



File SH

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 November 1988

Dear Mr Walesa,

I was very pleased that we were able to meet during my visit to Poland. The welcome from your many thousands of supporters in Gdansk - so orderly, so peaceful and so good humoured - was almost overwhelming and I am most grateful for their kindness. I found the ceremony at the Shipyard Workers' Memorial and in St. Brygida's Church profoundly moving.

Our talk together - and later with your advisers - has given me a very clear picture of what Solidarity stands for and the deep patriotism which inspires your movement. Coming from a society such as ours, it is a considerable shock to learn the sort of difficulties you encounter. But I was cheered by your tremendous buoyancy and optimism and wish you well in your search for reconciliation on a basis of fairness and recognition of the contribution which Solidarity has to make. I spoke later to General Jaruzelski in the terms which we agreed. He repeated to me his personal commitment to round table discussions and to a successful outcome.

Lastly, may I thank you for your very kind gifts which will for ever remind me of our encounter and of your cause.

With warm good wishes to you and your wife and to all your supporters.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Lech Walesa

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