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*From the Private Secretary*

29 September 1988

POLAND

Lord Bethell came to see me this afternoon with Mr Janusz Onyszkiewicz, who is a member of Solidarity (and I believe a spokesman for it).

Mr Onyszkiewicz was aware of reports that the Prime Minister's visit might be postponed and I confirmed that we were discussing a slightly later date. He thought the reason the Polish Government wanted a delay was their wish to have a first round or two of negotiations with Walesa themselves before the Prime Minister got to him. He was not impressed with the choice of Rakowski as Prime Minister: he saw it as a mark of the seriousness of the situation that General Jaruzelski had no option but to appoint him. Talking about Solidarity's negotiations with the Government, he said that they would put legalisation of Solidarity at the top of the agenda but expected the Government to try to discuss a host of minor issues first. He saw very little prospect of any dramatic reversal of the Government's position by recognising Solidarity straightaway (although he did not entirely discount it).

Talking about the Prime Minister's visit, he put particular emphasis on the television interview. He hoped the Prime Minister would speak out clearly on the need for democratisation. He particularly urged that she should refer to Walesa as the President of Solidarity. He also spoke of Solidarity's need for modest financial assistance from the European Community. At present they were too exclusively dependent on the United States for support and this made it easier for the Polish authorities to represent them as American stooges.

I asked what Walesa would want to hear from the Prime Minister during their meeting. Mr Onyszkiewicz said that he would hope for a clear statement of support for the process of democratisation and for the legalisation of Solidarity. He would also be interested to hear what economic support the United Kingdom might be able to offer. If Solidarity and the church were to co-operate with the Government in an austerity



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programme, they would need to be able to hold up to their people the prospect of some outside help to cushion the effects.

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