

PS  
PS/IPS  
PS/MR BLAKER  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
MR BULLARD  
MR FERGUSSON  
SIR A ACLAND  
MR P H MOBERLY

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DIO CABINET OFFICE  
ASSESSMENTS STAFF  
CABINET OFFICE

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RR UKDEL MADRID

RR UKMIS NEWYORK

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FM MOSCOW 271207Z MAR 81

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 271430Z FCO

TELERGAM NUMBER 172 OF 27TH MARCH 81

RFI WARSAW, WASHINGTON, UKDELNATO, BONN, PARIS, UKDEL MADRID,  
UKMIS NEWYORK.

SAVING TO , BELGRADE BUDAPEST BUCHAREST PRAGUE EAST BERLIN SOFIA  
HELSINKI .

POLAND.

1. AT MEETINGS IN THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY FIRST WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV YESTERDAY AND THEN WITH FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER KORNIENKO TODAY, BULLARD QUOTED THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE TEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT MAASTRICHT ABOUT THE NEED TO BASE RELATIONS WITH POLAND ON THE CHARTER OF THE UN AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HE DREW ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO THE SENTENCE ADDED BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT ANY OTHER ATTITUDE THAN THIS WOULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN EUROPE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

2. KOVALEV REFUSED TO ACCEPT POLAND AS A PROPER SUBJECT FOR CONSUL-

IN EUROPE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

2. KOVALEV REFUSED TO ACCEPT POLAND AS A PROPER SUBJECT FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE SOVIET UNION. KORNIENKO BEGAN BY TAKING THE SAME LINE. HE REFERRED TO THE WARSAW PACT MEETING IN DECEMBER AND THE SOVIET-POLISH MEETING OF 4 MARCH WHICH HAD EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE WORKING PEOPLE OF POLAND WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND THAT POLAND HAD BEEN, WAS AND WOULD REMAIN A SOCIALIST STATE.

3. BULLARD SAID HE TOOK THIS AS A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF POLAND. AS TO POLAND BEING A SOCIALIST STATE, THIS WAS FOR THE POLES TO DECIDE; IT WAS NOT FOR BRITAIN OR THE SOVIET UNION TO SAY WHETHER POLAND SHOULD CHOOSE SOCIALISM OR FOR EXAMPLE A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP BUT BRITAIN HAD NO INTEREST IN EXPLOITING THE CURRENT CRISIS TO TRY TO WEAKEN POLAND'S LINKS WITH HER ALLIES AND PARTNERS. THERE HAD BEEN, WAS AND WOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE FROM THE BRITISH SIDE. KORNIENKO DID NOT COMMENT.

4. AFTER THE MEETING BULLARD TOLD KORNIENKO THAT CERTAIN WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD RECEIVED A PRESSING APPEAL FROM POLAND TO AGREE IN EFFECT TO DEFER REPAYMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING DEBTS, AND ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN SIMILARLY APPROACHED. KORNIENKO DID NOT KNOW; HE COMMENTED THAT SOVIET AID WAS ORGANISED ON A DIFFERENT BASIS FROM THAT OF THE WEST.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

KEEBLE

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