

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 06345 191618Z
ACTION INR-07

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R 191515Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1752

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: NL PINR
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: AARON PAIS, MINISTER OF
EDUCATION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. PROFESSOR (ARIE)PAIS IS THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR THE
NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS. HE WAS BORN APRIL 16, 1930
IN THE HAGUE AND STUDIED ECONOMICS AT AMSTERDAM MUNICIPAL
UNIVERSITY UNTIL 1954, RECEIVING HIS DOCTORATE IN 1973.
DURING THE 1950S HE WORKED AS A RESEARCHER AT THE
GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK, AND LATER BECAME ITS
CHIEF OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. SUBSEQUENTLY HE BECAME PERSONAL
ADVISER TO THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE PTT
(POSTAL, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY), AND TAUGHT
POLITICAL ECONOMICS AT AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY. HE WAS NAMED TO
A PROFESSORSHIP IN 1974.

2. UNTIL 1962, PAIS WAS ACTIVE IN THE LABOR PARTY BUT
LEFT IT WITH A GROUP OF OTHERS TO JOIN THE LIBERAL PARTY
(VVD). HE WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE FIRST CHAMBER
OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE VVD. HE SITS ON THE AMSTERDAM CITY
COUNCIL AND IS A DEPUTY CROWN MEMBER OF THE INFLUENTIAL
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL. PAIS IS AN ACTIVE
MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ANIMAL
PROTECTION SOCIETY.

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3. DR PAIS WRITES A WEEKLY ARTICLE IN THE DAILY
NEWSPAPER "DE TELEGRAAF", AND IS REPORTED TO SPEAK
FRENCH, GERMAN, ENGLISH, SPANISH, NORWEGIAN, AND
ICELANDIC, ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY RATES HIS ENGLISH ONLY AS
"ADEQUATE". HE IS MARRIED AND LIVES IN AMSTERDAM,
IS A VEGETARIAN AND PLAYS THE PIANO. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. PAIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN POLITICALLY INVOLVED, ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTING HIS PARTY, WHETHER IT HAS BEEN LEFT OR RIGHT LEANING. HIS FRIENDS SAY THAT HE HAS ALWAYS WANTED A MINISTER'S POST. HE HAS FOUGHT VIGOROUSLY AGAINST FLUORIDATION AND LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, CONTINUES HIS POSITION IN THE ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY, AND IS A MEMBER OF THE VEGETARIAN'S ASSOCIATION. PAIS IS KNOWN FOR HIS SHARP INTELLIGENCE, WIT, NEEDLING PERSONALITY AND ABILITY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF PROBLEMS. HE HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH THE EMBASSY IN THE AREA OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMING.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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