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May I wish you a very happy birthday, Ruud. I hope you are spending it at home when your wife and children, and just for once taking a day off from the heavy burden of being Prime Minister - about which we both know something.

I remember our first meeting at the European Council in 1982. The first impression was of someone impatient to get on with the job in hand, and not waste time, even for lunch. I recognised a kindred soul, and I think that we have worked very well together in Europe since then. Indeed my only regret about the enlargement of the community is that we ~~no longer sit right next to each other~~ at the Council table!

*rule U.K. no*

*Sept 1992*

*The Netherlands*

We in Britain very much admire your leadership, in particular at the time when the Netherlands was reaching a decision about INF stationing, but on many other issues too. So often in Europe, you have been the one to come forward with the proposal that achieves agreement. And we like your friendly and approachable style. Indeed, if you were not Dutch, we would claim you for our own!

It was a great pleasure to have you at Chequers just a few days ago, and to be able to talk so frankly and uninhibitedly about the great issues of the moment. Thank you for coming then, thank you for all that you do for Europe and the West as well as for your own people in the Netherlands - and once again, a very happy birthday.

*mf*



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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

4 April 1989

**MR. LUBBERS BIRTHDAY**

I enclose the video-tape of the Prime Minister's message for Mr. Lubbers' 50th birthday. I should be grateful if it could be delivered personally to Mr. Merkelback in Mr. Lubbers' office as soon as possible.

CHARLES POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

PRIME MINISTER

**MR. LUBBERS' BIRTHDAY**

You agreed to record a short video message for Mr. Lubbers' birthday. I attach a short text. If you are content with it we will go ahead and make the arrangements.

CDP

CDP

8 March, 1989.





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ce I Beaumont  
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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

9 March 1989

**MR. LUBBERS' BIRTHDAY**

The Prime Minister has agreed to record a message for Mr. Lubbers' birthday. I enclose a copy of the text she has agreed. We are making arrangements for the recording to be done some time in the next month.

(C. D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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May I wish you a very happy birthday, Ruud. I hope you are spending it at home when your wife and children, and just for once taking a day off from the heavy burden of being Prime Minister - about which we both know something.

I remember our first meeting at the European Council in 1982. The first impression was of someone impatient to get on with the job in hand, and not waste time, even for lunch. I recognised a kindred soul, and I think that we have worked very well together in Europe since then. Indeed my only regret about the enlargement of the community is that The Netherlands and the United Kingdom no longer sit together at the Council table!

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It was a great pleasure to have you at Chequers just a few days ago, and to be able to talk so frankly and uninhibitedly about the great issues of the moment. Thank you for coming then, thank you for all that you do for Europe and the West as well as for your own people in the Netherlands - and once again, a very happy birthday.



M. E. J. LUBBERS-HOOGeweegen

LAMBERTWEG 4  
3062 RA ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM, 22nd December 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

Yes - delighted


Ria Lubbers  
Agree to do  
this  
CAP 3/1

My husband, Ruud Lubbers, hopes to become 50 years of age on May 7th, 1989. Though he himself does not like to celebrate his birthdays and certainly dislikes to be praised to the skies, the children and I would like to really surprise him for once. After much hard thinking we concluded it would be a good idea to ask some of Ruud's colleagues with whom he has been in touch for several years now, either in bilateral contacts or in the context of the European Council, to express congratulations on a videotape. We would also certainly welcome a critical note on his character. We would plan to present these congratulations on May 7th next year during a private birthday party.

It would be a great privilege and a pleasure for us if you would be willing to help to make this surprise a success by presenting a short congratulation on a videotape.

I thank you very much in advance indeed, also on behalf of the children.

Please accept, Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ria Lubbers-Hoogeweegen

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
10, Downing Street  
London

R 311.



KABINET VAN DE  
MINISTER-PRESIDENT

The Hague, December 22nd, 1988

*Dear Charles,*

As a follow-up to a short conversation at Rhodos between Mr. Bernard Ingham and the Director of our Government Information Service, Fred Lörtzer, I send enclosed Mrs. Lubbers' request to the Prime Minister concerning a congratulation message on video cassette on the occasion of Mr. Lubbers' 50th birthday on May 7th next year.

Would you please be so kind as to forward this request to the Prime Minister. If she would decide to present such a short congratulatory message would you please be so kind as to send the cassette to me personally, to the following address:

Mr. J.P.M.H. Merckelbach  
Kabinet Minister-President  
Binnenhof 20  
P.O. Box 20001  
2500 EA The Hague

Thank you very much in advance for your kind help.

