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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO POLAND

The Poles have now made a formal request for a short postponement of your visit. I attach the telegram reporting this. As you will see, they want to find new dates within less than a month.

I attach the relevant pages of your forward diary. I am sure you will want to go to Poland not later than 3/4 November because you then run into the State Visit here, preparations for the Lord Mayor's Banquet and a visit to Washington. This suggests that the only practicable week is that beginning Sunday 30 October. Questions will have started by then but I do not think missing one day will matter. The alternatives seem to me:

- to go over to Poland on the evening of Sunday 30 October carrying out a programme on Monday 31 October and Tuesday 1 November exactly along the lines planned for Monday 17/Tuesday 18 October. We would have to find alternative dates for the General Reception and for the Reception for the Wightman Cup but invitations have not yet gone out to either of these. Otherwise there are no meetings which could not be re-scheduled;
- to go over on the evening of Wednesday 2 November carrying out the programme on Thursday 3/Friday 4 November. This would be possible and the Friday in particular is very light on engagements at present but going on the Thursday would mean bringing Cabinet forward to the Wednesday and changing two other important Cabinet Committees. This would not be impossible but I think it is very much second choice.

Would you agree to our putting the first of these alternatives to the Poles with the second as fall-back?

Charles Powell
29 September 1988
cc: Mr. Ingham

Yes Mr

291210Z
PS/NO 10 AT REQUEST EED
RESTRICTED
DD 291200Z FCOLN
FM WARSA TO FCOLN
291055Z SEP
GRS 469

RESTRICTED
FM WARSAW
TO DESKBY 291200Z FCO
TELNO 549
OF 291055Z SEPTEMBER 88

(AMENDED DIST 29/9)

MY TELNO 543 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

SUMMARY

1. POLES ASK FOR SHORT POSTPONEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. THEY HOPE IT CAN BE REARRANGED NOT LATER THAN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATES ORIGINALLY AGREED. WE SHOULD TRY TO PROPOSE NEW DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

DETAIL

2. KULSKI (VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) ASKED ME TO CALL THIS MORNING. AFTER EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE THE POLES ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT BOTH IN THE CONTEXT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES HAD NOW TO ASK FOR A SHORT POSTPONEMENT IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AND THE NEED TO WORK OUT A NEW GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMME. THEY WOULD LIKE RAKOWSKI (THE NEW PRIME MINISTER) IN PARTICULAR TO HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE VISIT AND INDEED RAKOWSKI HAD HIMSELF ASKED FOR THIS. STRESSING THAT THESE FACTORS WERE THE SOLE REASON FOR REQUESTING A DELAY, KULSKI SAID THAT THEY HOPED THAT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE WE COULD AGREE A NEW DATE. IN THEIR VIEW THE OPTIMAL POSTPONEMENT WOULD NOT EXCEED ONE MONTH.

3. IN REPLY I SAID THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO PRESS THE POLISH AUTHORITIES TO HOLD TO THE ORIGINAL MID-OCTOBER DATES. I EXPLAINED HOW IN OUR VIEW A VISIT THEN WOULD BE USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER I NOTED THAT THE POLISH INTEREST WAS FOR A SHORT POSTPONEMENT AND I WOULD THEREFORE SEEK URGENT INSTRUCTIONS.

4. KULSKI SAID THAT AS THE POLES HAD NOT ANNOUNCED THE VISIT FORMALLY IT WAS NOT FOR THEM TO ANNOUNCE ITS POSTPONEMENT. BUT HE HANDED OVER A SHORT DRAFT STATEMENT, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS THAT IN VIEW OF THE PROCESS OF FORMING THE POLISH GOVERNMENT, BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO POSTPONE THE VISIT PLANNED FOR MID-OCTOBER AND THAT NEW DATES WOULD BE AGREED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. I SAID THAT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ON OUR SIDE WOULD NO DOUBT COME FROM NO. 10 BUT I DID NOT SUPPOSE THAT WE WOULD WISH TO TAKE A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT LINE. HOWEVER, MATTERS WERE MOVING FAST
S
SINCE THE WESTERN PRESS IN WARSAW WERE AWARE OF A POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT. I COULD NOT UNDERTAKE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE THE POLES ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE TERMS OF ANYTHING SAID IN LONDON. KULSKI DID NOT RAISE OBJECTION.

