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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 September 1988

Den Charles

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Prime Minister's Visit to Poland: Arrival Time

Thank you for your letter of 13 September agreeing to the Polish suggestion that the Prime Minister might arrive in daylight in order to allow for a full arrival ceremony.

The Poles say that ideally they would like the Prime Minister to arrive at 1700 (meaning a 1430 departure from England). The latest desirable arrival time would be 1800, though by then dusk will already be falling and it might be quite gloomy if the weather is bad. The full ceremony would last twenty minutes from the moment the Prime Minister's plane comes to a halt. It would run approximately as follows:

- Chief of Protocol boards plane, greets Prime Minister, escorts her down gangway.
- Messner, Polish Premier, greets Prime Minister, gives her flowers and introduces her to leading members of his delegation. Prime Minister introduces him to her delegation.
- Prime Minister is escorted a few yards to flags. National anthems are played and she and Messner inspect guards of honour.
- Prime Minister is introduced to other Poles and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. There may be a greeting line of prominent Polish figures.
- Prime Minister is introduced to senior staff of British Embassy.
- Prime Minister leaves in car.

There would be press and TV coverage of the ceremony.

/If the

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If the Prime Minister were to agree to an early arrival, there would be time for a private engagement, for example with the Church or Opposition, before her supper at the Residence. The Polish authorities would be content with this.

Yours ever

Boles —

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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PM TO JRS
Poland
Feb 83



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TG



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 September, 1988.

*Presumably Charles
Meant 16 Oct.
Pg. 1579*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND: ARRIVAL TIME

Thank you for your letter of 14 September about the Prime Minister's arrival in Poland.

I think that the Prime Minister would be content with a 1445 departure from Heathrow on 17 October, getting to Warsaw at 1715. That would, as you say, leave time for a meeting with Church and Opposition leaders that evening.

(C.D. Powell)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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From the Private Secretary

13 September 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

I have seen Warsaw telegram no. 491 suggesting the Prime Minister might arrive in Warsaw in daylight in order for the full arrival ceremonies to take place. I have spoken to the Prime Minister who is willing to depart from London somewhat earlier than planned to fall in with this. Could you please let me have some revised timings.

Charles Powell

R N Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Handwritten signature or initials in the bottom right corner.

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Tessa

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

B.F.

CF. Can you let me know
as soon as we have findings
so that I can
write them in
the diary?

From the Private Secretary

13 September 1988

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14/5

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

I have seen Warsaw telegram no. 491 suggesting the Prime Minister might arrive in Warsaw in daylight in order for the full arrival ceremonies to take place. I have spoken to the Prime Minister who is willing to depart from London somewhat earlier than planned to fall in with this. Could you please let me have some revised timings.

B.F. 11

Charles Powell

R N Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MDLIAN 5845

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FM WARSAW
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 491
OF 091200Z SEPTEMBER 88

Prime Minister

Could you accept an
earlier departure, to get
to Warsaw in daylight?

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND : ARRIVAL TIME

(It is a study!)

CAF
12/9

1. WE HAVE INFORMED MFA (TELECON MISS HALL, EED/MATHEWSON) THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S AIRCRAFT WILL LEAVE UK AT 1700HRS ON 16 OCTOBER, WITH ETA WARSAW OF 1930HRS APPROX. THE POLES HAVE STRESSED THAT THIS WILL MEAN ARRIVING IN THE DARK, AND MAKE AN APPROPRIATE ARRIVAL CEREMONY VERY DIFFICULT TO MANAGE. THEY WISH TO GREET THE PRIME MINISTER WITH A FULL GUARD OF HONOUR AND A BAND. THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY WILL LAST 20 MINUTES.

2. WE HAVE TOLD MFA THAT WE BELIEVED THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO FLEXIBILITY IN PROPOSED DEPARTURE TIME. BUT IN VIEW OF POLISH CONCERN YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT NO 10 AGAIN. THE POLES ARE ANXIOUS TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE CEREMONIAL BEGINNING TO THE VISIT. THEY MAY WELL WISH TO TELEVISION THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL. THERE IS ALSO LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST, WITH CROWDS AT THE AIRPORT AND ON THE ROAD FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE RESIDENCE. THE LATE ARRIVAL WILL IMPEDE ALL OF THIS.

BARRETT

Will have cabinet
mtg

YYYY

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MS PESTELL

ADDITIONAL 1

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

NANM

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file DS
bc = pc

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 September 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

Thank you for your letter of 1 September about the timings of the Prime Minister's journey to Warsaw. I confirm that the Prime Minister will leave on 16 October at 1700, in order to give time for a briefing supper on arrival in Warsaw and before embarking on her programme the following day.

C. D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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*cc/pe
DC*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 September 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Poland: 16-18 October

Although the Prime Minister's programme for the visit is still far from settled, time is getting short. It would be helpful, particularly to the RAF, if we could go ahead with arrangements for the outward journey, which does not depend on the rest of the programme. Obviously, the return journey on 18 October cannot be planned until the programme for that day, including the Gdansk leg, is firmed up.

Your letter of ^{*15*} April said that the Prime Minister intended to travel to Warsaw on the evening of 16 October. At an earlier stage (your letter of 2 February) you had indicated that she would like to be there in time for an informal briefing supper with the Ambassador. A 1700 departure was suggested during your discussion with Mr Figgis on 20 January.

Flying time by RAF VC10 to Warsaw is 2hr.20 mins. (As the Continental hour goes back one month earlier than ours, UK time and Polish time are identical on the dates of the visit.) The following timings have been suggested by FCO Protocol Dept:

Depart: London Heathrow Southside 1700
Arrive: Warsaw 1930

The arrival ceremony, the details of which are not yet fixed, should last no longer than half an hour. The Prime Minister could therefore expect to be at the Ambassador's Residence for the briefing supper at about 2015.

I would be grateful to know whether you agree with this timing.

*Jaws,
Stephe Wall*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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PMTOUBS : Polara, sep 88

