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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

26 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND: CONSULTATION WITH  
THE POPE

Thank you for your letter of 26 October enclosing a draft message from the Prime Minister to the Pope about her forthcoming visit to Poland.

I think that the Prime Minister will be content to send a message but in a slight different form. I should be grateful if the telegram enclosed with your letter could be amended as follows:-

"I shall be paying an official visit to Poland from 2-4 November in the course of which I shall be meeting General Jaruzelski and other members of the Polish Government. I shall see His Eminence Cardinal Glemp on the first evening. I shall also be meeting Lech Walesa and his colleagues in the Solidarity leadership in Gdansk.

I shall be very grateful for Your Holiness' advice, based on your great experience and unique position, on the handling of my various discussions. I am determined to stand up for all those who rely on us to give them hope that one day their full human rights will be restored. It is on the question of how I can most effectively do this that I should particularly welcome Your Holiness' wise counsel."

Charles Powell

Stephen Wall Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*cefc*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1988

*Dear Charles,*

Prime Minister's Visit to Poland: Consultation with the Pope

Thank you for your letter of 22 October. The Foreign Secretary agrees that there would be every advantage in seeking the Pope's views on the situation in Poland, and on how the Prime Minister might encourage those in the forefront of the moves for reform. But, in assessing how best to carry forward any suggestions from the Vatican, it would be wise to bear in mind that the Pope's perspective is likely to be fairly subjective, and not necessarily in tune with the views of those whom he wishes to help. We know, for example, that his pronouncements have on occasion caused embarrassment to the Roman Catholic Church in Poland who have a difficult path to treat in their relations with the authorities.

/ I attach a draft message to the Pope. The best channel of communication is the British Embassy to the Holy See in Rome. The Ambassador himself is currently in the UK, but will be back in post by Monday 31 October.

*Jans.*  
*Stephe Wall*  
(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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# OUT TELEGRAM

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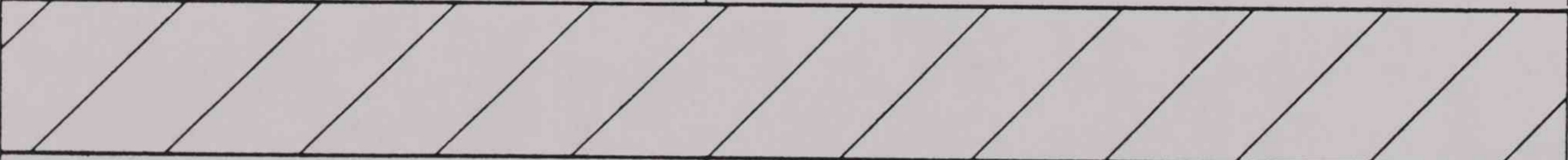
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INFO ROUTINE WARSAW

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

1. The Prime Minister would like to seek, in advance of her visit to Poland (2-4 November), the Pope's views on the situation there and how best she might encourage those seeking greater freedom. Grateful if you would deliver immediately the following message. There will be no (no) signed original. When handing over the message please say that the sort of questions which interest the Prime Minister are:-

- a) Church/State relations, and how far the Church can help promote reform,
- b) how far the opposition can/should promote acceptance of necessary economic reforms,
- c) how important is trades union pluralism,
- d) Poland's ability to sustain a very rapid transition towards greater democracy, including who could provide credible and experienced leadership in such conditions.



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		Catchword:	
File number <b>TG4ACW</b>	Dept <b>WED</b>	Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>B BRETT ROOKS (MISS)</b>	Telephone no <b>270 2406</b>
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You should suggest that, if the Pope wished, the reply to the Prime Minister's message might take the form of an oral briefing (eg. by Cardinal Casaroli or Archbishop Cassidy) of Mr Broadley when he has returned to post on Monday 31 October.

2. To: His Holiness Pope John Paul II  
From: The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher FRS MP

As Sir Geoffrey Howe mentioned when he met Your Holiness in Maputo, I shall shortly be visiting Poland. I am keen to use the visit, which will now be from 2 to 4 November, to promote economic and political reforms in Poland and to encourage respect for Human Rights, and my programme will include meetings with the Government as well as with opposition figures such as Lech Walesa. *I shall of course be seeing Cardinal Glemp*  
In preparing for my visit, *it would be a tremendous help* ~~I should be most interested~~ to have <sup>views</sup> ~~any views which~~ Your Holiness might wish to express on the present situation in Poland or on how best I might encourage those in the forefront of moves for liberalisation.

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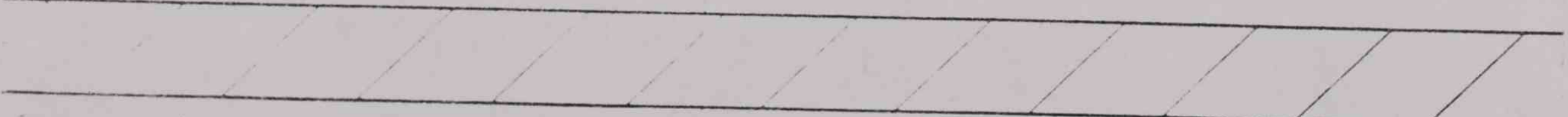
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POCAHONTS PMS Visit March 1988

