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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7172
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002282

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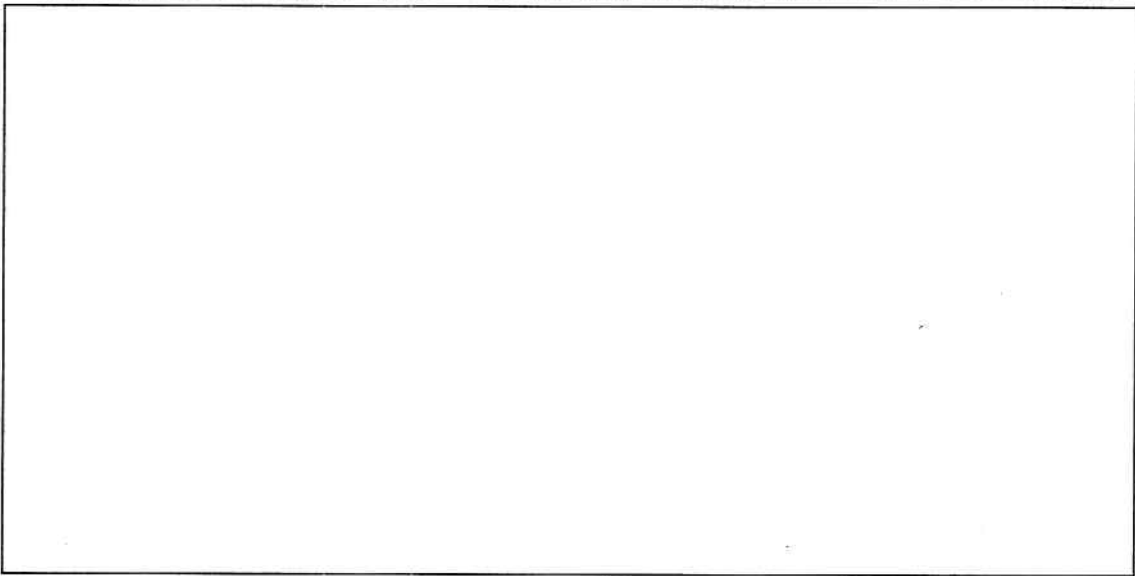
FOR SECRETARY RICE FROM AMBASSADOR ARNALL; PLEASE ALSO PASS
TO EUR, L, AND P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/20/2016
TAGS: PREL, MARR, PGOV, PHUM, NL
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/SCENESETTER: FOREIGN MINISTER BOT'S
10/23 WASHINGTON VISIT

Classified By: Ambassador Roland Arnall, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

MADAM SECRETARY:

- 1. (C) Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot's upcoming visit to Washington DC comes just one month before national elections.



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3. (C) In addition to his meeting with you, Bot has meetings with Sen. Chuck Hagel, Deputy NSA Crouch, and Deputy Secretary of Defense England on Oct. 23. He will also give a press conference and attend a dinner hosted by the American Enterprise Institute on transatlantic relations. On Oct. 24, Bot will meet with Deputy NSA Elliott Abrams, deliver a speech at Georgetown University on "Saving Democracy in a World of Change," and attend a lunch at the Dutch ambassador's residence on Afghanistan. While Afghanistan, Guantanamo/Detainee issues, and the upcoming Riga summit will be the main items on his agenda, Bot will also be interested in hearing about your recent visit to the Middle East. This cable contains brief summaries of the current state of play of these and several other issues -- North Korea/Iran, Venezuela, Sudan, the Human Rights Council, Joint Strike Fighter, and Law Enforcement cooperation -- as viewed from The Hague.

Overview

4. (C) Bot's visit to Washington comes against the backdrop of the November 22 national elections, in which Bot's governing Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA) has recently pulled from behind to run neck-in-neck with the opposition Labor Party (PvdA). Regardless of which party gains the most seats in the next parliament, the next Dutch government -- like all previous Dutch governments -- will be a coalition, probably containing at least one of the current government's two center-right parties (CDA and VVD), either governing together or individually in partnership with the PvdA.

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Afghanistan

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Detainees/Guantanamo

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NATO/Riga Summit

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Lebanon/Middle East Peace Process

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North Korea/Iran

12. (C) The GONL -- and Bot in particular -- share our deep concern over nuclear developments in North Korea and Iran. Bot publicly labeled North Korea's nuclear test "irresponsibly provocative" and "totally senseless," and called for Pyongyang to return to the six-party talks. He also said the use of force would be counterproductive, given the large population in nearby Seoul, and suggested China was crucial in getting North Korea to return to the table.

