

OPS

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T238/80

CAB/WTE 002/08 DEC 80

OO THE WHITE HOUSE

GROUPS 500

S E C R E T

FM THE CABINET OFFICE LONDON 082200Z DEC 80

TO IMMEDIATE THE WHITE HOUSE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 082200Z OF 8TH DECEMBER.

*Original on
Poland P+2*

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

I WAS ON THE POINT OF REPLYING TO YOUR MESSAGE OF 1 DECEMBER ABOUT POLAND WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR FURTHER MESSAGE OF 7 DECEMBER ON THE SAME SUBJECT, IN WHICH YOU REFER TO EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS MADE THE DECISION TO INTERVENE. THIS GOES FURTHER THAN OUR OWN JUDGEMENT, BUT I HAVE ASKED OUR EXPERTS TO COMPARE NOTES URGENTLY WITH YOURS. IT IS MORE THAN EVER IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD KEEP IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH ON THESE ASSESSMENTS.

AS FAR AS MESSAGES TO THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONCERNED, WE HAVE AS YOU KNOW MADE OUR POSITION VERY CLEAR BOTH NATIONALLY AND IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 1 AND 2 DECEMBER. PETER CARRINGTON SUMMONED THE SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ON 3 DECEMBER TO REINFORCE THIS MESSAGE AND TO SEEK ASSURANCES FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WOULD RESPECT THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE WARSAW PACT SUMMIT CLEARLY DOES NOT FORE-CLOSE THE OPTION OF INTERVENTION AND WE SHALL BRING OUT IN OUR COMMENTS ON IT THE NEED FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF THE NON-USE OR THREAT OF FORCE, REFERRED TO IN THE COMMUNIQUE, TO BE STRICTLY APPLIED IN RELATION TO POLAND.

THE QUESTION OF GIVING SACEUR PRE-DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO TAKE FIVE SPECIFIC MEASURES IMMEDIATELY IF AN INVASION TAKES PLACE HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNCIL TODAY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF GIVING SACEUR DISCRETION TO TAKE THESE MEASURES WHEN HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY, EVEN IN ADVANCE OF AN INVASION. I AM INSTRUCTING THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THIS LATEST PROPOSAL ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT AT THIS STAGE ONLY COVERT ACTION IS INVOLVED.

YOURS SINCERELY
MARGARET THATCHER

NNNN

SENT AT 082217Z BY KRW

RGRGRG QSL AT PIEEE 06EEEE 082217Z K
DE CAB RGR TKS PAL