



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister.

London SW1A 2AH

A. J. C. $\frac{1}{3}$

1 March, 1984

John John,

Visit by Mr Lubbers: INF

There has been an important development in the Dutch political debate about cruise missile basing since we sent over our briefs for Mr Lubbers' call early on 2 March.

Over the last few days the two parties in the Dutch coalition Government have each suggested that the way out for the Netherlands might be to accept 16 or 32 cruise missiles instead of 48 missiles. In the Dutch Parliament this morning, 1 March, Mr Lubbers said that any talk of the Netherlands taking less than 48 missiles was, he thought, in the context of reduced deployments in Western Europe as a whole, but he is unlikely to have stopped speculation.

If Mr Lubbers raises the possibility of less than full deployment of missiles by the Dutch, the Prime Minister might wish to take the following line:

- (a) we should all like to see reduced levels of Pershing II and cruise missile deployments; they could follow from an agreement on INF in arms control talks;
- (b) the prospects for renewing talks about INF would be greatly damaged by one NATO country deciding to cut its quota now;
- (c) such a decision would also damage the prospects for successful deployments in the other four basing countries, perhaps especially in Belgium. In all four countries public opinion would be likely to ask why their Governments, too, could not make arbitrary cuts.

[Handwritten signature]
 (R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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MAR 1984





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From the Private Secretary

2 March 1984

VISIT BY MR. LUBBERS: INF

Thank you for your letter of 1 March. I write to record that the Prime Minister did not have an opportunity to raise with Mr. Lubbers this morning the question of INF deployment in the Netherlands.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

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Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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