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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 December 1988

Dear Lyn,

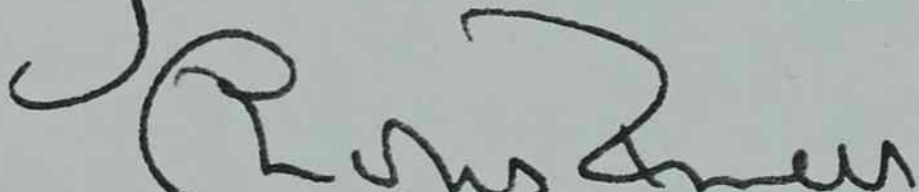
PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND: FOLLOW-UP

Thank you for your letter of 5 December about action to follow up the Prime Minister's visit to Poland. I have discussed this with the Prime Minister who has three comments:

- The Prime Minister thinks we are wrong to refuse to be associated with the 50th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and would like this reconsidered. She does not think German nervousness about the occasion sufficient reason to dismiss the Polish invitation.
- You say that the action being taken on visas "should" result in a speedier service in 1989. The Prime Minister has commented that it is "must" not "should". In the light of the advice from the Home Office before her visit, she gave the clearest possible assurance that there would be a significant improvement in the processing of visa applications and that must be honoured.
- The Prime Minister has belatedly confessed that she did issue an oral invitation to Mr Rakowski at the foot of the aircraft steps immediately before departure. I am afraid this is the first I have heard of it. But it remains the case that she would prefer to see General Jaruzelski come here before Mr Rakowski.

Otherwise, the Prime Minister is content with what is proposed in your letter.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Tom Jeffery (Department of Education and Science) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

 C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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5 December 1988

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Dear Charles,

2. Minister
content?

CPD 576.

Prime Minister's Visit to Poland: Follow-Up

Thank you for your letter of 6 November. You may like to know what progress we are making in following up the points you raised.

(i) We are planning political consultations in London in January or February, with the Polish Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kulski. We see them as the major feature in the follow-up to the Prime Minister's visit, and they will cover the whole range of bilateral and international issues and set the framework for subsequent talks on specific areas.

(ii) Political/military talks are planned for April or May 1989. These should meet General Jaruzelski's suggestion of bilateral talks between defence experts. Our team will include FCO and MOD representatives.

(iii) We intend to propose talks between policy planners, if possible in the first half of 1989, at which to discuss in greater depth some of the issues covered during the political consultations.

(iv) The Poles proposed talks on UN issues earlier this year. Because UN subjects are not normally covered during political consultations, we are inviting the Polish experts concerned to London in July or September.

(v) Event to mark the anniversary of the Second World War. The Poles have proposed informally that a Royal Navy warship should visit Westerplatte on the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of war, 1 September 1989. The main problem with this is that the anniversary celebrations might well be an occasion for anti-German rhetoric. We know that the West Germans are nervous about the anniversary. Moreover, the Polish version of the beginning of the Second World War glosses over the Nazi-Soviet Pact. We have already told the Poles informally that we have difficulty with these dates.

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This is a pity. Please reconsider.



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When they put the proposal formally, we intend to suggest instead that the Dartmouth Training Squadron visit Poland during their deployment in the Baltic in May-June next year. (The Poles have also proposed informally that their flagship, the Warszawa, should visit London in May with the Chief of Naval Staff. We have told them we will accept this). Meanwhile, we are investigating the possibilities for some joint commemoration of the outbreak of war which would avoid the propaganda pitfalls.

(vi) Visas. It is unfortunate that a 15% increase in Polish visa applications, coupled with difficulties in recruiting staff in Warsaw earlier this year, caused delays in issuing visas. Priority was however maintained for business and official travellers and the overall position has now improved. Modifications to procedures have been introduced. A new direct high-speed communications facility is now working smoothly after early technical difficulties. A pilot computer project is under way. Temporary extra staff are in place. Further staff reinforcements are being planned for next year to cope with the further substantial increase in applications we can expect in the light of the liberalisation of Polish passport regulations, and the customary summer surge. All this should result in a speedier service across the board in 1989. There are no unusual requirements in relation to private visit applications from Poland. Clearly however there will still be security considerations which have to be taken into account.

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(vii) Exchanges of teachers and schoolchildren. This is for the DES, but we will encourage such exchanges as a way of increasing contacts outside the framework of government.

(viii) Management training. On 3 November Mr Waldegrave outlined to the visiting Polish Minister of Culture, Mr Krawczuk, the offer which was set out in the Prime Minister's brief. Mr Krawczuk promised to pass this on to Mr Rakowski on his return to Warsaw. Professor Michael Thomas of the University of Strathclyde, whom the British Council chose to conduct a consultancy report on the shape of the eventual programme, has already made a visit to Poland and will be returning for a more detailed study-tour in January.

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(ix) IMF and Paris Club. We propose to stress in our bilateral dealings with the Poles that the onus will be on them to convince the IMF mission during technical negotiations, and subsequently the IMF Board, that they are serious about implementing the economic and political reforms necessary to meet IMF performance targets. Creditors will need to be satisfied that the programme is being adhered to, and that Poland is in a position to service further debt, before they could consider providing new credits. We can play a part by convincing the US and others that the success of an IMF programme in the Polish situation must depend on political as well as economic liberalisation.

General Jaruzelski's request for our assistance within the Paris Club does not arise until Poland comes to the Club for rescheduling, when we shall be ready, and shall urge others, to go on rescheduling to the extent necessary to meet genuine Polish needs within Paris Club terms.

(x) Return visits. The Prime Minister has already invited Jaruzelski to visit London if his travels bring him near the UK. The Poles are likely to pursue this suggestion energetically, and we assume the Prime Minister would be content to see him in London some time in 1989. We are unclear about the Prime Minister's intentions with respect to Rakowski. No invitation was issued to him either during the visit or in the Prime Minister's thank-you letter. The Polish Ambassador maintains however that the Prime Minister sent a message containing an invitation as she left Warsaw on her flight home. We are not aware of such a message, and would be grateful to know whether anything was in fact said.

Yes orally at 10.30 5/4/89

If you are content with the above, we will ask Mr Barrett to seek an early call on the Polish Foreign Minister to propose dates for the political consultations and outline an programme of further bilateral contacts

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Tom Jeffery (Department of Education and Science) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever, L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

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