

P. A. Sub - Registry

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To: Secretary General
 From: ASG/Political Affairs
 Subject: POLAND

The Political Committee has conducted an intensive exchange of views on the amnesty decreed on 21st July. A Chairman's Report summarising the discussion has been issued (POLADS/84/32 - copy attached).

2. Allies have given a cautiously positive evaluation of the amnesty, but few have made known their thinking on how the West should react in specific terms. The US has stated publicly that it would lift its ban on the Polish application for membership of the IMF if all political prisoners were released (the fact that those accused of treason remain in detention places a question mark over this commitment); and has already lifted its ban on landings in the US by the Polish airline LOT and on resumption of scientific and cultural exchanges. Canada has lifted its restriction on LOT flights. These are the only measures to have been announced in public. The information in the following paragraphs has been provided on a confidential basis.

3. There are differences of view over the renewal of high level political contacts. The Director General of the Italian MFA will visit Warsaw in October and Sr. Andreotti has accepted an invitation in principle. Herr Genscher will go to Warsaw in November. The UK is considering a visit in the autumn by an FCO Minister of State and one by a Trade Minister at a later date. The Netherlands proposes to resume normal political contacts but has not communicated any details. Against this, Canada believes that high level contacts should wait and form part of a progressive renewal of more normal bilateral relations.

4. Those who are prepared to favour Poland's membership of the IMF (UK, US, Netherlands, FRG) have stressed that Poland would have to accept the normal conditions of membership. On the question of new credits and credit insurance facilities, Canada, Netherlands and the FRG consider that this should await a satisfactory agreement on re-scheduling Poland's existing debt. But the UK and Italy are considering lifting political restrictions, leaving decisions to be taken solely on commercial grounds, but with a UK caveat of satisfactory progress on debt in the Paris Club.

5. This incomplete sampling of Allied intentions - others have not revealed their thinking - shows that there is a danger of an uncoordinated lifting of sanctions imposed in early 1982. The Netherlands have made a strong pitch for a coordinated Allied response to the amnesty, with steps being taken at a measured pace. Others have not opposed this but it remains to be seen how far they will be willing to concert their actions. A reluctance on the part of a significant number of members of the Political Committee to agree at this stage to a Chairman's Report summarising the discussion so far is not a promising sign.

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