOR WED

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE : NOTES FOR SPEECH AT DINNER ON
19 SEPTEMBER

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1. A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE BACK IN THE NETHERLANDS, AND ESPECIALLY TO BE ENJOYING DINNER IN SUCH SPLENDID SURROUNDINGS. (THE HOUSE WAS RESTORED IN THE 1950S AND IS NOW A MUSEUM). COMMENT ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE VENUE: A MEMBER OF THE VAN WASSENAAR FAMILY, WHICH FOR CENTURIES OWNED DUIVENVOORDE, WAS IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY AMBASSADOR TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S, AND UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS MARRIED TO A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. REMINDED THAT DURING THE SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT OF QUEEN BEATRIX LAST YEAR SHE GAVE A BANQUET AT HAMPTON COURT WHICH WAS SO MAGNIFICENTLY RENOVATED BY WILLIAM OF ORANGE, OUR KING WILLIAM III.

2. MY OWN PRESENT HOME - NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET - WAS, AS YOU MAY KNOW, BUILT BY SIR GEORGE DOWNING WHO SERVED AS BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE DUTCH REPUBLIC. HE IS LISTED IN ALL HISTORY BOOKS AS THE BETE NOIRE OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN IN THE 1660S. 'WORDS OF CONDEMNATION' TO QUOTE YOUR GREAT HISTORIAN PIETER GEYL, 'FLOWED NATURALLY FROM HIS PEN WHENEVER HE WROTE ABOUT THEM' EXCLAMATION MARK 'GLAD THAT OUR PRESENT AMBASSADOR TAKES A VERY OPPOSITE VIEW.

3. MOREOVER, BEFORE I EVER ARRIVED IN DOWNING STREET I HAD ALREADY EXPERIENCED THE CHARMS OF THE NETHERLANDS AND OF THE DUTCH PEOPLE, AND HAVING HAD FURTHER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES SINCE THEN I AM NOW FIRMLY UNDER YOUR SPELL EXCLAMATION MARK. DELIGHTED TO SEE HERE TONIGHT JELLE ZIJLSTRA, AS WELL AS OTHER OLD FRIENDS.

4. THE SUCCESS OF ANGLO-DUTCH RELATIONS, FOR SO LONG SO FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, CAN TO A LARGE EXTENT BE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF. MANY DIMENSIONS OF THE RELATIONSHIP WERE DISPLAYED IN THEIR FULL SPLENDOUR DURING LAST NOVEMBER'S STATE VISIT BY YOUR QUEEN. THEY WILL BE VERY MUCH IN OUR MINDS AGAIN AS THE PLANNING BEGINS TO GET UNDER WAY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE TERCENTENARY OF 1688. AND THEY ARE OF COURSE REFLECTED ALL THE TIME IN THE MYRIAD DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. WE FOR OUR PART LOOK TO YOU WITH THE RESPECT DUE TO AN OLD AND VALUED ALLY. WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN WHAT SAMUEL PEPYS WROTE IN HIS DIARY ON 29 JULY 1667, DURING THE BRIEF PERIOD WHEN OUR SIMILAR INTERESTS BROUGHT US INTO CONFLICT, - THAT 'IN ALL THINGS, WISDOM, COURAGE, FORCE AND SUCCESS, THE DUTCH HAVE THE BEST OF US'. WITHOUT NECESSARILY AGREEING WITH HIM, WE ARE CERTAINLY DELIGHTED THAT WE ARE NOW ON THE SAME SIDE. EXCLAMATION MARK.

6. WE ALSO OF COURSE HAVE IN COMMON OUR MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH IS TODAY CONFRONTED BY SUCH SERIOUS AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES NATURALLY HAS ITS OWN POINT OF VIEW ON THOSE ISSUES, BUT I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD THAT ON SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS OUR STANDS ARE VERY SIMILAR. THERE IS A LOT TO BE DONE BEFORE THE COMMUNITY CAN BE SAID TO HAVE PUT ITS HOUSE IN PROPER ORDER, BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF INSIGHT AND EFFORT THERE IS MUCH OF VALUE WHICH CAN BE DONE.

7. FINALLY, MR PRIME MINISTER, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN THE NETHERLANDS MORE THAN IN MANY OTHER FELLOW MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY THE BRITISH CAN DETECT AN UNDERLYING UNITY OF APPROACH. I FIND PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE THE EMPHASIS IN SO MUCH OF YOUR HISTORY ON THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL EFFORT AND SELF-HELP. IT IS TO THE VERY DUTCH COMBINATION OF PERSISTENCE AND HARD WORK LINKED WITH HIGH INTELLIGENCE THAT WE MUST ALL LOOK BOTH INTERNALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, IF WE ARE TO SOLVE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS NOW CONFRONTING US.

MANSFIELD

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