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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 December 1988

Dear Mrs.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND:
COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Thank you for your letter of 16 December suggesting three ways in which we could be associated with the commemoration in Poland of the 50th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Second World War: an exchange of ships' visits, attendance by a tri-Service party at the official Polish commemoration, and the historical seminar. The Prime Minister thinks that, provided we do all three, that would be sufficient.

Yours sincerely,
C. D. Powell

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Edm



Prime Minister

Agree with these three *etc*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

associated *interfering* *etc*

16 December 1988

to anniversary?

Dear Charles,

Yours *CDP*
16/12

Prime Minister's Visit to Poland: Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Second World War

at Head
In your letter of 5 December, you conveyed the Prime Minister's view that we should not refuse to be associated with the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. We agree. What we in fact proposed (my letter to you of 5 December) was that we should have an exchange of ships' visits with the Poles in the spring rather than for the anniversary (which the MOD would find difficult to fit in anyway); and look at other ways of observing the anniversary of the War.

1

The MOD are investigating the possibility of sending a tri-Service wreath-laying party and/or a guard of honour to represent HM Forces at the official Polish commemoration of the anniversary. This seems an excellent idea to us; it would provide a ceremonial presence without superfluous speeches.

2

We also need a more substantial event. During the Prime Minister's final round of talks with General Jaruzelski on 4 November, he mentioned the idea of a conference or seminar to mark the anniversary. We are considering a historical seminar. This could be a worthwhile academic exercise as well as a good symbolic gesture.

3

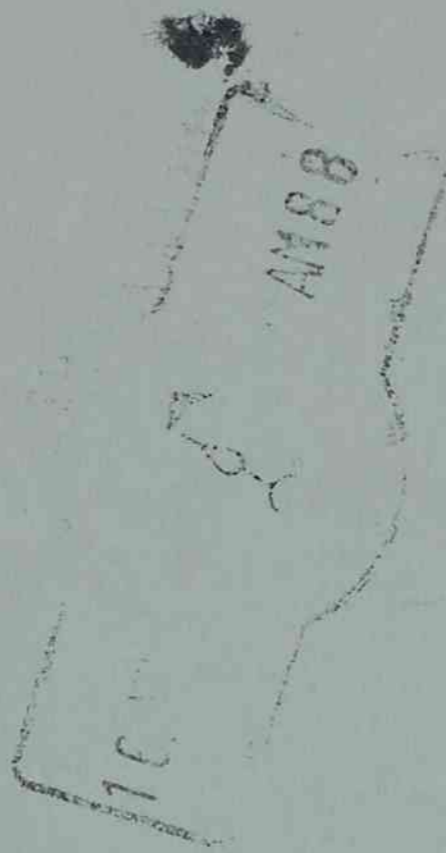
We are asking the Ambassador in Warsaw to call on the MFA next week to discuss follow-up to the Prime Minister's visit. If you agree, he will put the idea of a seminar to the Poles, while agreeing to an exchange of ships' visits in the spring. When the MOD have decided on their representation at the official ceremony, we can put this to the Poles as well.

Yours ever, *L Parker*

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Bland: Pm's visit
Pt 2



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