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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 ^{NOV.} December 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

I enclose the signed copy of the Prime Minister's further message to General Jaruzelski, together with the text of her written statement to the House. I should be grateful if they could be telegraphed to Warsaw for delivery.

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

11 November 1988

Dear General Jaruzelski

I should like you to know that I reported fully to Cabinet on 10 November on my visit to Poland. My colleagues in the Government very much welcomed the visit and expressed great interest in the outcome, underlining the special place which Poland has for Britain. Cabinet was unanimous in believing that we should strengthen Britain's links with Poland and offer every encouragement in the tasks of reform and reconciliation which you described to me.

I enclose the text of a Statement which I made to the House of Commons on the outcome of the visit. May I also say that, should your travels bring you close to the United Kingdom, I very much hope that you will take the opportunity to visit London, so that we may continue our discussions.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Rafael Deliber

His Excellency General Wojciech Jaruzelski

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Friday 11th November 1988

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Friday 11th November)

UNSTARRED Sir Peter Blaker: To ask the Prime Minister,
No. 185 if she will make a statement on her recent visit
to Poland.

THE PRIME MINISTER

I visited Poland on 2-4 November and had very full and useful talks with General Jaruzelski and with Prime Minister Rakowski. In Warsaw I met Cardinal Glemp and a large number of representatives of independent political groups. I also laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the grave of Father Popieluzsko. I unveiled a memorial to allied airmen who flew many sorties to drop supplies to the people of Warsaw during the Warsaw uprising.

I subsequently travelled to Gdansk, where General Jaruzelski and I laid a wreath at the Westerplatte Monument, marking the outbreak of the Second World War. While in Gdansk, I placed flowers at the shipyard workers memorial and met Mr Lech Walesa, the President of Solidarity, together with other members of the Solidarity leadership.

I am most grateful to the Polish Government for enabling me to carry out such a full and varied programme, and to meet spokesmen for so many different political points of view.

General Jaruzelski and Mr Rakowski informed me of the reforms being introduced in the Polish economy. They also expressed the hope that Round Table meetings with representatives of opposition groups would soon be possible. They wished to see closer relations between Poland and Britain, and hoped for British help in overcoming Poland's foreign indebtedness. Our talks also covered East/West relations and other international issues.

Leaders of the various independent political groups explained to me their views on the way forward. Mr Walesa indicated that Solidarity would be ready to take part in Round Table discussions with the Government on the basis of good faith and fairness, and stressed the importance of legalisation of Solidarity.

I told General Jaruzelski that there was a very great interest and sympathy for Poland in this country. We shared the hope for closer contacts and were ready to support economic reform in practical ways. At the same time I stressed that economic reform could not, in our view, succeed unless accompanied by steps to give people greater political freedom. Such freedom would incur greater responsibility. I believed that the international community would be ready to provide help once such reforms were introduced and an agreement with the IMF was in place.

This was an extremely interesting and valuable visit which I hope will lead to increased contacts in future and put Britain's relations with Poland on a firmer and more positive basis.