



file 40
ccfco

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 November 1988

Your Holiness,

I was most grateful for Your Holiness' great kindness and consideration in replying so promptly and so fully to my request for advice in advance of my visit to Poland. I was much strengthened in all my meetings and contacts there by knowing your views.

I was also most grateful to Cardinal Glemp whom I met on the very first evening of my visit. He gave me a very full account of the Church's role, together with a shrewd and realistic appreciation of the political difficulties in Poland. I was encouraged by his hopes that something positive could be achieved.

I subsequently had a number of meetings with both General Jaruzelski and Prime Minister Rakowski, and talks with a wide range of representatives of opposition opinion. I paid a very moving visit to Gdansk, where I was impressed by the strength of support for Solidarity and its aspirations. I was also struck by the moderation and common sense of Mr. Walesa and others in the Solidarity leadership, and by the order and cheerfulness of the enthusiastic crowds in Gdansk and at St. Stanislaw Kostka's Church. To the Polish authorities' credit, they put no obstacles in the way of any of these meetings.

DS

I returned from Poland convinced that Solidarity is a force that cannot be denied, and greatly impressed by its leaders' commitment to peaceful discussion. I conveyed this assessment frankly to General Jaruzelski at the end of my visit: and in all my contacts I urged the importance of finding a basis for dialogue between government and opposition, on the basis of good faith and fairness. The situation is indeed very difficult and painful, but I think all sides genuinely want to talk and find a way through. I pray that they will succeed.

May I once again thank Your Holiness for your wise counsel.

Your
low spirited leadership is so vital
to the brave people of Poland.

With warm regards,

Your sincerely

Raymond Shannon

His Holiness Pope John Paul II

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file DS

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 November 1988

MESSAGE TO THE POPE

I enclose the Prime Minister's message to the Pope about Poland. I should be grateful if it could be despatched as soon as possible.

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 November 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's visit to Poland: Message to the Pope

We spoke about a message from the Prime Minister to the Pope, following up the Prime Minister's request for his advice before her visit to Poland. *— into CCP.*

/ I attach a draft. If agreed, we would send the message by telegram with the request that our Ambassador pass it on.

*Yours,
Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

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In Confidence

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE.

[over phone]

I was most grateful for Your Holiness's advice in advance of my visit to Poland last week, relayed through our Ambassador on 31 October. It was kind of you to give such a full and speedy response to my message.

I had a very interesting meeting with Cardinal Glemp on 2 November. It was particularly helpful to

have the benefit of his wisdom and experience so early in my visit. I was encouraged by his realistic appreciation of the political difficulties in Poland and his hopes that something positive could be achieved.

I had full and frank discussions with General Jaruzelski and Prime Minister Rakowski, and talks with a wide range of representatives of opposition opinion. I paid a very moving visit to Gdansk, where I was impressed by the strength of support for Solidarity and its aspirations. I was also struck by the moderation and common sense of Mr Walesa and others in the Solidarity leadership, and by the order and cheerfulness of the enthusiastic crowds in Gdansk and at St Stanislaw Kostka's Church.

I returned from Poland convinced that Solidarity is a force that cannot be denied, and greatly impressed by its leaders' commitment to peaceful

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I conveyed this assessment faithfully
 discussion. I hope I was able to show General Jaruzelski the strength of these impressions. I also hope I was able to demonstrate to him my unshakeable belief that good faith and genuine dialogue with Solidarity and with other trends in Polish opinion - with the representatives of all the people - is the only way forward. I shall now watch developments with close interest and in the fervent hope that my message of freedom plus responsibility will have encouraged all sides to work towards a better life for the people of Poland.

or to end of my visit:
and in all my contacts I urged the importance of finding a basis for dialogue between government & opposition, on the basis of good faith & fairness. The situation is indeed very difficult & painful, but I think all sides should genuinely work towards
no talk & find a way through. I pray the day will succeed. May I once again thank you ~~for~~ for your ~~kindness~~ wide counsel.

103 M. P. 11/50
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TOP SECRET
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UNCLASSIFIED

I was most grateful ~~to~~ ^{for} your
Helms' ^{great kindness} consideration in reply to
promptly & so fully to my request
for advice in advance of my visit to
Poland. I ~~felt~~ ^{was} ~~felt~~ ^{much} ~~greatly~~ ^{appreciated}
in all my meetings & ~~contact~~ ^{contacts}
with you by ~~the~~ ^{your} ~~knowledge~~ ^{kindness} of your
your views.

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COPY TO NO 10 AT REQUEST OF WED

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FM HOLY SEE

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 064

OF 111545Z NOVEMBER 88

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 26 : PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE POPE

1. I GAVE THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP CASSIDY THIS MORNING. ARCHBISHOP COLASUONNO WAS ALSO PRESENT. I ALSO BRIEFED THEM ON THE BASIS OF WARSAW TELEGRAMS NOS 671 AND 672. I HAD NOT RECEIVED WARSAW TELEGRAM NO 680 IN TIME.

2. CASSIDY UNDERTOOK TO PASS THE LETTER ON TO THE POPE TODAY. HE EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A WRITTEN REPLY FROM THE POPE WHEN THE SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

3. CASSIDY AND COLASUONNO THOUGHT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT HAD BEEN A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THEY PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S INSISTENCE, IN HER CONVERSATION WITH RAKOWSKI ON THE NEED TO BE CLEAR AS TO PRECISELY HOW HIS ECONOMIC REFORMS WERE TO BE INTRODUCED. THEY DOUBTED WHETHER EITHER GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION WERE YET READY FOR A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION.

4. I ASKED IF THEY THOUGHT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION OR OTHER EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. COLASUONNO'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT, SO LONG AS JARUZELSKI MAINTAINED HIS PRESENT POLICIES, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT (NOT) TRY TO INTERFERE. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT THE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAD JUST ANNOUNCED PLANS TO AUTHORIZE OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS IN ADDITION TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THIS COULD HAVE PROFOUND EFFECTS IN POLAND.

5. COLASUONNO WILL BE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEXT WEEK. I WILL THEREFORE BRIEF TAURAN, THE UNDER SECRETARY IN THE COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH, ON THE BASIS OF WARSAW TELNO 680 NOW RECEIVED.

6. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VATICAN IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONSULTATION WITH THE POPE BEFORE AND AFTER HER VISIT. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO AN EVEN GREATER WILLINGNESS TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ALL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

BROADLEY

YYYY

ADVANCE	3	
HD/WED		1
HD/PROTOCOL		1
HD/INFO		1
MAIN	51	
LIMITED		6
WED		9
EED		6
PROTOCOL DEPT		7
INFO DEPT		11
RESEARCH DEPT		1
PS		7



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

No. 230432

FROM THE VATICAN, 6th December 1988

(2)

Die Minster

CDD 20/12

20/12

Dear Prime Minister,

In the name of His Holiness Pope John Paul II I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 10th November 1988 concerning your visit to Poland.

Aap.

His Holiness is grateful for your kind words in his regard, and he has noted with interest your description of the visit and the impressions which you gathered during your stay. In thanking you for your thoughtfulness he assures you once more of a remembrance in his prayers.

I avail myself of the occasion to renew the assurance of my highest consideration.

f. R. Card. Secchi
Secretary of State

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, P.C.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

POLAND : Pu Touss Pte.