

CONFIDENTIAL

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MDHIAN 6099

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WARSAW
TO DESKBY 031400Z FCO
TELNO 555
OF 031310Z OCTOBER 88

YOUR TELNO 446 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO POLAND

1. I CALLED ON VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KULSKI, THIS MORNING, 3 OCTOBER. KULSKI CONFIRMED THAT DATES OF 31 OCTOBER-1 NOVEMBER WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ALL SAINTS DAY HERE. GENERAL JARUZELSKI HAD IN ANY CASE ALREADY PREPARED A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER (DATED 29 SEPTEMBER) EXPLAINING THE POLISH REASONS FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT AND PROPOSING THAT IT COULD GO AHEAD ON 16-19 NOVEMBER.

2. I SAID THAT IN VIEW OF DOUBTS EXPRESSED TO US ON 30 SEPTEMBER (MY TELNO 554) WE HAD BEEN IN FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE FCO AND WERE NOW AUTHORISED TO PUT FORWARD DATES OF 2-4 NOVEMBER AS ALTERNATIVE TO THE 31 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER DATES. KULSKI SAID HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SAY WHETHER THESE DATES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIS LEADERSHIP BUT HE WOULD URGENTLY FIND OUT. IN THE MEANTIME HE ASKED ME TO EXPLORE SIMILARLY THE POSSIBILITIES OF 16-19 NOVEMBER. I RESPONDED THAT WHILE I HAD NO DEFINITE INSTRUCTIONS I WAS ALMOST 100 PER CENT CERTAIN THAT THE LATER DATES WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. 2-4 NOVEMBER WERE PRACTICALLY THE ONLY DATES POSSIBLE. THE POLISH SIDE SHOULD FOCUS ON THEM. KULSKI UNDERTOOK TO COME BACK TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. I AM TELEGRAPHING SEPARATELY TEXT OF GENERAL JARUZELSKI'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

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