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HAGFO 002/05

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PP MODUK (DS17)

PP UKDEL NATO

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PP BONN

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PP BRUSSELS

Hd Def D  
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GRS 240

CONFIDENTIAL

FM THE HAGUE 051425Z FEB 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 43 OF 5 FEBRUARY

INFO PRIORITY MODUK (DS17), UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, BONN AND BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING OTHER NATO POSTS

YOUR TELNO 40 TO BONN : ERWS

1. WEINBERGER'S REMARKS HAVE ALREADY AROUSED STRONG PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY REACTIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ERW DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE ANY LESS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED HERE THAN IN 1978: AND HOSTILITY TO ANY US ATTEMPTS TO INTRODUCE THEM WOULD BE LIKELY TO ENGULF SUCH SIGNS AS THERE HAVE BEEN OF A RALLY TOWARDS A MORE HELPFUL ATTITUDE ON TNF STATIONING.

2. OPPOSITION IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 1978 TO ERW REACHED A PITCH PERHAPS MORE INTENSE (AND MORE ORCHESTRATED) THAN IN ALMOST

2. OPPOSITION IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 1978 TO ERW REACHED A PITCH PERHAPS MORE INTENSE (AND MORE ORCHESTRATED) THAN IN ALMOST ANY OTHER NATO COUNTRY. A PUBLIC PETITION WAS SIGNED BY MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE; THE THEN MINISTER OF DEFENCE, KRUISINGA, RESIGNED; AND IN LATE OCTOBER THE SECOND CHAMBER PASSED, ONLY THE VVD (LIBERALS) AND TWO SMALL RIGHT-WING PARTIES VOTING AGAINST, A MOTION "REGRETTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION" (THE HAGUE TELNO 342 OF 1978). THE STRENGTH OF FEELING IN THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING WEINBERGER'S REMARKS IS ILLUSTRATED BY UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNATORY COMMENT IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS AND THE PUTTING DOWN OF A MOTION IN THE SECOND CHAMBER, NOT YET VOTED ON BUT SUPPORTED BY THE PVDA (LABOUR), D'66 AND AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT (PROBABLY A MAJORITY) IN THE CDA (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) CALLING FOR ERW'S NOT TO BE DEPLOYED AND FOR DUTCH FORCES NOT TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THEM.

3. IN THE RUN-UP TO THE ELECTIONS THERE IS, REGRETTABLY, LITTLE PROSPECT OF THE NETHERLANDS ADOPTING A SIGNIFICANTLY LESS HOSTILE OR EMOTIONAL ATTITUDE IN ANY INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS OR BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH NATO PARTNERS.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

TAYLOR

NNNN

SENT AT 05/1457.4 -2AW

RECD AT 05/1457Z IJC