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FM FCO 181600Z FEB 81

TO IMMEDIATE WARSAW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 83 OF 18 FEBRUARY

INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW

INFO SAVING PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST, SOFIA, BELGRADE,

EAST BERLIN

YOUR TEL NOS 130, 131 AND 133: CALL ON POLISH PRIME MINISTER

1. YOU SHOULD DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON THE MATERIAL BELOW WHEN YOU CALL ON JARUZELSKI TOMORROW.

HMG'S ATTITUDE TO POLAND'S PROBLEMS.

2. BRITISH MINISTERS HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE REGARD POLAND'S PROBLEMS AS A MATTER TO BE SETTLED BY THE POLES THEMSELVES. WE ARE RESOLVED TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION WHICH WE HAVE FOLLOWED THROUGHOUT. WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL BOTH FOR POLAND AND FOR EUROPE AND THE WORLD THAT ALL OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD DO THE SAME.

3. WE DO, OF COURSE, FOLLOW WITH GREAT INTEREST WHAT IS HAPPENING IN POLAND. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME EUROPEAN FAMILY, AND OUR BILATERAL TIES ARE CLOSE AND VALUED. POLAND OCCUPIES A POSITION OF GREAT GEO-POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IN EUROPE, AND THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT PERIOD OF STRESS HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF OUR CONTINENT. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS ONE OF WHICH JARUZELSKI HIMSELF MUST BE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS. THIS IS THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO HIM SHOULD BE SEEN (PARA 9 BELOW).

4. WE NOTED WITH CARE THE PUBLISHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE SPEECH OF PRIME MINISTER JARUZELSKI TO THE SEYM. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE POLISH LEADERS CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE MODERATION, THAT THEY REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE RENEWAL (ODONOWA) AND THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO TACKLE NOW, AND IN DUE COURSE TO OVERCOME, THE VERY SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH FACE THE COUNTRY.

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5. THIS LINE COMMANDS OUR SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING. WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT WE HOPE THAT THEY CAN BE OVERCOME BY PEACEFUL MEANS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MOBILISE THE EFFORTS AND TALENTS OF THE POLISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

6. (IF NECESSARY). AS REGARDS THE AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE OF 12 FEBRUARY (FCO TEL. NO. 72) YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT HMG WOULD TACITLY SUPPORT ANY ACTION WHICH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE, PARTICULARLY NOT OF A KIND WHICH COULD BRING A CHAIN REACTION. THE BRITISH ATTITUDE WOULD DEPEND ON THAT OF POLISH PUBLIC OPINION.

BRITISH/POLISH RELATIONS.

7. WE VALUE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH POLAND AND WE WANT TO DEVELOP THEM. WE THINK THAT THIS IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND THAT IT REFLECTS THE CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE POLISH PEOPLE. I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO PAY A VISIT TO WARSAW MYSELF LAST OCTOBER, AT A TIME WHEN HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN THE POLISH LEADERSHIP AND THEIR WESTERN COUNTERPARTS WAS OF SPECIAL VALUE. I HOPE THAT MR CZYREK WILL BE ABLE TO PAY A RETURN VISIT TO BRITAIN SHORTLY, AND WE HAVE SUGGESTED SOME DATES BEFORE THE UK TAKES OVER THE BURDEN OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EC. CONTACTS ARE DEVELOPING ALSO AT OTHER LEVELS. THE ANGLO/POLISH JOINT COMMISSION LAST NOVEMBER WAS ATTENDED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY A BRITISH MINISTER, MR PARKINSON. THE MARSHAL OF THE SEYM WILL BE VISITING BRITAIN SOON, AND THE BRITISH/POLISH ROUND TABLE WILL TAKE PLACE IN OXFORD IN MARCH. WE VALUE ALSO THE VERY MANY PRIVATE CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE, WHICH GIVE SUBSTANCE TO OUR OFFICIAL RELATIONS.

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO POLAND.

8. WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, RESPONDED TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD BY MAKING CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASES OF GOODS (INCLUDING FOOD AT SPECIAL PRICES UNDER THE EC DECISION) AND FOR DEBT RELIEF DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. THE EMPHASIS SHOULD NOW BE ON THE LONGER TERM. WE SHALL BE PARTICIPATING IN NEXT WEEK'S PARIS TALKS IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT. THERE SEEMS TO BE

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COMMON GROUND BETWEEN WESTERN CREDITORS AND POLISH FINANCIAL EXPERTS THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A MULTILATERAL DEBT RELIEF OPERATION IN WHICH WE SHALL BE PREPARED TO PLAY OUR PART. THE EXACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH AN OPERATION WILL CLEARLY HAVE TO BE RELATED TO THE KIND OF ASSURANCES WHICH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO PROVIDE WITH REGARD TO THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

9. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:
'PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. I LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH YOU IN DEVELOPING FURTHER THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.'

CARRINGTON

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