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MO 14/2

17th December 1984

INVITATION TO BE THE GUEST TO VISIT

Thank you for your letter of 14 December.

Dear Sir,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Charles Powell copied to me his letters of 10th and 14th December about the Prime Minister's visit to the United States.

I should record that, when Sir Oliver Wright called on the Defence Secretary last week, he said that he very much hoped that Mr Heseltine would pay a visit in the near future to the United States. We needed to take every opportunity we could to put across both to the Administration and to Congress the extent of the European contribution to NATO in order to deal with Nunn-type resolutions. Moreover, there had been significant changes in those responsible for defence in the Congress and it would be helpful if Mr Heseltine were to meet the new leadership. The Defence Secretary said that he would be happy to make such a visit. He strongly supported the Prime Minister's proposed visit and the suggested seminar. He hoped that he might participate in that trip and carry out calls on the hill when the Prime Minister was otherwise engaged. Sir Oliver Wright very much welcomed this proposal.

No doubt you will bear this in mind when drawing up advice for the Prime Minister on her visit to the United States.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No 10) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office)

Yours etc,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)