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Embassy The Hague

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2984

INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 THE HAGUE 000399

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STATE PLEASE PASS TO NSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/14/2019

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, MOPS, OVIP, PINR, PREL, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS: LEAD TOPICS FOR PRESIDENT'S JULY 14

MEETING WITH DUTCH PRIME MINISTER BALKENENDE - SECOND OF

THREE CABLES

REF: THE HAGUE 395

[...tekst verwijderd door NRC Handelsblad...]

Climate Change

12. (C) Balkenende is keenly interested in climate change and pushes the Netherlands to address the issue through ambitious, coordinated, global action. We expect him to praise renewed U.S. leadership on climate but he probably will not stray from the common EU position -- still hoping for a more aggressive medium-term U.S. mitigation target. The GONL has committed to a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 relative to 1990. Qgreenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 relative to 1990.

They want other top emitters to display a "comparable effort" in mitigating climate change, but they privately acknowledge that even a 20 percent U.S. cut by 2020 is unrealistic. We share much common ground with the Dutch on this issue. They see an international carbon market, heavy private sector involvement, and broad access to clean technologies as key parts of the solution. They support robust financing for developing countries that undertake serious mitigation commitments, and will insist such aid be allocated efficiently, accountably and transparently.

13. (C) Balkenende will likely explain how tackling climate change is vital to the Netherlands, as over 60 percent of its population and economic activity is located below sea-level. The devastation of Hurricane Katrina was a wake-up call for the Dutch. Yet despite their best intentions, Dutch rhetoric far outstrips their deeds. Yale's 2008 Environmental Protection Index ranked the Netherlands 55th worldwide, placing it in the bottom fifth of EU countries. (Note: The THE HAGUE 00000399 004 OF 004 United States ranked 39th. End note.) The latest UN figures reveal the Netherlands reduced its total GHG emissions by only 2 percent between 1990 and 2006, leaving it a steep hill to climb to achieve its ambitious 30 percent target by 2020. Local energy experts admit the Netherlands has no chance of achieving the EU's 20 percent renewable energy target by 2020.

[...tekst verwijderd door NRC Handelsblad...]

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2009-07-06 15:30

