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(James) Harold WILSON

UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister

Addressed as:
Mr. Prime Minister

Labor Party leader Harold Wilson, 59, has been Prime Minister since March 1974. He had previously served as Prime Minister during 1964-70. Personally friendly toward this country, he has met with President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger several times in 1975, beginning with a state visit to Washington in January. Following an overwhelming endorsement of continued EC membership in a 5 June referendum, he affirmed that Britain would play a full and constructive role in EC affairs. He has reshuffled his Cabinet to move some of the vocal anti-Marketeters to less important positions and is expected to focus immediately on his country's growing economic problems. In addition, Wilson has pledged full support to NATO.

Wilson is a consummate politician--skillful, shrewd and subtle. A political pragmatist, he has shown great skill in uniting the diverse elements of his party, but he has never been a popular leader. His brilliant mind, political acumen and phenomenal debating skill and wit are offset, in the eyes of his critics, by a record of opportunism, deviousness and shifting loyalties.

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A man of simple tastes and habits, Wilson shuns ordinary social life. He apparently has no close political "cronies." Apart from his family and politics, reading and golf are his chief interests. Married, he has two sons.

17 June 1975

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