



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 4, 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Ted Heath Defeated as Opposition Leader

In an election on February 4, Edward Heath was unexpectedly defeated as Opposition Leader. He received only 119 votes to Margaret Thatcher's 130. Mrs. Thatcher, Secretary of State for Education in the previous Heath Government, did not have the requisite number of votes for a first-ballot victory, but Heath has announced that he will not be a candidate on the second ballot, one week hence. It is doubtful that Mrs. Thatcher will win on the second ballot. A more likely victor is popular Willie Whitelaw, whose last position was Secretary of State for Energy. Whitelaw lent his support to Heath on the first ballot but is almost certain to present his candidacy on the second.

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for George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

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