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SUBJECT

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 September 1983

In The Hague on Monday 19 September the Prime Minister had a private luncheon with the Netherlands Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister. I shall not be recording this in any detail but it might be helpful to you to know that the conversation mainly concerned the economic situation in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and in particular the prospects for the Dutch Budget which was to be made public on the following day. There was also a substantial exchange about the relationship of the French and British strategic deterrents to future arms negotiations. The Prime Minister told me afterwards that she thought that her arguments had made an impression on Dr. Lubbers and that this was evident in his remarks upon the matter during the joint press conference which they gave at the conclusion of their talks.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.