COMMENT

5. THE ACTION NOW IS TO SEE WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY PERMITS NEW DATES TO BE PROPOSED TO THE POLES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE WEEK BEGINNING 31 OCTOBER IS NOT NECESSARILY RULED OUT. IF WE CAN BE INSTRUCTED TO OFFER DATES THEREABOUTS TO THE POLES, THESE WOULD BE AT A GOOD STAGE WITHIN THE OPTIMUM PERIOD OF ONE MONTH MENTIONED BY KULSKI. THERE MIGHT THEN BE A REAL CHANCE THAT THE VISIT COULD STILL GO AHEAD AT THIS IMPORTANT JUNCTURE IN POLISH AFFAIRS. BUT WE STILL FACE SOME TRICKY NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE INFORMAL PARTS OF THE PROGRAMME.

BARRETT

YYYY

ADVANCE	4	
HD/EED		1
HD/PROTOCOL DEPT		1
HD/NEWS DEPT		1
HD/SOVIET DEPT		1
MAIN	46	
LIMITED		6
EED		6
PROTOCOL DEPT		7
NEWS DEPT		9
SOVIET DEPT		5
PS		7
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE		1
PS/MRS CHALKER		1
PS/PUS		1
PS/SIR J FRETWELL		1
MR RATFORD		2
ADDITIONAL	1	
PS/NO 10.		1
[T CULLEN/147326]		
NNNN		

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*file Xhs
cc to PC.*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

Our Ambassador in Warsaw put to the Polish Government yesterday the proposal that the Prime Minister's postponed visit should take place on 31 October/1 November. The Poles still have formally to reply to this, but the immediate reaction was that 1 November would not be a possible date since it is All Souls Day. I have consulted the Prime Minister further. If the Poles confirm that they cannot accept 31 October/1 November, she agrees that we may now propose 3/4 November (arriving in Warsaw on the evening of 2 November). If this is not acceptable, then there seems no real alternative to postponing the visit into next year which would be a pity.

I should be grateful if you could telegraph appropriate instructions to our Ambassador in Warsaw to enable him to take action early on Monday 3 October.

CHARLES POWELL

The Resident Clerk,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO POLAND

We have put the dates of Monday 31 October/Tuesday 1 November to the Poles, but it seems clear that they cannot accept 1 November which is a sacred day in Poland. This is inconvenient but not unexpected.

I think we now have to choose between offering the fallback position of Thursday 3/Friday 4 November or postponing the visit into 1989. Postponement would be a great pity: this is the moment to go to Poland, when so much is on the move.

I attach the relevant part of the diary. The main implication of 3/4 November would be to move Cabinet back to Wednesday 2 November. I understand that public expenditure is likely to be taken the following week.

Agree we can propose 3/4 November? *Yes not*

CDP

Charles Powell

30 September 1988

AT REQUEST
OF EED.

301615Z
COPY FOR NO 10 DOWNING STREET
COMMENT

RESTRICTED
FM WARSAW
TO DESKBY 301700Z FCO
TELNO 554
OF 301525Z SEPTEMBER 88

YR TELNO 443 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO HEAD OF MFA PROTOCOL ON LINES OF PARA 3 OF TUR. CZYZICKI SAID HE WOULD PASS THE PROPOSAL ON TO HIS MINISTERS BUT BELIEVED ALMOST OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT THEY WOULD AGREE A VISIT EMBRACING 1 NOVEMBER, WHICH WAS SUCH A SACRED DAY IN POLAND. HE URGED US TO CONSIDER OTHER DATES WARNING THAT THE POLES WERE NEGOTIATING DATES FOR A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRAQ FOR THE FIRST HALF OF NOVEMBER AND THAT WE NEEDED TO MOVE QUICKLY. WE, THEREFORE, INVOKED THE LINE IN PAST SENTENCE OF PARA 3 OF TUR. CZYZICKI BELIEVED THAT A VISIT ON THESE DATES ARRIVING EVENING OF 2 NOVEMBER WOULD BE FEASIBLE, BUT URGED US TO CONFIRM OR OTHERWISE THEIR ACCEPTABILITY TO THE PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENT

2. I THINK THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF THE POLES ACCEPTING THE 30 OCTOBER - NOVEMBER DATES. I HOPE THEREFORE I CAN HAVE AUTHORITY TO PUT THE LATER DATES TO THE POLES FORMALLY ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER.

