

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T. 166/80**

ops.
subject copy filed on: -

Poland: OK/Polish relations: August 1979.

ZCCZWAG03100 WTE24
DE WTE 6422 2402206
O 272314Z AUG 80
FM PRESIDENT CARTER
TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER
ZEM

S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS
WH06422

AUGUST 27, 1980

DEAR MARGARET:

EVENTS IN POLAND ARE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO HAVE YOUR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THEM, AND ALSO TO SHARE MINE WITH YOU.

BECAUSE THESE EVENTS INVOLVE A SIZABLE COUNTRY IN THE VERY CENTER OF EUROPE WHICH INEVITABLY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PRESENT COMMUNIST SYSTEM, WHAT IS GOING ON IN POLAND COULD PRECIPITATE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND EVEN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SOVIET BLOC ITSELF. IN MY VIEW, WE IN THE WEST HAVE ADOPTED THE CORRECT POSITION: TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO POLISH EFFORTS TO REFORM THE SYSTEM BUT TO URGE ALSO RESTRAINT BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, AND PARTICULARLY TO STRESS THAT THE MATTER IS FOR THE POLES THEMSELVES TO RESOLVE, WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN VERY CAREFUL NOT TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING THAT COULD BE SEIZED UPON BY THE SOVIETS AS A PRETEXT FOR INTERVENTION, AND I KNOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN YOUR POSITION AS WELL.

THE BEST OUTCOME FROM EVERY STANDPOINT WOULD INVOLVE ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND THE POLISH PEOPLE, WITHOUT VIOLENCE. SUCH AN ACCOMMODATION COULD WELL TRANSFORM THE CHARACTER OF THE POLISH SYSTEM, LEADING POSSIBLY TO A MORE LIBERAL AND DEMOCRATIC MODE. WE MUST OF COURSE BE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET REACTIONS TO THE EVENTS IN POLAND, BUT AT THE MOMENT, IT APPEARS THAT MR. GIEREK HAS AT LEAST SOVIET ACQUIESCENCE FOR HIS COURSE OF ACTION. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF POLES ALSO FAVOR EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES WITHOUT RECOURSE TO VIOLENCE, AND I AM HEARTENED BY THE CONCILIATORY APPROACH ADOPTED PUBLICLY BY THE POPE AND BY CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI.

CERTAINLY THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE POLISH SITUATION IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR US TO CONSIDER. POLAND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO WANT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST. I BELIEVE OUR AID SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE POLES TO UNDERTAKE A MORE FUNDAMENTAL AND SYSTEMATIC REFORM OF THEIR ECONOMIC SYSTEM. I WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS PROBLEM, WHICH ALSO HAS RELEVANCE TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS AS WELL.

END OF PAGE 01

I ALSO WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOU OF OUR LATEST CONTACTS WITH THE POLISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, SPASOWSKI, A SENIOR MAN WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SPASOWSKI HAS BEEN IN TO SEE WARREN CHRISTOPHER TWICE IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR OUR OWN GOVERNMENT'S CAREFULLY RESTRAINED COMMENTARY ON THE POLISH EVENTS, AND MOST RECENTLY TO STRESS THE NEW POLISH GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS AND A CLOSE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE STRESSED TO SPASOWSKI OUR OWN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING SUCH A DIALOGUE.

ED MUSKIE HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS POLAND WITH JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET AND HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER. I THINK IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR US TO KEEP IN TOUCH AS THE SITUATION IN POLAND DEVELOPS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU, AND HOPE THAT WE CAN ALSO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH AT WORKING LEVELS.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

THE RIGHT HONORABLE
MARGARET R. THATCHER, M.P.
PRIME MINISTER
LONDON
Ø6Ø5
£6422

NNNNKV

RECEIVED
MARGARET THATCHER
1977

1977 AUG 14 10 30