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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 July 1988

See diary.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

Thank you for your letter of 13 June on the question of how we can best persuade the Polish authorities to agree that the Prime Minister should visit Gdansk. I agree that it would probably be best for the Prime Minister herself to write to General Jaruzelski. I have consequently asked her to sign the enclosed letter. As you will see, it goes considerably further than the draft enclosed with your letter. If the Department have serious misgivings about it, please let me know. Otherwise, the text should be telegraphed to Warsaw for delivery as soon as possible.

you are welcome.

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 June 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Poland

Thank you for your letter of 8 July. ^{of ex} We have again looked at Gdansk.

Two courses of action are open to us. The first would be to instruct your charge d'affaires, Mr Thorpe, to speak to the Poles at the highest possible level. He might be received by the Foreign Minister, though a Deputy is more likely. At this level we would expect another negative response: when we originally asked for Gdansk to be included in the programme we were told that our request had been turned down at the highest possible level and was not open to negotiation (my letter of 22 March). We consulted Mr Barder recently on this point. He believes that Jaruzelski's attitude is unlikely to have softened, especially in view of his belief that he got the better of Solidarity during the strikes in May.

The second possibility would be for the Prime Minister to send a personal message to General Jaruzelski making the points in para 2 of your letter. This stands the best chance of forcing the Poles to re-examine our request seriously. Mr Thorpe should be able to deliver such a message in person to the Foreign Minister. Jaruzelski may hesitate to turn down the idea a second time, especially since he cannot be sure that the Prime Minister will not cancel the visit if he does so, though the odds are that he will again prove to be immovable. I attach a draft.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING: ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

TO: *EN3CXN* Copies to:

His Excellency General Wojciech Jaruzelski

SUBJECT:

I have been following with great interest the visit to Poland by General Jaruzelski

As you know, I was most disappointed not to have been able to visit Poland in May. I am ^{very much} now looking forward very much to coming in October ^{on my own visit in October.}

But I should first like to put to you a point about ~~the~~ my programme.

My aim in coming to Poland is to get to know the Polish people and to understand their problems, ^{for this purpose} I am keen to see as many aspects of Polish life and society as I can in the limited time available.

second I want my visit to make a step forward not just in Britain's relations with Poland but more widely in

When I visited the Soviet Union Mr Gorbachev ^{with my visit to the Soviet Union last year, the} said that I could go anywhere I wished. I hope that, particularly in view of the new spirit of East/West relations, ^{to be carried out} the same ~~would~~ be true in Poland.

This made a considerable

In this spirit of open-ness
One of the suggestions which our Embassy ^{I should like to refer to the} put to your officials in February was that I ^{suggestion - that I should visit Gdansk} should visit Gdansk. I would still very much

are not static but constantly changing direction -

congratulate you on its obvious success.

Mr Gorbachev specifically said that

impact and I would like

is twofold. First I want

at general perception which people have of the changes which have

taken place here under your leadership. I want it to signal that our attitudes

change in the nature of leadership - this was the case

like to do this. I know that this idea caused ^{some} ~~hesitation~~ ^{problems} when they originally suggested

it, and I understand the reasons for your sensitivity.

But I am convinced that a ^{brief} visit to Gdansk would

make the whole of my visit to Poland particularly special and memorable. ^{May I therefore ask} I very much hope, therefore,

^{you, with great respect, to consider my} that you will be able to agree to this request. ^{request.}

as a politician,

capture the imagination of literally millions of people

~~But my visit to Poland is of course an official one I sincerely wish to cause you any ^{embarrassment} ~~discomfort~~ ^{inconvenience} ~~discomfort~~ ^{to you} ~~discomfort~~ ^{to you}. The details of such a visit ~~would~~ ^{would} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~be discussed~~ ^{would} ~~would~~ ^{be discussed} between our officials. I would hope it would include a visit to~~

for a ~~never~~ ^{never} consider anything which ~~could~~ ^{could}

Pm TOURS: Poland Feb 88

