



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 January 1982

*Dear John,*Day of Solidarity with the Polish People*tels attached.*

You will have seen from FCO telnos 37 and 38 to Washington, and from Washington telno 105, that American non-governmental organisations, notably the AFL/CIO, the Catholic Church and Polish/American groups, are planning to organise a Day of Solidarity with the Polish people on 30 January; and that the American Administration is giving its whole-hearted backing to the idea.

While the Administration wishes the Solidarity Day to be seen as a non-governmental event, it is lending support behind the scenes in the belief that a gesture of mass solidarity with the Polish people will not only represent a major expression of moral support that the Poles badly need, but will demonstrate to the Soviet Union and its allies that the crushing of human rights will cause them political defeats elsewhere in the world. The Americans have approached all NATO countries, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the Pope seeking support. Specifically they have suggested that Heads of Government of these countries, including the Prime Minister, should follow President Reagan's example and make statements in support of the Polish people. These would be broadcast in a special television show incorporating also American and European contributions by major entertainers and carried by the US and other satellite transmissions on 30 January.

We understand that the Americans have had no substantive answers so far, but that initial reactions have been generally positive if somewhat guarded. President Reagan is taking a personal interest in the idea and it would be in accordance with our general wish to demonstrate solidarity with the Americans to try to cooperate with them as far as possible.

I imagine that the Prime Minister will not wish to refuse the American request, even though not all Allied Heads of Government are likely to agree to it: some may be put off by the 'showbiz' aspect, or by reluctance to appear to be dancing to an American tune. If you agree, HM Ambassador in Washington will be instructed to tell the State Department that the Prime Minister is willing to record a message to be broadcast on 30 January and that American networks or the US Embassy on their behalf should make arrangements direct with No. 10.

The Americans have told us that their non-governmental
/organisations



organisations will be approaching parallel organisations in this country, presumably to propose that they consider organising a similar Day of Solidarity in the UK. However, because this is primarily a non-partisan, non-governmental effort, the Americans have expressly asked us not to approach such groups. I am sure this is right. If we were to receive an approach from any such group our advice should be that they are of course free to organise such an event if they wish to do so: but the American conception, with which we agree, is for the event to be essentially a non-governmental expression of popular support for the Polish people. If the Prime Minister agrees to make the statement requested by the Americans we should, of course, be able to mention this as an indication of our support for the idea.

*Yours ever,
Brian*

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

GRS110

RESTRICTED

FM WASHINGTON 202312Z JAN 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 167 OF 20 JANUARY
INFO BONN, PARIS, ROME, UKDEL NATO.

YOUR TEL NO 63: DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE POLISH PEOPLE

1. CHARLES WICK, HEAD OF USICA, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED PREPARATIONS IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE FOR SOLIDARITY DAY (30 JANUARY). WICK ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER, SCHMIDT AND LEADERS OF PORTUGAL, BELGIUM, NORWAY, AND LUXEMBOURG WOULD BE SENDING MESSAGES.

2. THE PRESIDENT ISSUED TODAY A PROCLAMATION ON SOLIDARITY DAY (TEXT BY BAG) AND WILL BE MAKING A FURTHER STATEMENT ON 30 JANUARY. WE SHALL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS STAFF ABOUT ITS CONTENTS.

HENDERSON

POLAND SPECIAL
STANDARD

EESD
CSCE UNIT
NAD
SED
WED
ECD (E)
ESID
FED
CAD
SAD

TRED
ERD
SEC D
OLA
CONS D
CONS EM UNIT
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.
POLAND SPECIAL

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

RESTRICTED

Hand

CONFIDENTIAL

Jul
Cc Mr Ingham.

BF

19 January 1982

Day of Solidarity with the
Polish People

Thank you for your letter of 15 January.

OK

The Prime Minister is willing to record a message to be broadcast on 30 January. As you say, the American networks or the United States Embassy on their behalf should make arrangements direct with the Press Office here. I should be grateful if you would let me have an appropriate draft for such a message (which the Prime Minister envisages as being brief).

The Prime Minister has also commented on the general idea of a Day of Solidarity to the effect that its efficacy will depend on its non-governmental character.

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Ingham
Mr Gow

Day of Solidarity with the Polish People

The attached papers describe this American idea. Paragraph 2: Do you agree to record a message to be broadcast on the American networks on 30 January? (If so we will draft a message and make arrangements for its recording later). Mr. Ingham sees no objection.

Sir Bernard Braine has been in touch with Ian Gow. If called at Question Time tomorrow, he has it in mind to ask whether HMG will declare a similar day of solidarity with the Polish people on 30 January. You will note from the attached FCO letter that the Americans see this as a non-partisan, non-governmental effort. I am sure that if anything effective is to be arranged here it will have to be on a non-governmental basis. If Sir Bernard Braine raises this at Questions you could say "I am sympathetic to the idea. I understand that in the United States non-governmental organisations are taking the lead. This seems the best approach here too."

A.S.C.

Agree - but its efficacy
will depend on its non-governmental
character. Agree brief
message not.

18 January 1982