

ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	USNW-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	WHA-00	EAP-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NEA-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	SA-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/000W

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O 011238Z JUL 05
 FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2589
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
 IRAN COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 USMISSION USNATO
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 USMISSION USOSCE
 NSC WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

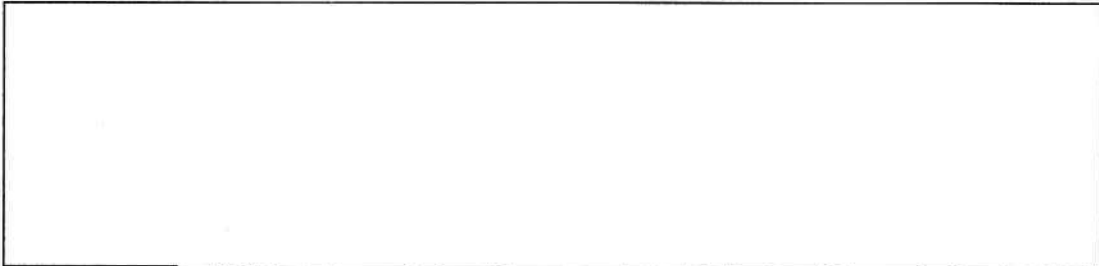
S E C R E T THE HAGUE 001876

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/30/2015
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MOPS, EUN, IZ, IR, AF, NL
 SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
 BOT

REF: A. THE HAGUE 1853
 B. THE HAGUE 1852
 C. CARACAS 1865

Classified By: AMBASSADOR CLIFFORD SOBEL FOR REASONS
 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (S) SUMMARY: Ambassador Sobel, DCM, and POLCOUNS met with Dutch FM Bot on June 30 for a tour d'horizon discussion of outstanding issues. Bot praised the excellent (and improving) state of U.S.-Dutch relations, but identified four "irritants" to be addressed through ongoing consultations:



B1

With regard to Venezuela, Bot confirmed that the Dutch have invited Chavez to the Hague (no date set) but

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MARTIN MCLEAN
 CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 JUL 2025
 DATE/CASE ID: 08 AUG 2011 201102842

END SUMMARY.

DUTCH CONCERNS:

2. (C) Foreign Minister Bot noted that Dutch-U.S. relations remained excellent and, if anything, had become stronger over the last four years. This relationship had proven its worth during the Dutch EU presidency, when both sides had grown even closer while pursuing shared objectives. The steady stream of high-level U.S. visitors to the Netherlands (including President Bush) and vice versa had clearly made a positive impact. The Dutch considered themselves valued partners of the U.S., and this partnership had produced tangible results in many spheres. Bot stressed that he was personally committed to ensuring the continuation of a strong transatlantic relationship. In this context, the U.S. and the Netherlands should work to remove "irritations" in the relationship, including:

- Trafficking in Persons:

B1

- Iraq Reconstruction:

- Non-Proliferation:

- Guantanamo:

B1

B1

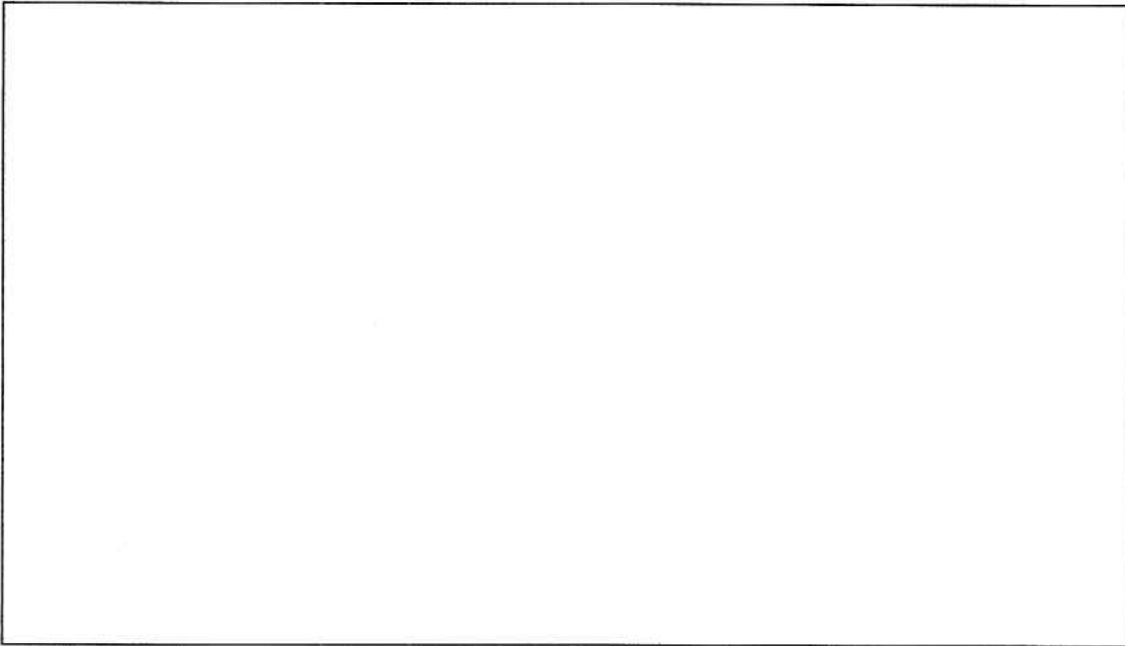
The Ambassador noted that in responding to parliamentary concerns, the Foreign Minister should be aware that there had been no referrals to Guantanamo in the past year.

3. (C) Bot reiterated that he was "very satisfied" with the "tremendous successes" of the Dutch-U.S. relationship over the past several years. He felt it was important, however, to restate "officially" Dutch concerns in the above areas. In response, Ambassador Sobel seconded Bot's overall positive assessment of U.S.-Dutch relations. The key to overcoming the various "irritations" cited by Bot was to continue communication and consultations at all levels. Ambassador

Sobel noted that the TIP, Iraq Reconstruction, and Guantanamo issues were already the subject of intense, high-level dialogue in the Hague and in Washington, which should continue.

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AFGHANISTAN:



B1

(Note: The current Dutch SOF deployment to OEF was already expected to conclude in April 2006.)

VENEZUELA:

5. (S) Bot confirmed (ref b) that he planned to visit Caracas in the Fall, and that Chavez had been invited to visit The Hague this summer "if he is in Europe."

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

IRAQ:

6. (C) Noting that the Dutch parliament had just supported extending the Dutch contribution to the NATO Training Mission in Iraq (NTM-I), Ambassador Sobel asked whether the Dutch were still considering expanding their contribution to 100 or more.

B1

GAZA:

7. (C) Recalling the recent visit of MFO Chief Larocco to the Netherlands (ref a), Ambassador Sobel probed Bot on possible Dutch contributions following an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

B1

EU POLITICS:

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

SOBEL

NNNN

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