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supportive of the EU-3's efforts to engage Iran, publicly

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Recently, he called publicly for the UN Security Council to become directly involved given the apparent lack of progress on the EU track.

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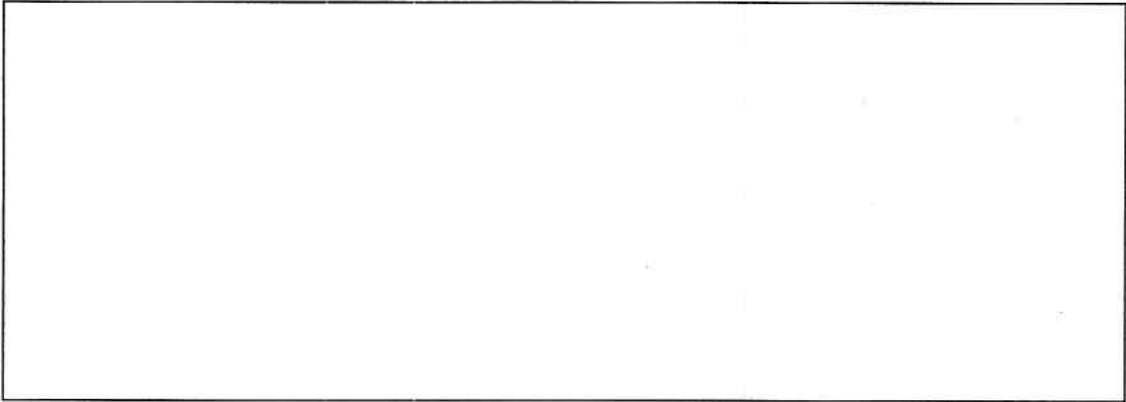
Venezuela and Latin America

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Joint Strike Fighter (JSF)

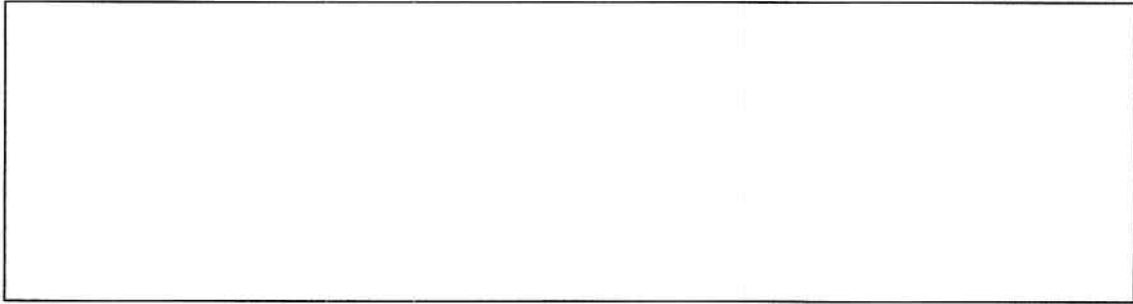
14. (C) The Dutch Parliament is expected on October 24 to approve the GONL's signing of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Production, Sustainment, and Follow-on Development (PSFD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A solid majority in Parliament supports the GONL's continued participation in JSF, while the Dutch press views MOU signature as a foregone conclusion. The MOU signing ceremony hosted by Deputy Secretary of Defense England is planned for November 14 in the Pentagon. Dutch State Secretary of Defense van der Knaap and Foreign Trade Minister van Gennip are expected to represent the GONL. The Dutch and Italian governments are considering a joint signing ceremony, although this has not yet been confirmed.

Sudan



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Human Rights Council



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Law Enforcement Issues

17. (SBU) Attorney General Gonzales will visit The Hague a few days after your meeting with Bot. Gonzales will open a

bilateral conference on cyber crime that the Embassy is co-sponsoring with the Dutch Justice Ministry. The conference will spur our bilateral cooperation on high-tech crime, which is emerging as a priority for the law enforcement communities in both countries. Law enforcement cooperation is good and getting better. While bureaucratic and privacy restrictions continue to hamper some direct police-to-police cooperation, we have made significant advances in the last two years. In particular, Dutch efforts to stem the flow of ecstasy to the United States have resulted in dramatic declines in the volume of Dutch-linked ecstasy seized in the U.S. since 2000. Cooperation with DEA on narcotics, and the FBI on cyber crime and counter-terrorism investigations, is excellent.

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