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FM WASHINGTON 181801Z FEBRUARY, 1985
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 559 OF 18 FEBRUARY
INFO ROUTINE BIS NEW YORK AND ALL US POSTS.

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: AMERICAN BREAKFAST TELEVISION INTERVIEWS.

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S 5 TO 8 MINUTE INTERVIEWS WITH EACH OF THE MAJOR US BREAKFAST SHOWS ON 20 FEBRUARY WILL ALL TAKE PLACE IN TWO ROOMS IN THE RESIDENCE.

2. ABC "GOOD MORNING AMERICA" AND CBS "MORNING NEWS" WILL BROADCAST THEIR INTERVIEWS SHORTLY AFTER 7.00 A.M. AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A 5 MINUTE BREAK BETWEEN THE TWO INTERVIEWS. NBC TODAY SHOW ARE VERY KEEN TO GO LIVE WITH THEIR INTERVIEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER IN ORDER TO PUT IT ON THE AIR NATIONALLY IN THE LAST MAJOR NEWS SEGMENT AT THAT TIME BEFORE THE REGIONAL AND SPORTS NEWS AT ABOUT 7.22 A.M. IF THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NO OBJECTION, THIS WILL THEREFORE MEAN MOVING BRISKLY TO THE NBC POSITION IN THE NEXT ROOM TO START THE INTERVIEW AS SOON AS THE MICROPHONES HAVE BEEN FITTED. IT SHOULD THEN BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE ANOTHER TWO/THREE MINUTE BREAK BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER DOES THE FOURTH AND LAST INTERVIEW WITH CNN AT ABOUT 7.30 A.M. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT STAFF (ANSON/ELLACOTT) WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP ESCORT THE PRIME MINISTER BETWEEN THE VARIOUS NETWORK POSITIONS.

3. ALL FOUR NETWORKS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WANT TO ASK THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT:-

- (A) EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL, INCLUDING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ATTITUDES TO THE SDI.
- (B) THE UK ECONOMY AND THE POSITION OF STERLING, EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TO THE US DEFICIT ETC.
- (C) MRS THATCHER'S 10 YEARS AS LEADER AND THE CURRENT BRITISH POLITICAL SCENE.
- (D) THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON ANY MAJOR NEW STORY THAT MAY BREAK BEFORE THE INTERVIEWS TAKE PLACE. WE SHALL OF COURSE MONITOR THE WIRE SERVICES EARLY ON THE MORNING OF 20 FEBRUARY BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEWS TO CHECK THIS ASPECT.

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4. IF THERE IS TIME, CNN ALSO WANT TO RAISE TERRORISM/NORTHERN
IRELAND AND OBSERVANCE OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY.

5. THE INTERVIEWERS FOR EACH PROGRAMME ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

0645-0700 A.M. - ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA - STEVE BELL (WHO
INTERVIEWED THE P.M. IN SEPTEMBER 1983)

0700-0715 - CBS MORNING NEWS - BOB SCHIEFFER (WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT)

0715-0730 - NBC TODAY SHOW - ANDREA MITCHELL (WHO INTERVIEWED THE
PM IN SEPTEMBER 1983)

0730-0745 - CABLE NEWS NETWORK - RALPH BEGGLEITER.

6. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO INGHAM AND WALL, NO. 10 PRESS OFFICE.

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