



FROM: THE RT. HON. JULIAN AMERY, M.P.

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Personal

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Dear Margaret,

Please accept my best wishes for your journey to Poland. It is, I think, an even more important visit than the one to Hungary.

The pace of changes varies a good deal in all the Eastern European countries. Overall, however, it reminds me of the Viennese waltz. This starts, as I was taught it, rather slowly, getting faster and faster until, just before giddiness sets in, the partners go into reverse.

For the first few years after the War, a fairly liberal climate remained in Eastern Europe, pro-Western figures like King Michael, Jan Mazaryk and Mickolaysyck were still part of the Establishment. Presently Stalin deposed of them. Now the reverse has begun with Walesa and the Cardinal almost part of the Polish Establishment.

All this poses a dilemma for us, where the European Community is concerned. We wanted the Union to be strong enough to keep the West Germans tied to the West. We needed it to be loose enough for individual East European countries to become associated with it. I suspect that given the chance they will want to make individual deals rather than 'bloc to 'bloc.

I met Mr. Rakowski just before the introduction of martial law. It was rather surprising to hear him say, in the presence of both English and Polish witnesses, "You must understand that the Communist Party has lost all credibility here". Not long afterwards Ceausescu said to me, "Of course Poland is not really a Socialist country. It's governed by a military junta on South American lines"!

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The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.