

74, Park Drive,
LONDON. W3.

31st October, 1988.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON. SW1.

*COP
You may wish to
be aware of this
before you leave.
D211*

Dear Prime Minister,

On the eve of your visit to Poland, I am writing to you as United Kingdom representative of Fighting Solidarity (Solidarność Walczaca), one of the largest organised groups in the Polish opposition movement.

Fighting Solidarity emerged out of the Independent Self-governing Trade Union "Solidarity" after the imposition of martial law. Our declared aim is a democratic and independent Poland with a pluralistic political system, based on free elections, and a mixed free market economy. We believe these aspirations are shared by the majority of Polish people.

Fighting Solidarity is active in many Polish cities, towns, factories and workplaces. Working, by necessity, clandestinely we have an extensive publishing network. We have also managed to break the state monopoly in the sphere of broadcasting, with our own radio stations. The present state of social, economic and ecological crises in Poland is a direct result of the communist system imposed on us. Our country has many resources, including its hardworking and educated people, and given the freedom to shape our destiny, we will be able to turn these resources to our best advantage. For this we need no handouts or loans. Our society has no control over how such credits are spent and they would only result in an increasing burden on our country.

We welcome your visit to Poland, especially as you insisted on meeting genuine representatives of Polish society including Mr. Lech Walesa, the leader of the Trade Union "Solidarity". We also hope that your talks will be conducive to furthering the cause of democracy in Poland.

Fighting Solidarity stresses that re-legalisation of the Trade Union "Solidarity" is a necessary initial condition for any effective action to counter the state of crisis in Poland. As a result of the wave of strikes during the last August the Government in Poland offered talks with Mr. Lech Walesa and other representatives of Solidarity, but two months later these talks still have not materialised.

The sincerity of the Government in Poland for any meaningful dialogue has to be put in doubt so long as there exist political prisoners detained on trumped up criminal charges, so long as people are being expelled from their jobs,

called up for military service, pushed out from their flats, fined up to 2 months wages; all of this for their participation in strikes, peaceful demonstrations, or for engaging in independent activities.

In his recent statement Fighting Solidarity leader Mr. Kornel Morawiecki, who is in hiding, has said that even re-legalisation of Solidarity would not alone bring Poland out of crises, symptomatic of the disintegration of communism. This next step must be to free the economy from political interference through withdrawal of Communist Party cells and Security Police units from workplaces, removing political restrictions governing economic activities that are written into the law, and granting equal opportunity to all forms of ownership in agriculture (state, cop-operative and private).

For several months preceding your visit to Poland, my colleagues and I were collecting signatures for a petition written to you and Her Majesty's Government in respect of the denial of political freedoms and persecution in Poland. In the text of the petition names of some political prisoners, or persons against whom prosecution charges are pending, are mentioned and I enclose three different versions taking into account changes in these particulars.

Even since the last version has been written some of those prisoners named there for illustration have been released whilst others like Mr. Adam Hodysz and Mr. Henry K. Piec remain incarcerated. Prosecution charges against Mr. Roman Zwiercan, Mr. Kornel Morawiecki and Mr. Kszysztof Szymanski are still pending. Many more continue to be subjected to harassment and abuse of their human rights. Some warning signs are coming now from Poland that under Mr. Rakowski as a new Prime Minister the human rights situation in Poland is not becoming any better. Beating by Police on the street or in police captivity are becoming very common especially in respect of young people. Gdansk the birthplace of Solidarity is most notorious in that respect. A recent case of Mr. Gorzyla and Mr. Krzywulicz, both nineteen may serve as a good illustration. On the 25th October 1988 they were stopped on the street in Gdansk by ZOMO Police for no apparent reason and beaten several times inside the police van and at a police station resulting in serious injuries - in one case kidney failure.

We sincerely hope that you will do everything that is in your power to help the cause of freedom and independence for the Polish nation and we convey our best wishes for your journey.

Enclosed is the petition with over three thousand signatures.

T. Warsza

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Fighting Solidarity U.K. Representative.