BARRETT

YYYY		
ADVANCE	1	
HD/EED		1
MAIN	12	
MINIMAL		6
EED		6
[CARRUTHERS]		

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file

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 September 1988

Dear Lynn,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

I have seen Warsaw Telegram No. 549 reporting the Poles' request for a short postponement of the Prime Minister's visit to Poland.

Clearly we have no alternative but to accept this, given that we ourselves requested a postponement of the visit last May. On the other hand our interest is in securing the shortest possible postponement, given the considerable build-up of publicity there has been for the visit and the fact that it is clearly a good moment to visit Poland.

The Prime Minister's diary would make it impossible for her to go to Poland any later than the beginning of November. Postponement beyond that would mean looking for dates next year. She could, however, manage dates in the week beginning Sunday 30 October. Her preference would be for a visit beginning on the evening of 30 October and running through 31 October and 1 November, carrying out the programme exactly along the lines planned for 17/18 October. I recognise that this could cause difficulties for the Poles since 1 November is All Souls Day. Equally, that might actually be quite a good day for the Prime Minister to visit the Westerplatte Monument and Gdansk, particularly since the visit will be concentrated in the earlier part of the day. A possible but very much less convenient alternative would be 3/4 November. But I should need to go back to the Prime Minister on this.

I should be grateful, therefore, if instructions could be sent today to our Ambassador in Warsaw to say to the Polish authorities that the Prime Minister of course understands their wish for a short postponement and is happy to comply. Her own programme would make a visit after the beginning of November difficult for a considerable period ahead. Like them, she is keen to maintain the visit and proposes that it should be reinstated for 31 October/1 November (with arrival on the evening of 30 October). While she recognises that 1 November may not be the most convenient of days, she hopes that this will not be an obstacle. The Ambassador should not

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at this stage suggest that there are alternative dates available that week. If the Poles say that 31 October/ 1 November is not convenient, he should say that he will see whether dates later that week might be possible, and inquire on a personal basis and without commitment whether 3/4 November would be likely to be acceptable to the Polish authorities.

Under review.
John Frew

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

10 DOWNING STREET

NOT TO BE COPIED

COPY NO. 13

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING
SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

Saturday 8 October

KEEP FREE
LUNCH FOR CONSTITUENTS

Sunday 9 October

KEEP FREE FOR SPEECH WRITING

Monday 10 October

0830 Hair
c1300 Lunch in flat
AFTER KEEP FREE

Tuesday 11 - Friday 14 October

PARTY CONFERENCE

Sunday 16 October

0830 Hair
1330 DEPART NO.10
1445 DEPART FOR OVERSEAS

Monday, 17 October

OVERSEAS

Tuesday, 18 October

OVERSEAS
AUDIENCE?

Wednesday 19 October

LUNCH WITH DAILY EXPRESS + TP
1500 E(ST)
1630 Lord Young +PG
1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
1730 Keep free for NLW
c1830 LOOK IN AT EFFICIENCY UNIT RECEPTION +NLW
CABINET OFFICE

Thursday 20 October

0830 Hair
0900 Questions Briefing Team
1030 Cabinet
1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs

1700 Keep free for briefing

Friday 21 October

ANGLO-ITALIAN BILATERAL
RETURN TO NO. 10

2015 FOR KEEP FREE + DT
2030

Sunday 23 October

1900 KEEP FREE + DT

Monday 24 October

0830 Hair
1000 Week Ahead Meeting
1030 Diary Meeting
1050 DEPART NO.10
1100 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PETER UTLEY ST. MARTINS
1215 Meeting with colleagues
1300 Followed by lunch
1500-1700 Keep free +DM
1700 Keep free for speech
? ATTEND DINNER FOR THE BHAVAN +DM
GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL

Tuesday 25 October

0900 Questions Briefing Team
0930 O(D)?
1100 Interview with The Times +TP
1230 Keep free for CDP
1300 Lunch and Questions briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 CRANLEY ONSLOW +MLB
1600 SIR PETER HORDERN AND MR. SHELDON + PAB
1620 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
1700 Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia +CDP
1830 AUDIENCE
2015 KEEP FREE

