

House of Lords, SW1A 0PW

## CONFIDENTIAL

6th March, 1981

M.O'D.B. Alexander Esq., Private Secretary to The Right Honourable The Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1. Pomme Amaler

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Dear Michael

Poland: Possible Sanctions

The Lord Chancellor has seen Mr. Biffen's minute to the Prime Minister of 4th March. He asks me to point out that the theory that economic sanctions influence world events, first canvassed in his lifetime about 1920, has not been borne out by the history of the last 61 years during which he has been continuously interested in the subject.

He asks me to convey this view to his colleagues, most of whom have not lived so long. I am therefore copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the recipients of Mr. Biffen's minute.

Yours Sincerely,

M.H. Collon