



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 December 1981

Dear Willie,

Poland: Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Ten,  
30 December

I attach a copy of the draft press line which we propose to use to announce the meeting of next week's Foreign Ministers Meeting. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, and to any unexpected developments in replies from our Partners (the deadline for which is noon today), we propose to make the announcement at the 12.30 Press Conference today.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr in the Treasury, John Rhodes in the Department of Trade and to David Wright in the Cabinet Office.

*For us ever.*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

Willie Rickett Esq  
10 Downing Street

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

POLAND: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH

ON THE RECORD IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

We welcome President Reagan's television address which, in large measure, accords with our own views.

General

Reagan: "They have answered the storms of liberty with brute force, killings, mass arrests and the setting up of concentration camps."

LPS, HoC, 22 December: "The long night threatens to fall once again in Poland. Martial law has been declared. A state of emergency has been imposed. There is a curfew: Civil liberties are suspended: trades union activity is banned. There have been thousands of arrests ..."

Concern that food aid should reach the people

Reagan: "We will continue the shipment of food through private humanitarian channels only so long as we know that the Polish people themselves receive the food ... The Administration has suspended all Government sponsored shipments of agricultural and dairy products to the Polish Government ... until we receive absolute assurances that distribution of these products is monitored and guaranteed by independent agencies.

Carrington, Radio 4, 21 December: "We must make quite sure that any more food aid which we give gets to the Polish people."

PM, HoC, 22 December: "We will make strenuous efforts to see that any future deliveries of food get to the people of Poland."

LPS, HoC, 22 December: 'We are considering how we can ensure that supplies of food are distributed to those Poles who most need them.'

Following the meeting of Community Ambassadors in Brussels, to which the LPS referred in his speech, the Presidency in Warsaw is seeking firm assurances from the Polish Authorities about the distribution of supplies, before any new decisions on Community food aid can be taken.

### Credit

Reagan: 'We have halted the renewal of the Export-Import Bank's line of export credit insurance to the Polish Government.'

Decisions on export credit for 1982 are not imminent, *As the Prime Minister said in the House on 22 December; We shall decide in concert with our partners and allies whether to renew such credit.*

(If pressed): Current export credit has not been suspended but there is a relatively small sum remaining for 1981 - in fact £23 million. *In view of restrictions on transport placed by the Polish authorities, it is very unlikely that exports will be able to proceed in current circumstances.*

### Civil aviation

Reagan: 'We will suspend Polish civil aviation privileges in the US.'

*There are no scheduled flights at present between Poland and Britain.*  
We shall of course consider this but ~~LOT~~ *Chin* flights to London have performed a particularly valuable service in recent days. They have been the only flights out of Poland by which stranded foreigners could leave the country.

### Fishing rights

Reagan: 'We are suspending the right of Poland's fishing fleet to operate in American waters.'

This is of course a Community matter. But in point of fact the Poles do not have any fishing rights in Community waters so the question of parallel action in this field does not arise.

High technology

Reagan: ''We are proposing to our allies the further restriction of high technology exports to Poland.''

We are already examining this proposal, ~~in consultation with our allies.~~ In current circumstances, Polish <sup>capacity</sup> activity to purchase high technology is in any case limited.

No business as usual

Reagan: '' If the outrages in Poland do not cease we cannot and will not conduct business as usual with the perpetrators and those who aid and abet them.

Carrington, Radio 4, 21 December: ''I don't believe you can have ordinary relations when the Polish Government is'' engaged in such repression.

We have made it very clear to the Polish Authorities both in London and in Warsaw that the whole range of our relationships will depend upon the honouring of General Jaruleski's promises.

Role of the Soviet Union

Reagan: ''Public and secret pressure from the Soviet Union''... urging President Brezhnev to permit the restoration of human rights in Poland''

Carrington, Radio 4, 21 December: ''These events could not have taken place without the knowledge and agreement of the Soviet Union.

The President imposed no new measures in the field of US/Soviet

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relations. This question is already the subject of consultation in the alliances.

Consultations on all these matters will continue throughout the holiday period (reference to informal meeting of the Ten on 30 December).

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