

Der Regierende Bürgermeister von Berlin

Germany

h_g Paul

Translation

January 1981

Dear Sir Ian,

I should like to thank you again for the friendly reception and generous hospitality which I received in Great Britain.

It was an honour for me to have the opportunity once again to hold political talks with you. In the course of these talks I was most gratified to see that the unswerving stand of your government and your country to Berlin and their continued interest in this city have been reaffirmed. I should be most grateful if you would convey my thanks to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary.

I was also pleased to be able to visit Edinburgh and York and enjoyed these visits very much. This enabled me to make contacts and to see more of the beautiful scenery in your country.

Finally, I should like to say a special word of thanks to the staff of the Central Office of Information and the Scottish Information Office for their help.

I wish you and Lady Caroline all the best for the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Dietrich Stobbe

The Rt.Hon. Sir Ian Gilmour, Bt., M.P.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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SUBJECT

cyphaster



File

Germany

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 December 1980

Dear Paul,

VISIT BY THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN

Herr Dietrich Stobbe, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, called on the Prime Minister this morning. He was accompanied by those mentioned in your letter to me of 12 December.

The conversation was general in character and does not warrant being recorded in detail. However, one or two points which came up may be worthy of mention:-

- (a) In discussion of the Polish crisis, the Prime Minister said that her personal impression was that the Russians would probably not intervene until after Christmas. However, she thought it would be impossible for the Communists to accept indefinitely the establishment of an independent source of power in Poland. Herr Stobbe said that people in Berlin were very anxious about Poland. He himself did not think that the Soviet Union would try to create a Berlin crisis at the same time as they were intervening in Poland;
- (b) In response to a question from Herr Stobbe, the Prime Minister said that if there was no intervention in Poland, arms control negotiations, and East/West negotiations should, of course, continue. But if there were an invasion, international relationships would be altered in a fundamental way. Detente would, inevitably, be very seriously affected;
- (c) The Prime Minister said that whatever happened, Berlin could rely on the British Government's guarantee. We would also continue to remain in the closest touch with our allies about developments in the situation likely to affect Berlin;

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- (d) Herr Stobbe asked the Prime Minister if she would be able to visit Berlin in the foreseeable future. The Prime Minister said that she very much hoped to be able to come but she thought it would be better if she did not come in the period of tension. It would be better if her visit took place when the situation was calmer. Herr Stobbe said the Prime Minister would be welcome at any time.

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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