Sincerely yours,

J.P.M.H. Merckelbach

Mr. Charles Powell  
Private secretary to the Prime Minister  
10, Downing Street  
London



MR. BEAUMONT

The Prime Minister has agreed to record a short video message for the birthday of the Dutch Prime Minister. We need to get this done by Easter if possible. Could you:

- negotiate with Amanda to find a date and time. Ideally, it would be tacked on to some other recording which the Prime Minister is making so that we do not have to get the equipment in twice. But I do not know what the possibilities are in the next few weeks.
  
- make the practical arrangements with the COI. I attach the likely text of the Prime Minister's remarks. It would probably be easiest to get it up on a screen so that she could read it off.

CDP

8 March, 1989.

May I wish you a very happy birthday, Ruud. I hope you are spending it at home when your wife and children, and just for once taking a day off from the heavy burden of being Prime Minister - about which we both know something.

I remember our first meeting at the European Council in 1982. The first impression was of someone impatient to get on with the job in hand, and not waste time, even for lunch. I recognised a kindred soul, and I think that we have worked very well together in Europe since then. Indeed my only regret about the enlargement of the community is that we no longer sit right next to each other at the Council table!

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It was a great pleasure to have you at Chequers just a few days ago, and to be able to talk so frankly and uninhibitedly about the great issues of the moment. Thank you for coming then, thank you for all that you do for Europe and the West as well as for your own people in the Netherlands - and once again, a very happy birthday.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 February 1989

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Jean Charles,

You wrote to Lyn Parker on 4 January requesting a text for the Prime Minister's birthday message on video to the Netherlands Prime Minister. I enclose a draft, on which you may wish to draw.

The Prime Minister's 1982 recollections of Lubbers come from a letter which she wrote at the time to Queen Beatrix.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street





Ruud

I am told that in your family you keep an old Dutch tradition every year on 5 December. <sup>Your wife &</sup> Ria and the children send you traditional Sinta Klaas poems in which they try to introduce a note of appropriate frankness. This year, there is a very special occasion for messages on 7 May and I shall follow the Lubbers family tradition in this message to you.

May I first wish you a very happy birthday. I am sure that <sup>Your wife</sup> Ria will be pleased that this is at least one day when she and your family can count on having you with them, hopefully not preoccupied with affairs of State.

One year can be a long time in politics and 1982 seems now to be very long ago. I recall reading in Downing Street in October 1982 that a one-time young radical had ben catapulted to the top to replace <sup>Mr.</sup> Dries van Agt as Netherlands Minister-President. I think that the first time we met was at the European Council that December. <sup>I remember thinking: Live</sup> I can now reveal my first impressions. ~~Here was a some-one~~ <sup>very</sup> ~~new and fast talking Dutchman apparently intent on leading a "no nonsense" Cabinet, whose impatience to get on with his job was clear. I was told that you were reluctant to halt the flow of business to find more than 3 minutes for lunch, and that you then did not always know what you had eaten. Some would regard impatience as a vice. I do not when it arises from a real desire to get things done as speedily and effectively as possible.~~

<sup>very often</sup>  
We have seen a ~~lot~~ of each other since then. I quickly discovered that you were an expert manager with a particular talent for summing up the pros and cons

/of



of the issue before us. Your contribution was invaluable when we needed consensus. But you also had the capacity to give firm and statesmanlike leadership at times when such firmness was needed. I well remember the tremendous effort which you made at the time when the Netherlands was reaching a decision about INF stationing.

I know with what regard you are held within your own country. As one of your fellow Dutchmen once put it:

"Zo'n premier hebben we in jaren niet meer gehad".\*

I value our close national ties and our personal relationship. I am sure that Ria will understand why one aspect of Portuguese entry into the Community is unwelcome to me. I am sorry that you and I no longer sit together at the Council Table.

\* Translation: "We have not had a better Prime Minister for years"



NETHERRANTS : Telabau, Sep 80.







10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

4 January 1989

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 December which only arrived yesterday. I have shown Mrs. Lubbers' letter to the Prime Minister who will be delighted to record a message on video tape and will certainly do this in plenty of time for 7 May. I will let you have the tape as soon as it has been done.

With best wishes for the New Year,

(C.D. POWELL)

Mr. J.P.M.H. Merckelbach



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DA  
c Powell

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

4 January 1989

The Prime Minister has agreed to a request from Mrs. Lubbers to video tape a short message for Mr. Lubbers' 50th birthday on 7 May. I enclose a copy of Mrs. Lubbers' letter.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a suggested text for such a message. You will, I am sure, wish to consult Michael Jenkins in The Hague: but obviously the idea should not get back to Mr. Lubbers himself. Once we have a text, we will make arrangements here for the Prime Minister to record the message.

I have told Joop Merckelbach in Lubbers' office that the Prime Minister has agreed to Mrs. Lubbers' request.

(C.D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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