

Poland

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 541 OF 18 FEBRUARY
INFO WARSAW MOSCOW UKDEL NATO BONN PARIS

MT

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE, 18 FEBRUARY:
POLISH DEBT .

1. PRESIDENT REAGAN CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO DECLARING POLAND IN DEFAULT ON CURRENT DEBT REPAYMENTS. SUCH A STEP WOULD NOT ONLY REDUCE PRESSURE ON THE POLISH AUTHORITIES, BUT WOULD INCREASE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION. HE ADDED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON HOW TO HANDLE THE NEXT DEBT REPAYMENTS WHEN THEY FELL DUE.

HENDERSON

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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