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cc/c



2 letters

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 December 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Poland: Remains of General Sikorski

There is one matter we need to clear up which was not mentioned in your letter of 6 November on follow-up.

During the press conference at the end of her visit, and during her interview with Polish TV, the Prime Minister was asked about the return of General Sikorski's remains to Poland. In her replies (attached) she said that she recollected that Sikorski's close relatives did not consent to the removal; and that there were differences of view both in Poland and in the Polish community in the UK. She undertook to check on the relatives' wishes.

The Prime Minister is of course right about the differences of view. But Sikorski's closest relative, his wife (now deceased), stated in 1970 that she wished his ashes to be moved to Poland. If you agree, we will tell anyone who follows this up that the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on 7 March 1988 (attached) remains valid. We will add that we will continue to review the issue and that, as the Prime Minister said in her interview with Polish TV, the time may one day come when the ashes will be returned. If asked specifically about Mrs Sikorski's views, we propose to confirm the facts and add that this was taken into account when the Prime Minister made her March statement.

I am copying this letter to Philip Mawer (Home Office).

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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TRANSCRIPT B: PM - INTERVIEW - POLISH TV - 4 NOVEMBER 1988

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INTERVIEWER:

Prime Minister, Poles may be divided politically but there is one topic all of us are united on - the Government, the Church and even former Solidarity leaders: we want General Sikorski (phon) back in Poland. He belongs here.

Can you contribute something positive, taking it as not a topic to play political football with?

A long time and the only thing that is remaining is to do as much as

PRIME MINISTER: future of our countries and for the whole world, but

you. We do not play politics with that topic. We have been asked

before. My recollection is that the nearest relative does not

consent to the remains being moved and I believe that there are

still some differences in Poland about it, so the time is not now,

but the time may one day come and I understand how important it is

to you. Thank you, Prime Minister, on behalf of our television and

INTERVIEWER:

Prime Minister, at the end of our conversation, you are now

more familiar with our country after this visit. You met people

from the Government side, you met leaders of the Church, you met

members of the Opposition, you met common men on the street

Knowing our country, knowing our economic situation, knowing

our geographical and political situation, would you accept the job

of the Prime Minister of Poland?

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QUESTION:

I was in London this year. I saw a very interesting place, the London Docklands, but what do you think about changes in Britain's economy during the last decade?

PRIME MINISTER:

There have been great changes in Britain's economy. The standard of living is very much greater. We are going into about our eighth year of growth. Things are growing very fast at the moment, perhaps a little too fast, because inflation has been rising again. At the moment, as you know, it is nearly 6 percent which is too high, and we will have to take steps to get it down, and because we have been growing so fast we have been importing too much and the steps we have taken to get inflation down will also help to get that deficit down.

But the growth is going well. Very high investment in British industry and in British commerce and all British services, so it is going well. I think it has had a good government for some time!

QUESTION:

Prime Minister, you said twice that it is premature to transfer the remains of General Sikorski (phon) to Poland, but as you know, a large part of Polish society as well as the Polish Authority and the Pope and the Church in Poland expressed the wish many times, also in London. Are you going to change your position after this visit to Poland?

PM - PRESS CONFERENCE - WARSAW, POLAND - 4 NOVEMBER 1988

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PRIME MINISTER:

When we are asked about this, we do two things: we enquire from the closest living relatives what are their wishes - and those obviously count a great deal - and my recollection is that comparatively recently when we enquired, that they did not wish there to be a transfer and I will check that again. And we also understand that there is some difference of view in Poland or in the Polish community, and we took that into account.

So it is not a decision which necessarily endures for ever. It is one which we do re-examine from time to time in the way which I have indicated.

We understand, obviously, why many people wish those remains to be transferred.

QUESTION:

Prime Minister, what emerged in practical terms from your second session of talks with General Jaruzelski and linked with that, if Poland should succeed in coming to an accommodation with the International Monetary Fund, will that lead to Britain immediately opening up new credits and joint ventures or will that depend on political advance as well, such as the recognition of Solidarity?

