

CONFIDENTIAL

DG-2CUX  
Rue APC



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

25 July 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

I was telephoned this morning by Hella Pick of The Guardian, who said that she had just come back from Warsaw where she had seen one of General Jaruzelski's assistants (his speech writer, with a name like Gorlitski). He had told her about the Prime Minister's letter to General Jaruzelski on the question of a visit to Gdansk. The burden of his message had been that it would be very difficult for the Polish Government to accept that a visit lasting only two days should be divided as to one day in Warsaw and one day in Gdansk. If the visit was a bit longer and involved a visit to another town outside Warsaw, that might be different. But as proposed at present, it would give the impression that we thought Poland had two competing capitals: Warsaw and Gdansk.

I do not know how authoritative this is. But it seems to me important to try to get across to the Polish authorities before they give us a definitive reply that we do not envisage a full day in Gdansk. Rather a visit there would be a tail piece to a day and a half (and two nights) in Warsaw. I suppose it might also be worth establishing whether we could visit anywhere else briefly on the way from Warsaw to Gdansk. I should be grateful if you could follow this up urgently.

Incidentally, Heller Pick said that she had promised her Polish contact that she would not publish anything about the Prime Minister's letter, which he had described as "a very nice one". We shall see.

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL