



"As for immigration, I say admit anyone who arrives on the Concorde."

Amsterdam, March 10 2002

Dear Stuart,

What a perfectly quiet moment on Sunday morning to write to you a couple of thoughts. First of all a comment in respect of the Cartoon. Our new princess of Argentine descent falls in the category who flies with the Concorde. The optional stamp on her request for immigration took not more than six weeks. Political refugees on average wait two to three years before they get a decision whether or not they are welcome into the Netherlands. "Get a quick admission procedure, marry a prince," could be read on a banner the day our Crown Prince married.

Today it is a lovely weather. Yesterday we got the huge storm wind from the UK. A number of roof-tiles came down and on Sunday there ^{evening} ~~was~~ no one available to fix it. We are a rich country that we can afford not to work on a Sunday. Yes, if needed, I remember writing an OCR on Sunday. Yes, yes, what a good guy I am.

Is president Bush of the USA also a good guy? I doubt it. I think that he is an American megalomaniac. He has hardly won the presidency and he has a lot to hide. For instance his foul play with ENRON and his war policy is hiding his mediocrity. I am afraid of him. All his views go against the grain of the thinking of reasonable men. Enough about him and his bad friend Dick Cheney. 20% of the world population lives under the poverty line. Being born in these poor circumstances life is not a gift. His USD 43 billion increase in the US defense budget could be better spent to relieve the conditions of these poor societies. Believe me, them the have-nots will not turn to Bin Laden. To address the unjust division of wealth in the world, I compare Bin Laden with Jesus Christ. Both sentences mobilize the dissatisfaction of the poorest of the poor. Finally an observation on Tony Blair. He did a great job in black Africa. Does he not lack focus on the real world problems of today? If he is a real politician, he should use his high office

To end the war in the Middle East, a former protectorate land of the British.

March 11th.

Did I mention already that coming Sunday we depart on 10 day tour to Egypt. A couple of days Cairo and a fair day trip on the Nile. Besides the blue skies are the main attractions the grave yards (pyramids tourist)

and Mastaba's) and the dead (mummies).

If you ask me, it is all a bit morbid. This journey prompted me to catch up with the Egyptian history as from 3000 BC. What amazed me to read was that during 3000 years the Egyptians had a barter-economy. No coins! And like the USA which is not autaric on Crude-oil; lacked the Egyptians wood; an essential raw material for building boats, their transportation vehicles. They imported wood from middle eastern countries.

The Chronicle.

Vera has made known to the Board of the foundation that she will be no longer

available after this year event, to organise next years, Open Garden Days." To our amazement the Board decided that next year's event will be skipped. It implies that Vera is irreplaceable. And I could not agree more with this statement. Floris, our no. 1, stayed with us for one night (Saturday/Sunday) on his way for a 10 day holidays in Cuba with friends.

He said that he preferred ^{his fraternity} staying in London above returning to Amsterdam when his two year contract has finished. After five years working as a fiscal lawyer for Ernst & Young, he would love to tackle the problems sitting at the other side of the desk. He is getting interviews, but he realizes that the employers are in the driver seats.

Reinoud, our no 2, 29 years of age, is trying to get an employment. It is difficult to find the proper fit. As yet, he has not been predeated. He assured us that graduation will take place within a year. And 29 is considered a bit old nowadays to begin with your first job. My solution for him is to find an extremely rich girlfriend and marry her. Obe to Upsilon. I hope you are all well. Gerrit D