Wednesday 26 October

0900 S/Education +PG
1000 Keep free +CDP
1040 DEPART NO.10
1100 NATIONAL HERITAGE MEMORIAL FUND +RC BRITISH MUSEUM
RETURN TO NO.10
Keep free +NLW
pm Keep free for speech
1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
1730 Foreign Secretary +CDP
1800-1900 Drinks with MPs +MLB No.10

Thursday 27 October

0830 Hair
0900 Questions Briefing Team

0930 O(D)?
 1030 Cabinet
 After E(EP)
 1300 Lunch and Questions briefing
 1515 QUESTIONS
 1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
 1700 Keep free for speech
 c1930 DEPART
 GUEST OF HONOUR AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY HEBREW
 UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM - LONDON

Friday, 28 October

0930 Professor Griffiths + PG
 1000 Sir Robin Butler +PG
 1045 Interview with Thames Valley Police Newspaper + TP
 1130 DEPART
 1230 FINCHLEY LADIES LUNCH
 ? TO CHEQUERS

Saturday 29 October

1000-1200 Keep free

Monday 31 October

0830 Hair
 1000 Week Ahead Meeting
 1030 Diary Meeting
 1100 Keep free for briefing
 1115 Interview with Scottish Sunday Post + TP
 1215 Meeting with colleagues
 1300 Followed by lunch
 1500-1600 First meeting for Lord Mayor's Banquet Speech
 1600 Keep free for NLW
 1830-2000 General Reception + DT No. 10

Tuesday 1 November

0900 Questions Briefing Team
 0930 Lord Young +PG
 1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
 1515 QUESTIONS
 1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
 1700 Admiral Lee Baggett + CDP
 1830-2000 Reception for Wightman Cup No.10

Wednesday 2 November

LUNCH WITH CHRISTIES?
 1500 Grantham Rotary Club Photocall
 1630 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
 1700-1800 YC Executive Committee + JW
 1830 AUDIENCE

Thursday 3 November

0830 Hair
 0900 Questions Briefing Team

0930 E(UP)
1030 Cabinet
After MISC 7
1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 CRANLEY ONSLOW +MLB
1600 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
1730 Foreign Secretary +CDP
2000 Dinner for CTS sponsors +DM

Friday 4 November

0930 Professor Griffiths +PG
1000 Sir Robin Butler +NLW

Sunday 6 November

?1930 SIR GEORG SOLTI CONCERT + DT ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
KEEP FREE ?

Monday. 7 November

0830 Hair
1000 Week Ahead Meeting
1030 Diary Meeting
1215 Meeting with colleagues
1300 Followed by lunch
1600 Sir Angus Fraser +NLW
1630-1730 Value for Money
1830-1930 Drinks with European Democratic Group - No.10

Tuesday 8 November

Parliament prorogues ? (or 15 November)
0900 Questions Briefing Team
1205 DEPART NO.10
1210 ARRIVE VICTORIA STATION
State Visit by President of Senegal
RETURN TO NO.10
1300 Lunch and Questions briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
STATE BANQUET BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Wednesday 9 November

1200 President Diouf of Senegal +CDP
followed by lunch in honour of President of Senegal
pm Keep free for Lord Mayor's Banquet Speech
1630 Foreign Secretary +CDP
1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
1830 AUDIENCE
Supper in flat
Work on speech

Thursday 10 November

0830 Hair
0900 Questions Briefing Team

13

1030 Cabinet
1300 Lunch and Questions briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
pm RETURN STATE BANQUET GIVEN BY PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL ?

Friday 11 November

Keep free for speech
c2000 DINNER WITH SPEAKER SPEAKER'S HOUSE

Saturday 12 November

FINCHLEY FAIR
1900 FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE +DT ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Sunday 13 November

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Monday 14 November

0830 Hair
1000 Week Ahead Meeting
1030 Diary Meeting
1215 Meeting of colleagues
1300 followed by Lunch
pm Keep free for speech
? LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET +DT GUILDHALL

Tuesday 15 November

Parliament prorogued ?
0900 Questions Briefing Team
0930 Lord Young +PG
1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
KEEP FREE

Wednesday 16 November

KEEP FREE +CDP

Thursday, 17 November

RETURN TO NO.10

Friday, 18 November

0930 Professor Griffiths
Lunch Keep free for TG
Overnight at No.10

Saturday 19 November

ADDRESS UK FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN - LONDON
KEEP FREE?

Sunday 20 November

1200 KEEP FREE