

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's visit to Poland

Thank you for your letter of 25 October about Ambassador Gertych's call.

We have no specific points to raise on the programme. We are grateful to the Poles for their willingness to accommodate the Prime Minister's wishes.

The Prime Minister may wish to refer to the Round Table talks between the Government and the opposition. The next session was due to have been held on 27 October. However, it seems that it is unlikely to take place. There has been a perceptible hardening of the Government's line recently and they are apparently insisting that Walesa should drop two members of his team, and that he should have a preliminary round with the Government's negotiator, Kiszczak. Solidarity is claiming that the procedures for the talks have been agreed and there is no need for any further discussion. If the talks have not started by 2 November, this will increase the relevance of the Prime Minister's private and public remarks on the need for dialogue. The Prime Minister may therefore like to ask Mr Gertych whether he sees the talks getting off the ground before 2 November.

The Prime Minister may also wish to refer to Western economic assistance to Poland. The Polish Foreign Minister told Mr Barrett on 25 October that he was recommending that Jaruzelski and Rakowski should raise Polish indebtedness with the Prime Minister, in the hope that she might act as a "spokesman" for Poland in the West. Olechowski said that the burden of repayment of principal and interest meant that there was not enough hard currency available for the modernisation of Polish industry, or to satisfy the needs of the domestic market. The resulting bottlenecks led to social and even political tension. The annual rescheduling within the framework of the Paris Club only added to total Polish indebtedness (ie by capitalising interest payments on new debt). He had noted that there had been some talk

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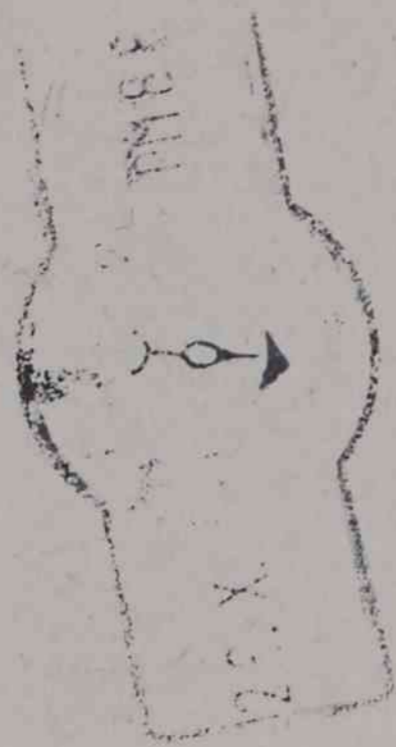
in the West about a possible Marshall Plan. The Poles had also heard that some Community countries were preparing to submit proposals to the November Foreign Affairs Council for some measures of special economic aid for Poland. They understood if all went well the European Council would discuss these questions in December. Olechowski added that he was mentioning this idea because they did not want it to come as a complete surprise to the Prime Minister if it was approved by Jaruzelski and Rakowski. The Prime Minister may wish to say that it is obviously important for her to hear about these issues at first hand from her Polish hosts. Much will depend on her own impression of the situation and the extent to which she can be convinced that the processes of economic reform and interlinked political reforms, are moving in the right directions; if she returns from Poland with the view that Poland's economic policies are being properly directed, she would be ready to push the case that the West should adopt a longer term approach to Poland's debt problems, but with an IMF programme as its centrepiece. The Prime Minister could usefully, at the same time, deflate the hopes the Poles seem to entertain about new Community or broader Western inclinations to help Poland in the short term.

*Yours ever,
L Parker*

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE POLISH AMBASSADOR

You are to see the Polish Ambassador briefly tomorrow, as a courtesy before your visit. You have met him before: he is a former Deputy Prime Minister, courteous and old-fashioned, and it is extremely difficult to understand a word he says.

Points you might make are:

- you are looking forward to your visit, which comes at an important moment in Poland's affairs and in East/West relations generally;
- you are grateful to the Polish authorities for accommodating your wishes for the programme so fully (full details of the programme are in the folder). The Ambassador himself has played a very helpful role;
- you may like to ask a number of practical questions (temperature, dress, etc.);
- you should ask about the prospects for the Round Table talks between Government and Opposition. Are they likely to start before your visit?
- you will want to warn him that you will not have any concrete economic help to offer. You will want to form your own impression of the situation and the prospects for economic and political reform. Depending on that, you may on your return be ready to press the case for a longer-term approach to Poland's debt problems, but with an IMF programme as the centre-piece. Although there has been some loose talk about Marshall Aid, the Poles would be wise not to expect significant new help from the West at this juncture.

