PRIME MINISTER

400th Anniversary of Anglo/Turkish diplomatic relations

The Turkish Ambassador has invited you to a Reception on Wednesday 4 May to celebrate this event. We did not reply earlier because of the possibility that the disarmament debate might take place on that day. It is now almost certain that the debate will be a week later.

There were celebrations of the 400th anniversary in Ankara in January. The Turkish Prime Minister and other senior Ministers attended a dinner given by the British Ambassador. The Turks are very protocol conscious and hope that you will be able to put in an appearance at their Reception in return.

You are dining with George Howard at the BBC that evening. Would you be prepared to spend 30 minutes at the Turkish Reception first?

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25 April 1983

A-J.C. 26/4.