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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 November 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's visit to Poland: Message to the Pope

We spoke about a message from the Prime Minister to the Pope, following up the Prime Minister's request for his advice before her visit to Poland. *— into CCP.*

/ I attach a draft. If agreed, we would send the message by telegram with the request that our Ambassador pass it on.

*Yours,
Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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L06 582

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE.

[over phone]

I was most grateful for Your Holiness's advice in advance of my visit to Poland last week, relayed through our Ambassador on 31 October. It was kind of you to give such a full and speedy response to my message.

I had a very interesting meeting with Cardinal Glemp on 2 November. It was particularly helpful to

have the benefit of his wisdom and experience so early in my visit. I was encouraged by his realistic appreciation of the political difficulties in Poland and his hopes that something positive could be achieved.

I had full and frank discussions with General Jaruzelski and Prime Minister Rakowski, and talks with a wide range of representatives of opposition opinion. I paid a very moving visit to Gdansk, where I was impressed by the strength of support for Solidarity and its aspirations. I was also struck by the moderation and common sense of Mr Walesa and others in the Solidarity leadership, and by the order and cheerfulness of the enthusiastic crowds in Gdansk and at St Stanislaw Kostka's Church.

I returned from Poland convinced that Solidarity is a force that cannot be denied, and greatly impressed by its leaders' commitment to peaceful

Polish authorities
solidarity
obstacles
of the Holy Spirit
these things.

relevance of the Church's role, together with a shared appreciation

I was also most grateful to

whom I met on the very first evening of my visit.

subsequently had a number of meetings with both

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I conveyed this assessment ^{faithfully} ^{to} ^{you}

discussion. I hope I was able to show General Jaruzelski the strength of these impressions. I also hope I was able to demonstrate to him my unshakeable belief that good faith and genuine dialogue with Solidarity and with other trends in Polish opinion - with the representatives of all the people - is the only way forward. I shall now watch developments with close interest and in the fervent hope that my message of freedom plus responsibility will have encouraged all sides to work towards a better life for the people of Poland.

*no talk a bid a way through. I
 pray the they will succeed.
 May I once again thank
 you ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~for~~
 your ~~kindness~~ wide counsel.*

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I was most grateful ~~to you for~~
Helena's ^{great kindness} consideration in reply to
promptly & so fully to my request
for advice in advance of my visit to
Poland. I ~~felt~~ ^{was} ~~felt~~ ^{much} ~~greatly~~ ^{impressed}
in all my meetings & ~~contact~~ ^{contacts}
with ~~the~~ ~~knowledge~~ ~~of~~ ~~you~~ ~~knowing~~
your views.