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FM PCO 241040Z FEB 84
TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 375 OF 24 FEBRUARY

OUR TEL NO 174: PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE LONDON SUMMIT
1. AS REPORTED IN OUR TUR, WE PUT TO THE AMERICANS AT THE END OF JANUARY THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO MR REAGAN FOR DINNER ON 5 JUNE AND HER SUGGESTION OF BILATERAL TALKS. WE HAVE NOW HEARD INFORMALLY FROM THE EMBASSY THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT TO LET US HAVE A REPLY BEFORE DEEVER'S RECCE VISIT IN MID-MARCH. NO 10 ARE KEEN TO FINALISE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE SUMMIT AND DELAY OF ANOTHER THREE WEEKS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE. WHILST WE RECOGNISE THE DIFFICULTY OF ELICITING A RESPONSE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN THE PROGRAMME PLANNERS MUST BE SO HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE RUN-UP TO THE VISIT TO CHINA, WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY EARLIER INDICATION YOU CAN GAIN AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTING OR DECLINING THE INVITATION.

HOWE

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LIMITED
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NEWS DEPT
PROTOCOL DEPT
PS

PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS
SIR W HARDING
MR DAVID THOMAS
MR N J BARRINGTON (ESAU)

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