proposal	Date of publication
Suffolk: Closure of Little Bealings Primary School.	19 January 1987
Suffolk: Closure of Caarsfield CE Primary School.	19 January 1987
Barnet: Establish Hasmoncan Preparatory School as a Voluntary Aided School.	12 February 1987
Berkshire: Change of character of St. Bernards Convent School from single-sex to co-educational.	25 March 1987
Devon: Amalgamation of Colyton Grammar and Axminster Secondary Schools.	3 April 1987
Hertfordshire: Amalgamation of Bishop Hatfield Secondary School and Hatfield School.	3 April 1987
Hertfordshire: Amalgamation of Marshalwick and Wheathampstead Secondary Schools.	3 April 1987
Hertfordshire: Amalgamation of Margaret Dane and Hadham Hall Secondary Schools.	10 April 1987
Staffordshire: Reorganisation of Secondary Schools in Burntwood.	30 April 1987
Shropshire: Closure of Ightfield CE Primary School.	20 May 1987
Shropshire: Closure of Acton Burnell CE Primary School.	20 May 1987
Lancashire: Closure of Preston Talbot RC Primary School.	8 June 1987
Oxfordshire: Amalgamation of St. Blaise CE Primary and Milton Heights Primary Schools.	11 June 1987
Kent: Closure of Highfield Secondary and amalgamation of Warren Woods Boys and Girls Schools.	12 June 1987
Merton: Reorganisation of Country, Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools.	12 June 1987
Hampshire: Closure of Weyhill CE Primary School.	19 June 1987
Dorset: Enlargement of St. Mary's RC Combined School.	3 July 1987
Lancashire: Establishment of a new sixth form centre and change of age-range of Blackpool Collegiate and Blackpool Greenlands High Schools.	17 July 1987
Hampshire: Amalgamation of Hill and Richard Taunton Sixth Form Colleges.	30 July 1987
Staffordshire: Rationalisation of Primary Education in Stoke-on-Trent.	30 July 1987
Staffordshire: Rationalisation of Secondary Schools in Stoke-on-Trent.	30 July 1987
Somerset: Closure of Chilcompton Infants, Chilcompton Juniors and Stratton-on-the-Fosse CE Primary Schools and establishment of a new CE Primary School.	7 August 1987
Wiltshire: Amalgamation of Westmead Infant and Junior Schools.	7 August 1987
Hampshire: Change age-range of Purbrook Park County Secondary School.	24 August 1987

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PRIME MINISTER

Security (Trade Unions)

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration has been given to banning trade unions from the Defence Intelligence Service.

The Prime Minister: None.

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Prime Minister what is Her Majesty's Government's policy towards trade union membership in those sections of (a) the Home Office, (b) the Ministry of Defence and (c) the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office which deal with security matters or which handle highly classified information; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: Apart from members of the Ministry of Defence Police, civil servants in these Departments are free to join trades unions irrespective of whether they deal with security matters or handle classified information.

Psychological Warfare

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Prime Minister how many civil servants were trained in psychological warfare in each year from 1972 to 1987 in England, in the United States of America, or in both.

The Prime Minister: One civil servant received two weeks' training in England in 1983. Records are not available before 1982.

Security Services (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Prime Minister which Minister was responsible for the security services in Northern Ireland (a) from 1974 to 1979 and (b) from 1979 to the current date.

The Prime Minister: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is responsible for all aspects of security policy in Northern Ireland. The position before 1979 is not a matter for me.

General Sikorski

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Prime Minister if she has received any representations about the repatriation to Poland of the remains of General Sikorski; what reply she has made; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: Representations have been received from various quarters both in Britain and in Poland. The Polish Foreign Minister raised with me last December the long-standing desire of the Polish authorities that the remains of General Sikorski be transferred to Poland. I told him that this was a delicate and difficult matter which divided the Polish people, and that the time had not yet come when we could agree to the transfer.

NHS Review

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Prime Minister if, further to her reply at 1 March, *Official Report*, column 813, she will list those district health authorities which, as part of the Government's National Health Service review, had told her that they are satisfied with their current level of funding.

The Prime Minister: The hon. Gentleman will be aware from press reports and in other ways that many district health authorities have budgeted effectively within the resources allocated to them, and have provided full and comprehensive health care to those needing it. Since the review was announced a large number of submissions have been received dealing with the experiences of many health authorities. It would not, however, be appropriate to publish information which may have been given in confidence.

POLAND - Poczta Polska RTZ



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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

5 December 1988

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND:
REMAINS OF GENERAL SIKORSKI**

Thank you for your letter of 5 December with its reminder of the exact position of General Sikorski's remains. I agree that you should confirm that the Prime Minister's statement of 7 March 1988 remains valid.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A' or a similar character, located in the bottom right corner of the page.