

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T112/88



'T' file

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
OPS

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14.7.88

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear General,

I have been following with great interest the visit to Poland by General Secretary Gorbachev and congratulate you on its obvious success. I am very much looking forward to my own visit in October. But I should first like to put to you a point about my programme.

My aim in coming to Poland is twofold. First I want to get to know the Polish people and to understand their problems, and 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 mark a step forward not just in Britain's relations with Poland but more widely in the general perception which people in the West have of Poland and the changes which have taken place there under your leadership. I want it to signal that attitudes are not static but constantly changing in the direction of the freest possible exchanges. This was the case with my visit to the Soviet Union last year, when Mr. Gorbachev specifically said that I could go anywhere I wished. This made a considerable impact and I would very much like the same to be true in Poland.

In this spirit of openness I should like to revert to the suggestion that I should visit Gdansk. I know that this idea caused some hesitation when it was originally suggested and, as a politician, I understand the reasons for your sensitivity. My visit to Poland is an official one and I

would not wish to cause you any embarrassment. The details of such a visit would be discussed between our officials. But I am convinced that a brief visit to Gdansk would capture the imagination of literally millions of people and make the whole of my visit to Poland special and memorable. May I therefore ask you, with great respect, to consider my request.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Thatcher

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His Excellency General Wojciech Jaruzelski