

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE POLISH AMBASSADOR

You are to see the Polish Ambassador briefly tomorrow, as a courtesy before your visit. You have met him before: he is a former Deputy Prime Minister, courteous and old-fashioned, and it is extremely difficult to understand a word he says.

Points you might make are:

- you are looking forward to your visit, which comes at an important moment in Poland's affairs and in East/West relations generally;
- you are grateful to the Polish authorities for accommodating your wishes for the programme so fully (full details of the programme are in the folder). The Ambassador himself has played a very helpful role;
- you may like to ask a number of practical questions (temperature, dress, etc.);
- you should ask about the prospects for the Round Table talks between Government and Opposition. Are they likely to start before your visit?
- you will want to warn him that you will not have any concrete economic help to offer. You will want to form your own impression of the situation and the prospects for economic and political reform. Depending on that, you may on your return be ready to press the case for a longer-term approach to Poland's debt problems, but with an IMF programme as the centre-piece. Although there has been some loose talk about Marshall Aid, the Poles would be wise not to expect significant new help from the West at this juncture.

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

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