

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc.

Sir P. Cradock

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND**

Mr. Robert Maxwell came to see the Prime Minister last night at his own urgent request. He had just returned from a visit to Poland, where he had seen General Jaruzelski for two and a half hours.

Mr. Maxwell said that he had passed on the Prime Minister's message to General Jaruzelski. The General had asked him in turn to convey some momentous news to the Prime Minister on a highly confidential basis. The Polish Politburo had decided to appoint Mr. Rakowski as Prime Minister in succession to Mr. Messner; and would also agree to treat Solidarity as a political party. The future government would be an all-party coalition. In Maxwell's opinion, this meant that the West had as good as won the Cold War. General Jaruzelski had one personal request to make of the Prime Minister, namely that she might consider postponing her visit for a few days to give the new Government more time to settle in. He had recalled that the Poles had been cooperative when the Prime Minister had requested a postponement of her visit in the summer, to avoid a clash with President Reagan's visit to London. All in all, concluded Mr. Maxwell, the Prime Minister's visit could "not come at a more propitious time".

The Prime Minister said that the news would indeed be momentous if carried through in practice. She would ensure that General Jaruzelski's confidence would be fully respected, although she assumed that the news would begin to emerge early this week. The situation in Poland would no doubt be volatile, and the Soviet response crucial. She would of course be ready to consider a request from General Jaruzelski for a short postponement of her visit. Mr. Maxwell asked whether he could convey to General Jaruzelski that he had passed on the information to the Prime Minister and that she

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would be ready to consider a short postponement. The Prime Minister confirmed that he could do so.

Mr. Maxwell subsequently telephoned me late last night to confirm that he had so informed a close member of General Jaruzelski's staff.

The Prime Minister has instructed that the information in this note should not go beyond No.10 until we receive indications of the reported changes from some other source.

CDP

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26 September, 1988.