

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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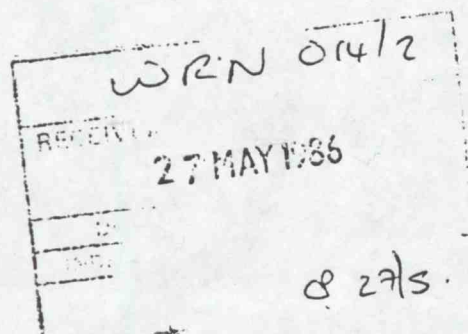
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR LUBBERS
1. PLEASE CONVEY TEXT URGENTLY:

'I SEND YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON A REMARKABLE VICTORY BOTH FOR YOUR PARTY AND FOR YOU PERSONALLY. I WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE STRONG LEAD WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ON SOUND FINANCE AND ON DEFENCE WAS RECOGNISED AND SO HANDSOMELY SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH PEOPLE. A TRULY WELL-DESERVED TRIUMPH.'

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 May 1986

NETHERLANDS ELECTION RESULT

Thank you for your letter of 22 May proposing a message of congratulation to Mr Lubbers.

The Prime Minister has approved a slightly amended version (copy enclosed) which I have already sent you for despatch.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR LUBBERS

"I send you my warmest congratulations on a remarkable victory both for your party and for you personally. I was delighted that the strong lead which you have given on sound finance and on defence was recognised and so handsomely supported by the Dutch people. A truly well-deserved triumph."

Q.T.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 May 1986

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Dear Charles,

Netherlands Election Result

The full details are not yet entirely clear, but it is already established that the Christian Democrats under Lubbers have performed beyond all expectations, increasing the number of seats they hold in the Second Chamber from 47 to 55 out of 150. This is a better result than any they have had for close on a generation. It also means that Lubbers will almost certainly be able to reform very quickly the existing Dutch coalition: the Liberals suffered somewhat in the election but the two parties together have emerged with a clear majority, having 81 seats between them.

Lubbers has (naturally) attributed his victory to the 'nuchterheid' (sobriety and good sense) of the Dutch people, and to his Government's good economic management. We suggest a message on the following lines:

"Many congratulations on what is clearly a most remarkable victory both for your party and for you personally. I am delighted to see that the Dutch remain as clear-sighted as ever about the true economic virtues!"

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

