

BRIEF FOR THE CHAIRMAN

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH JULY, 1982

ITEM II: POLAND

P. A. Sub - Registry

File No

19-10-01 (Palco)

You may wish to say:

We may now turn to the situation in Poland. As we have agreed last week, the purpose of our discussion today is to consider how the Allies should respond to the recent announcement of a further relaxation of martial law conditions in Poland.

In order to prepare this discussion, the Political Committee at its meetings this past Monday and Tuesday has exchanged views on the content and policy implications of General Jaruzelski's speech on 21st July to the Polish Parliament. As matters stand, the following points strike me as being particularly significant:

As far as its content is concerned, the 21st July statement contains some positive features but falls significantly short of meeting the three criteria set out by the Allies in their 11th January Declaration.

On the question of detainees, the release of some 1227 prisoners must be weighed against the continued detention of some 600 including Lech Walesa along with other key members of Solidarity. Furthermore, it is understood that some of those released have been freed conditionally and could again be readily detained and nothing appears to have been done to ease the plight of the hundreds of Poles arrested for various martial law infractions.

The announcement of a further relaxation of specific restrictions and the vague promise of a complete lifting of martial law by the end of the year are also half-measures. Given the present conditions in Poland, the fulfilment of the latter promise remains highly questionable.

Meanwhile, there has been no movement by the Polish authorities to resume a dialogue with the Church and Solidarity. On the contrary, it has become quite clear that the Polish authorities have no intention of allowing a revival of Solidarity.

At this stage, eventual options would appear to range from a strict adherence to current Allied policy to a common and gradual easing of that policy in order to signal recognition of the positive features of Polish moves. This point, I believe, should be the focus of our discussion today.

At the end of our consultation, the Council will likely wish to consider possible new press guidance for use as appropriate both in capitals and here at Headquarters. In this regard, you will, I am sure, all have seen the text circulated by Sir John Graham which could be used as a working basis for our deliberations.