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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 August 1981

Thank you for your letter of 6 August about the visit of a personal emissary from the Polish Prime Minister, General Jaruzelski.

The Prime Minister is grateful to the Lord Privy Seal for agreeing to receive the emissary. She would like Sir Ian to say that he is receiving the emissary on her behalf, and to indicate her regret that she was unable to receive the emissary herself.

I am copying this letter to Jill Rutter (H.M. Treasury) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

W. F. S. RICKETT

Michael Arthur, Esq.,
Lord Privy Seal's Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 August 1981

Prime Minister

Yes
 Yes
 Dear Willie
 me

1 Content for Sir Ian to proceed as at A overleaf?

2 Would you like him to say that you have asked him to receive the emissary on your behalf?

Treasury ministers are considering whether one of their number should be present

The Polish Government have requested that the Prime Minister and Lord Carrington should, probably during the week beginning 10 August, receive a very senior personal emissary from the Polish Prime Minister, General Jaruzelski.

WM
 G/S

The Polish Ambassador has told us that the aim of the visit would be to explain Polish policy in the light of a government statement endorsed by the Politburo last Saturday, and also including measures which would be confirmed at the Central Committee Plenum on Saturday 8 August. The Ambassador said that these measures would be necessary 'to stave off collapse'. The emissary would, he assumed, also seek to ascertain what further help might be forthcoming from Poland's Western partners as a basis for Poland's own future internal policies. The Ambassador said that similar approaches were being made to other Western Governments. He could not specify all of them but said that they would include the USA, France and West Germany. We understand, however, that by yesterday afternoon these approaches had not been made.

It will be useful to hear at first hand from the Poles how, in the new situation after the Polish Party Congress, they

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intend to try



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A intend to try to set their house in order, even if we may doubt that this approach will produce much more than a further request for money. But the Lord Privy Seal considers that in the interests of our bilateral relations with Poland we should agree to the Poles' request to receive their emissary at the appropriate level. As you know, Lord Carrington will be away for the next few weeks, but the Lord Privy Seal has agreed to see the emissary. The Lord Privy Seal also thinks that it would be helpful if, in her own absence, the Prime Minister could indicate her regret that she was unable to receive the emissary. It might, of course, be possible to designate another Cabinet Minister to receive the emissary on her behalf, though, in the circumstances of her absence - which has already been outlined to the Polish Ambassador - he does not think that this is strictly necessary.

The Polish Ambassador said that they hoped that it would be possible for the emissary's visits to take place without exciting public interest. They themselves would not therefore be drawing attention to it. He was anxious for our reply as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to David Wright and Richard Tolkien.

Yours ever

M A Arthur
Private Secretary to
The Lord Privy Seal

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