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

26 October 1988

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
THE POLISH AMBASSADOR

The Polish Ambassador will call on the Prime Minister at 1730 on Thursday 27 October to discuss her forthcoming visit to Poland. I should be grateful if you could provide a short brief for the meeting.

C. D. Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 September 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

Thank you for sending me a copy of Mr. Hulse's minute of 20 September about the wish of the Polish Ambassador to call on the Prime Minister before her visit to Poland. I found this slightly odd. I have discussed the call on a number of occasions with the Ambassador, left him in no doubt that it would be arranged, and gave him a time on 7 October at least two weeks ago. I do not much mind who interprets for the Ambassador when he comes: may I leave it to you to sort it out.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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SP



10 DOWNING STREET

~~Charles,~~

The Ambassador's
Secretary has confirmed
7th Oct at 11.00 a.m for
his call on the P.M.

Sue
27/9



10 DOWNING STREET

July ✓ ^{TG told.}
Clear

The Ambassador's Sec. B

ringing back to confirm

11.00 am. on 7th Oct.

Please can you take a

message for me, & also

let Charles know & let

Charles have the attached

from?

Ta.

27/9

The Polish Ambassador

London, 21st September, 1988

Mrs Gaisman
CG

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you for your letter of 15th September informing me on the date of my visit to the 10 Downing Street.

It is great honour for me to be given the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister.

Thank you once more for all your help and cooperation.

Yours sincerely
Dr Zbigniew Gertych

Mr. Charles Powell
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London SW1



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cc Mr Powell, No 10

CSFC

- we spoke. This
 may be overtaken by
 Gertych's appointment
 at No 10 in early October.

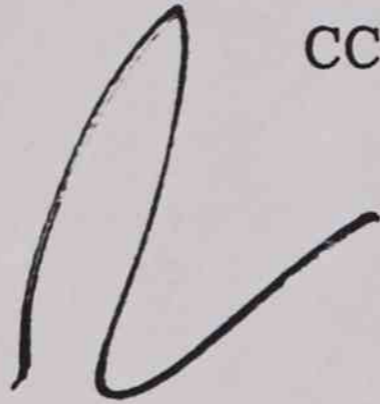
FROM: C Hulse
 Eastern European Dept

DATE: 20 September 1988

CC: Mr Ratford

Mr Parker

by Parker
 26/9



PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

1. I should be grateful for your advice on the following. Last week Mr Ratford received a letter from Mr Andrew Ciechanowiecki, a wealthy Pole who runs an art gallery in Jermyn Street. (Ciechanowiecki supplied us with a picture for the Secretary of State to take as a present when he visited Poland in 1985). He asked whether his fellow Director, John Pomian, could call to deliver a "highly confidential" message about the Prime Minister's visit.
2. In Mr Ratford's absence I saw Mr Pomian this afternoon. The message was that the Polish Ambassador (a close friend) wished to call on the Prime Minister before she set off for Poland. Mr Gertych also wished to know whether the Foreign Office could supply an interpreter, since he did not wish to bring another member of the Embassy with him.
3. You may wish to have a word about this with Mr Powell when he returns. The Polish Ambassador would be enormously appreciative if he could have a few minutes of the Prime Minister's time. We do not know whether he has any particular message to convey. However, he is very close to Jaruzelski and will be returning to Warsaw for the visit.
4. The request for an interpreter is very unusual and suggests that Gertych does not trust his staff (he himself is not a career diplomat but a politician - and was Deputy Prime Minister in fact). If Mr Powell thinks that we should agree to this, the interpretation could be done by Mr Jenkins of Research Department, whose Polish is excellent. If Mr Powell thinks this unnecessary the Ambassador will presumably come with his No 2, Matuszewski, as he does for calls on the FCO. Gertych's English is unfortunately very poor.
5. I should be grateful to know in due course how I should reply to Pomian.

C Hulse

C Hulse

26.11.1948



PHI 8

file



PMM

cc: Tessa
PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 September 1988

We spoke about the possibility of your coming to call on the Prime Minister before she leaves for her visit to Poland, to which she is much looking forward.

The Prime Minister would be able to see you at 9am on Thursday 6 October at No.10 Downing Street. I hope very much that is convenient.

C. D. Powell

His Excellency Dr. Zbigniew Gertych

Lu



10 DOWNING STREET

Charles
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I have found a 1/2
hr. slot at 9.00 am on
Sat Oct for the lower
Ambassadors.

Less

15/9